



Our grazing program keeps us busy. Destiny Ranch practices rotational grazing which is a strategy that maximizes forage growth by moving livestock strategically through pastures



(paddocks) to provide a rest period for plants to regrow. Rotational grazing typically produces more forage, more plant diversity and superior persistence of desired forage (more drought proof pastures). Rotational grazing requires expert record keeping and constant monitoring of pastures.

Destiny Ranch is divided into fenced paddocks. We use electric fencing and have fresh water sources in each paddock. These are both imperative to our success with rotational grazing. We try to graze every paddock one time before July 1. We start grazing with grasses above 12" and stop when they are at 6-8" in height. Typically April - July we can rotate cattle onto each paddock. However, our grazing season this year was later than previous years and the native grasses are just now at proper grazing height.

A common question is how we maintain cattle while waiting for the grass to grow in the spring. Often we are lucky enough to have reserve forage left from winter and we graze these paddocks in early spring. If there was no remaining forage, we choose a paddock or field that was grazed early last season. These early fields will be fast grazing with more frequent rotations. After each field is grazed, we mark the date and then allow 30-45 days for these fields to grow.



It's extremely important to let the grasses grow to maximum height before re-grazing begins. This is often the tricky part. If the root system is shallow, the plants may only grow to 3-4 inches and start to seed out. If the plants seed out it takes approximately 45 days to regrow this plant. Depending on the time of season, this plant may be through growing.

What we have discovered in our earlier grazing years is that the plants root systems would only support a 3-4 inch plant. This was created from years of continuous overgrazing. We began rotational grazing which allowed the plants more rest and more growth. Our pastures are often lush and edible even in drought conditions.



Record keeping is vital. We record the paddock, the dates grazed, herd size and we then attempt to let the paddocks rest after being grazed. On our ranch, we only get 1 grazing on 50% of our paddocks the other 50% we get 2 rotations in a grazing season. Our season most typically ends on July 1 but can be impacted by weather.

Check back on our website for information on what we do in the later summer and fall to prepare the fields and animals for winter.

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