

Comparison of Management Intensive and Continuous Grazing in Beef Cattle Pasture.

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Abstract

Increasing profit by utilizing available resources has long been the goal of producers. The implementation of management intensive grazing has been shown to increase profitability in some studies. This study focused on utilizing Appalachian Ohio pasture to increase the overall value of the pasture as well as the cattle grazing on it.

A total of 35 cow-calf pairs grazed on 42.5 acres at the North Appalachian Experimental Watershed (NAEW) in Coshocton, Ohio. Two replicates of both the continuous and management intensive were studied with each of the replicates having the same stocking rate. The cattle were on the pasture from April through mid-October of 2006. The management intensively grazed pasture allowed the cattle to graze 17 days longer than those on the continuous pasture. The cattle on the management intensive pasture were moved every 3-5 days or as needed based on available forage. The pastures were fertilized in April and mid-June. Cattle weights were taken every 28 days for the duration of the research. The cows and calves on the management intensive pasture gained more than those on the continuous pasture. A rising plate meter was used every 6-8 days to measure forage dry matter.