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Artigos Técnicos

GRAZING TYPES

a) Continuous Grazing: characterized by the permanence of the animals in the pasture throughout the grazing season, the stocking rate may be fixed or variable. It has a low investment in plant and equipment, greater selectivity in collecting animal fodder and the uneven distribution of grazing, feces and urine. The variation in stocking is recommended because of the seasonality in forage production during the year, adopting a stocking for the rainy season and another, smaller, for the dry period. When one adopts fixed stocking, stocking used should be based on carrying capacity in the dry season, there is plenty of fodder in the rainy season, it can be used as forage stockpiled during the subsequent dry period. The distribution troughs (watery), troughs and shading mineralization (natural or artificial) should be very rational in order to minimize uneven grazing. In general, this system has low productivity and profitability lower than the rotational systems.

b) Grazing rotation: the areas are subdivided into two or more paddocks, providing periodic rest to fodder plants, whose duration depends on the number of divisions and extension of the period of occupation of each paddock. The stocking or grazing pressure can be fixed or variable. When using only two grazing paddocks is said switched. It is characterized by increased investment in plant and equipment; lower selectivity animal; handling more sophisticated and more even distribution of grazing, feces and urine. The universal laws of rotational grazing were established by Andre Voisin, which are based on physiological principles of forage grasses and practice proper herd management:

1st Law - For a pasture, cut by the teeth of the animal, give their maximum productivity, it is necessary that between two successive cuts sufficient time (rest period) to allow for grazing:

a - accumulate in the roots, reservations required for a new regrowth.

b - provide a high regrowth vigor with maximum daily production / area (part of the sigmoid growth curve).

Law 2 - The total time of occupation of a paddock must be short enough so that a plant grazed on the first day, not to be again before the animals left (the new regrowth of the grass should not be grazed immediately).

3rd Law - You must help the animals that have higher nutritional requirements to consume greater amounts of forage quality (the herd split in batches).

Law No. 4 - For a cow give regular production, it should not remain more than three days on the same paddock. The maximum income will be if she did not stay longer than a day in the same paddock.

According to the management of animals and pastures, rotational grazing may present some variations:

b.1) A group of animals: remain the same animals in the pasture for the entire period of use;

b.2) Two groups of animals: in the first days of occupation is carried out by grazing animals that showed highest demand, followed by animals with lower nutritional requirement;

b.3) Creep grazing: the case of the breeding herd, where paddocks are equipped with special gates that allow only the passage of the calves (s) to pasture nutritive value;

b.4) Striped or rational: grazing are performed in bands, scaled to meet the daily needs of the flock as reference 100 m²/dia/UA consider the pasture area to be used, and

b.5) Deferred: is to maintain, during the late rainy season, pastures deferred (without animals), in order to accumulate forage (hay-on-foot) for use during the dry season, predicting is an area of 0,5 1,0 ha / animal.

c) Intensive rotational grazing, developed by Embrapa Amazônia Oriental, Belém, Pará, seeks the maximum use of better quality forage nutritive adjusting the grazing periods of regrowth physiology of forage plants, avoiding the loss of quality by aging or excessive trampling. Monitoring of grazing should be daily, applying fertilizers, mineralization suitable animal and the permanent control of weeds. The grazing period should be short (one to seven days), leaving at the time of removal of animals, a stock of forage not less than 1.5 t DM / ha. It is recommended to divide the pasture into a minimum of six poles. The ability to support this management system is high, reaching up to 4 AU / ha.

Division of pastures - The division of pastures is a practice of great importance both for the management of livestock and pastures. The number of divisions varies according to the existing categories animals in the herd and grazing system (continuous, reciprocating or rotary). In general, modules composed of 8-12 poles are suitable for most situations. The size of rooms depends on each herd (number of animals per animal category) and the carrying capacity of pastures. The distribution and shape of the divisions shall be consistent with the availability of natural watery property, always aiming at saving fences. The number of subdivisions (pickets) to be adopted in a rotational grazing system is defined by the formula: $\text{Number of subdivisions} = \text{rest period} + 1 / \text{Period of occupation}$

It is recommended, whenever possible, add a few more subdivisions, to have greater flexibility in management and as a precaution in times of scarcity of forage. A large number of divisions, in addition to making the cost to build fences, water troughs etc., Do not translate into significant increases in periods of rest from grazing. Under normal conditions, rest periods ranging from 21 to 42 days, allow full recovery after grazing of most tropical forage grasses. Shorter intervals between grazing may be adopted, provided that the conditions of soil and climate are favorable and is kept fair amount of leaf tissue remaining. In general, the grazing period should not exceed 7 days, as it extends the grazing, there is the risk of passing animals to consume the new shoots, which can compromise the persistence of pastures. The shorter length of stay of animals in the pasture, the better utilization of available forage.

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