

Management Intensive Grazing



Is Management Intensive Grazing (MIG) for You? Converting A Pasture Into a MIG System

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Types of Grazing Systems

Continuous - one pasture with season long grazing
 Rotational - 2-4 pastures with monthly rotations
 Management Intensive Grazing (MIG) - 12 or more pastures with daily rotations



What are your grazing system preferences?

Continuous Grazing

- Lower structural costs: 1) Lower fencing costs and maintenance; 2) Simplified livestock watering system
- Less labor
- Lower production/acre; Pasture is often simultaneously over-graze and under-graze

Management intensive Grazing (MIG)

- Higher Structural Costs: Both fencing and water
- More labor

- Higher production/acre; More even grazing across the pasture



Pilot

Project: Develop a MIG Demonstration Project

Cow-calf producer

One year lease on a 35 acre sub-irrigated pasture (above right and right)

Pressure irrigation water lines

Existing perimeter fence in poor shape

Plan and Budget to develop five 7-acre paddocks

Fencing Needed: 16 gauge wire with 8" offset insulators on existing perimeter fence

Interior fences temporary electric fence: Polywire and step in posts; 3 rolls (1320') with neck strap reels; 40' Step in post spacing; 3 Joule electric fence charge; Spring wire gates

Water System: Pressurized irrigation system; Valve opener with a garden hose valve; Garden hose; Livestock water trough set next to poly wire fence

Animals - Cattle: 32 cow calf pair plus 13 yearlings == 42 Animal Units

Planned Grazing Periods

June/July = 5 week grazing

July/August = 7 week rest

September = 2 week grazing

Total grazing days = 49

Cow days/acre = 59

Temporary Fence Expenses

Item	Quantity	Price	Total
16 Guage Wire 6000 ft	1	\$75.00	\$75.00
Offset Insulator 10 pack	13	\$9.96	\$129.35
Stafix X3 Joule	1	\$185.10	\$185.10
Wraparound insulator	4	\$8.50	\$34.00
Spring gate 14 ft	2	\$8.95	\$17.90
Pigtail step in posts	100	\$2.50	\$250.00
Poly Twine 9SS 1320 ft	3	\$35.50	\$106.00
Neck strap Reel	3	\$29.75	\$89.25
Deep cycle battery	2	\$80.00	\$160.00
Spinning Jenny	1	\$69.75	\$69.75
Galvanized tightener	4	\$1.09	\$4.36
Shipping			\$40.00
Total			\$1200.96

The perimeter fence was in poor shape, one hot wire kept cattle off it



Interior fence attached easily to perimeter fence



Return on Investment:

- If **cut for meadow hay** - one ton/acre * 35 acres * \$70/acre = \$2450 income
- Equipment expense = \$1650
- Return = \$800 or \$22/acre
- If **grazed using MIG** - grazing fee = \$18/AUM X 42 AU X 1.63 Months of grazing = \$1234
- Electric fence supplies over 7 years = \$172
- Return = \$1062 or \$30/acre

More photos below show fence construction and components



Spring loaded gate

