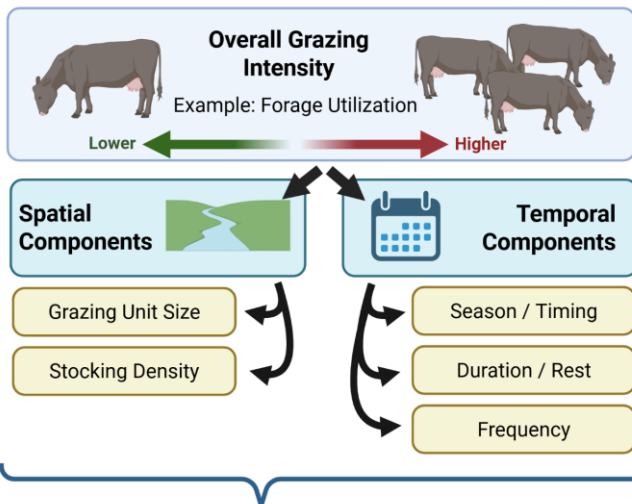


There is no universal best grazing system. Stocking decisions have trade-offs. Which tradeoffs work best for you?

A Framework of Stocking Parameters



Ecological Outcomes = Stocking parameters × Animal factors × Landscape factors

Stocking parameters interact with *animal factors* (species, breed, prior experience, etc.) and *landscape factors* (climate, topography, water/forage distribution, etc.) in potentially non-linear and scale-dependant ways.

Summary of Fundamental Stocking Trade-offs

<u>Overall Grazing Intensity</u>	<u>Soil Disturbance</u>		<u>Total Defoliation</u>	
Lower	Lower		Lower	
Higher	Higher		Higher	

<u>Spatial Components</u>	<u>Distribution Evenness</u>	<u>Pasture Rest</u>	<u>Soil Disturbance</u>	<u>Acute Defoliation</u>
Fewer/Larger Grazing Units, Low Stocking Density	Lower	Lower	Lower	Lower
More/Smaller Grazing Units, Low Stocking Density	Higher	Lower	Lower	Lower
More/Smaller Grazing Units, High Stocking Density	Higher	Higher	Higher	Higher

<u>Temporal Components</u>	<u>Pasture Rest</u>		
Faster rotational frequency	Shorter, more frequent		
Slower rotational frequency	Longer, less frequent		
	<u>Plant Susceptibility</u>	<u>Forage Quantity</u>	<u>Forage Quality</u>
Vegetative phase grazing	Moderate	Low	High
Transitional and reproductive phase grazing	High	High	Moderate
Dormant phase grazing	Low	Variable	Low

