



Rotational Grazing Management Plan

Minimum Requirements

For your project to be eligible for cost-share funding consideration, a rotational grazing plan must be submitted with your application. If your project is to receive funding to have a qualified third-party consultant develop a rotational grazing plan for your operation, then the completed plan must be submitted at time of claim submission.

The goal of a Rotational Grazing Management Plan is to identify forage requirements, paddock design and requirements for fencing and/or livestock watering system infrastructure. The plan is intended to optimize rest periods, pasture species composition, and environmental benefits. A list of helpful resources is included below. **Applications to expand or establish rotational grazing systems include at least four paddocks for rotation to be considered eligible for cost-share funding. A rotational grazing management plan must address grazing needs for at least one growing season.**

A Rotational Grazing Management Plan can be structured differently based on the individual goals of the farm operation. If cost-share is being applied for to support costs of developing a rotational grazing management plan, the plan must be prepared by a qualified, **third-party** consultant, who must be at arm's length from the applicant. There is no set list of qualifications for someone to develop a plan, but that individual should have background and/or education in livestock pasture management and/or nutritional requirements.

To meet eligibility requirements for the OFCAF cost-share program, a Rotational Grazing Management Plan must meet these minimum requirements:

- Inventory of ALL existing resources and additional resources needed to support the rotational grazing system (e.g., available forage, fencing, water sources, labour, etc.)
- Livestock species, class and average live weight, the number of head and herds/flocks, calculations, including forage requirements (Animal Day) and stocking rate.
- Detailed site sketch(es) based on a satellite image (e.g., using Google Maps or AgMaps) of the field(s) included in the application. The site sketch(es) must include the following, clearly identified on the sketch(es):
 - All proposed and existing infrastructure, including fencing and lengths (e.g., perimeter fencing, temporary and interior cross-fencing, alleyways, etc.) and water (e.g., source, pumps, piping, troughs, stock tanks, etc.).
 - Rotation plan (see sample below), including anticipated turnout and movement dates, as well as rest and grazing periods for each paddock.
 - Limiting factors (e.g., rented/owned land, steep slopes, soil types, etc.) and locations of sensitive areas (e.g., riparian or wetland areas, known species-at-risk locations, etc.), if applicable.

- Assessment of current pasture conditions, including productivity (i.e., pounds of dry matter/acre), forage and undesirable species present, and soil test history and analysis (i.e., organic matter, phosphorus, pH, etc.), if available. If applying for improving pasture composition, the plan must include recommendations for pasture rejuvenation, such as seeding and nutrient application.

If you are having a third-party develop your plan, the plan may also contain additional information, such as:

- Short and long-term objectives or goals of the grazing program (e.g., forage quality, soil health, weed management, biodiversity, risk management, animal performance, etc.) that will co-benefit the reduction of GHG emissions and carbon sequestration
- Contingency and risk management plans (e.g., pasture management under excessively dry/wet conditions).
- Record-keeping and monitoring procedures.
- Scheduled annual review to evaluate outcomes and necessary adjustments or future goals.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Rotational Grazing Resources

1. Rotational Grazing in Extensive Pastures
https://www.ontariosoilcrop.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/rotational_grazing_in_extensive_pastures.sm_.pdf
2. Pasture Production – Publication 19 (See Page 38 and Page 63)
<https://files.ontario.ca/omafra-pasture-production-en-2022-12-08.pdf>
3. Grazing Systems Planning Guide
<https://conservancy.umn.edu/bitstream/handle/11299/49821/7606.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Support and Guidance on Rotation Grazing Practices:

You may also wish to reach out to the following groups for support on developing a rotational grazing management plan and/or for assistance on technical experts who might support development of a rotational grazing management plan:

Agricultural Information Contact Center (OMAFRA) – 1.877.424.1300

Ontario Forage Council – 1.877.892.8663

Canadian Forage and Grassland Association - info@canadianfga.ca

Beef Farmers of Ontario – 519.824.0334

Ontario Sheep Farmers – 519-836-0043 or admin@ontariosheep.org

AgMaps Tutorials

If you need help using Google Maps or AgMaps, please contact your local OSCIA Field Staff for free assistance. [Click here](#) for contact information. Tutorials are available at:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/how-use-agmaps>

Sample Site Map

