

Pasture Management Worksheet (p.9)

- All pastures on the farm must be included in the plan
 - Identified on the farm map

PASTURE MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET (See Page 21 of Manure Management Guidance Instructions)

All pastures on the farm must be listed in the Manure Management Plan and identified on the farm map.

Please identify your pasture management approach below:

- ☐ I have a grazing plan meeting the requirements of the Natural Resources Conservation Service Pennsylvania Technical Guide Practice Standard 528 for Prescribed Grazing.
- ☐ I am managing my pastures by maintaining dense vegetation in the pasture throughout the growing season. Dense vegetation means that the pasture is managed to minimize bare spots and to maintain an average vegetation height across the pasture during the growing season at least 3 inches high.

Grazed fields that do not have an NRCS grazing plan which are overgrazed (as defined as not meeting the management requirements described above in check box “2”) need either to be managed to restore dense vegetation or these areas will be defined as Animal Concentration Areas (“ACAs”) and will need to meet the requirements of Section 5 Animal Concentration Areas of this manual.

Pasture Management Options

- Two pasture management options
 - Option 1: Grazing plan that meets the requirements of the PA Tech Guide Prescribed Grazing (528) standard (or)
 - Option 2: Assure that pasture management:
 - Maintains dense vegetation in the pasture throughout the growing season
 - Minimizes bare spots
 - Maintains an average vegetation height across the pasture during the growing season at least 3 inches high
- Pastures which are overgrazed and do meet one of the 2 management options must:
 - Implement one of the two options to restore dense vegetation (or)
 - Designate the pasture an Animal Concentration Area (ACA)
 - Meet ALL the management requirements of Section 7 for ACAs

Pasture Management Decisions

- If you are not managing your pastures under an NRCS grazing plan or maintaining dense vegetation...
 - The most practical approach is to restore dense vegetation
 - In most cases it is impractical to manage entire pastures as an ACA
- Pasture goals and purpose may be helpful in determining which management approach
 - Goal: Maximize feed value from pastures
 - NRCS grazing plan is best option
 - Goal: Exercise, fresh air, less manure to handle
 - Manage to restore and maintain dense vegetation
- Both of these options will require management changes and often some “sacrifice”

Evaluating Dense Vegetation



Standard – Maintain Density & Height

Evaluating Dense Vegetation



Unacceptable

Acceptable

Standard – Maintain Density & Height

Evaluating Dense Vegetation

A photograph of a grassy hill with a building and trees in the background. The hill is covered in dense, tall grass and some shrubs. In the background, there is a large, light-colored building with a flat roof and a smaller white house with a gabled roof. There are several trees of various sizes scattered across the hill and around the buildings. The sky is overcast.

Acceptable ???

Standard – Maintain Density & Height

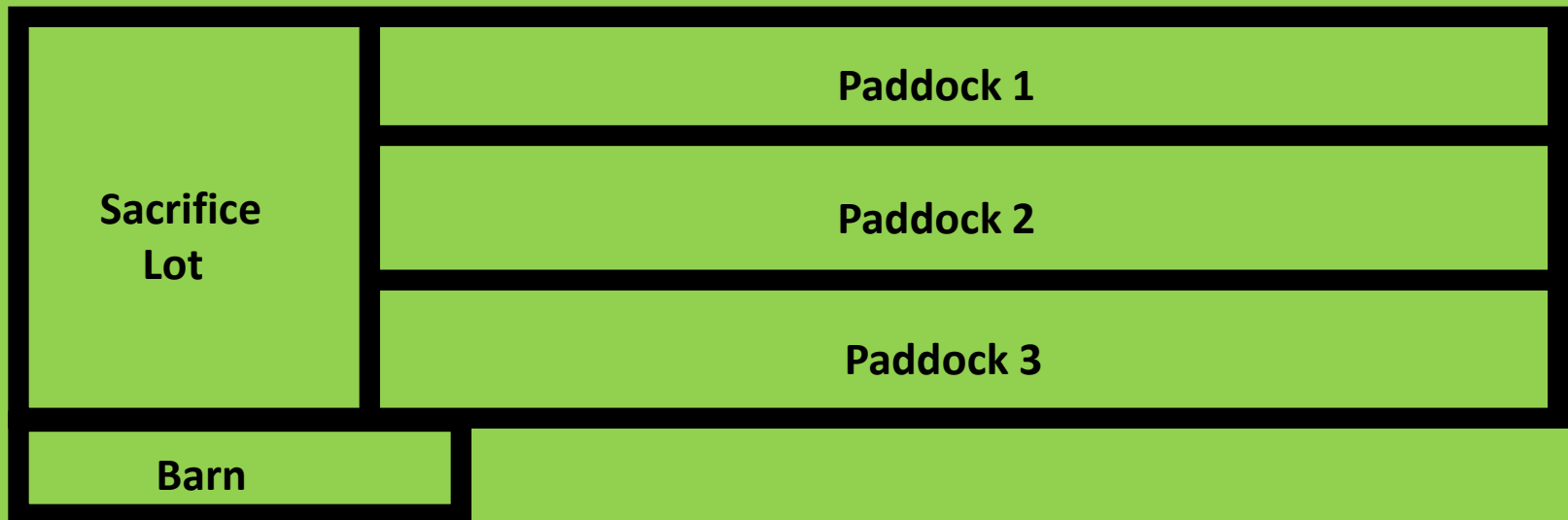
Evaluating Dense Vegetation



Standard – Maintain Density & Height

Rotational Lot Management Systems

- One pasture option is implement a Rotational Lot Management System
 - Modified form of rotational grazing consisting of a series of grassed lots and a sacrifice lot
 - Cattle are rotated through the grassed lots based on sod condition
 - Cattle are kept on the sacrifice lot when sod conditions are wet
- The sacrifice lot is managed to meet the ACA requirements
 - The pasture is managed to meet the dense vegetation requirements









Manure Management Plan Exercise

COMPLETE PASTURE MANAGEMENT WORKSHEET

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