

Research Initiative for Northeast Grazing Soils (RINGS)

Grazing Management Questions

Farm Name	
Primary Contact Name	
Contact Email	
Farm Location (County and State)	

Section A: Farm-Level Questions

1. Operation

What type of operation do you run? (Select all that apply)

- Dairy
- Beef cow-calf
- Beef stocker
- Beef finishing
- Sheep/goat
- Mixed livestock
- Hay
- Other: _____

How many animals are on the farm during the grazing season and what is the approximate acreage used for grazing?

Animal Type	Number of Animals	Acres Grazed
Cows		
Bulls		
Steers		
Heifers		
Calves		
Sheep		
Goats		
Poultry		
Other		

2. Land management and History

What are your current land uses?

- Continuous grazing (animals have access to same paddock for the entire growing season)
- Simple rotational grazing (animals moved between paddocks often on set rotation; recovery periods kept the same length)
- Intensively planned / adaptive multi-paddock grazing (animals move to new paddock once it has regrown; recovery periods are variable depending on plant regrowth)
- Hay/perennial forage (no grazing)
What species do you grow?: _____
- Other: _____

Approximately how many years has the farm been under its current management system?

_____ years

How was your farm managed prior to the current management strategy?

- Continuous grazing
- Simple rotational grazing
- Intensively planned / adaptive multi-paddock grazing
- Annual cropping
- Perennial cropping
- Perennial forage in rotation with row crops (e.g., corn silage/alfalfa)
- Hayfield
- Forest
How long ago was the land forested if known? _____ years
- Unknown
- Other: _____

3. Prior Soil Measurements

Do you have any soil carbon or soil health data collected on your farm?

- Yes
Would you be willing to share this data with RINGS? Yes No
- No
- Unsure

Section B: Optional Farm-Level Questions

These questions are optional but will help us better understand your operation.

If you practice rotational grazing, how many complete rotations through your grazing system did you complete last year?

_____ rotations

Do your livestock receive supplemental feed during the grazing season?

Yes

If yes, what type of feed and at what frequency? _____

No

What is your winter housing strategy for livestock?

Indoors/barn

Outdoor barnyard or sacrifice lot

Outdoor on pasture

Combination

Other: _____

What is your primary winter-feeding source? Select all that apply.

Dry hay

Baleage

Haylage

Corn silage

Stockpiled forage (grazing)

Other: _____

If you track weight gain of your animals, what is the typical daily gain?

_____ lbs/day

How do you plan to change your soil or land use management in this field over the next 2 years?

Is there anything else important about your overall farm management?

Section C: Field-Level Questions — Pasture

Please complete this section for EACH field where soil samples will be collected.

1. Current Management

How many total acres is this field?

_____ acres

What year did grazing start in this field?

Approximately how many years has the field been under its current management system?

_____ years

Approximately, what was the start date of grazing in this field last year?

Approximately, what was the end date of grazing in this field last year?

Approximately, what was the average rest period between grazing events last year?

_____ days

At what forage height do you start grazing?

_____ inches

What is the typical forage height remaining when animals are moved out of this field?

_____ inches

Do you feed any forages (hay, baleage) on the field during the growing season?

Yes

If yes, approximately how many tons were fed on this field during the last grazing season?

_____ tons

No

Do you feed any forages (hay, baleage) on this field during winter/bale graze?

Yes

No

If yes, approximately how many tons were fed last winter? (Include tons of hay provided primarily for bedding if animals are on pasture during winter.) _____ tons

2. Historical Management

What was the field used for immediately before the current use was established? If known, estimate the number of years under that management.

- Continuous grazing; _____ years
- Simple rotational grazing
- Intensively planned / adaptive multi-paddock; _____ years
- Cropland; _____ years
If cropland, what is a typical crop rotation? _____
- Perennial forage in rotation with row crops (e.g., corn silage/alfalfa); _____ years
- Hayfield; _____ years
- Forest
- Unknown
- Other (please specify): _____; _____ years

Are there trees in the field?

- Yes, scattered trees (<10% canopy cover)
- Yes, significant tree cover (>10% canopy cover)
- No trees

What is the vegetation composition of the field?

- Monoculture (grass only)
- Mixed grasses and legumes (~70/30)
- Mixed grasses and legumes (~50/50)
- Mixed grasses and legumes (~30/70)
- Other (please specify): _____

If mixed, what are the key species? Select all that apply:

- Timothy
- Orchardgrass
- Clover
- Alfalfa
- Others (please specify): _____

3. Fertilization

How do you fertilize your field?

Fertilizer Type	Frequency (applications per year)	Amount (tons per acre)
Manure		
Phosphorus (P)		
Potassium (K)		
Lime		
Other (specify)		

Do you use any soil management practices?

- Tillage
- Aeration
- Mulching
- Cover crops
- Other (please specify): _____
- N/A

Section D: Field-Level Questions — Hay Fields

Please complete this section for EACH hay field where soil samples will be collected.

1. Current management

How many total acres is this field?

_____ acres

How many hay cuttings are typically harvested from the field?

_____ cuttings per year

Approximately how many years has the field been under its current management system?

_____ years

2. Historical management

What was the field used for immediately before the current use was established? If known, estimate the number of years under that management.

- Continuous grazing; _____ years
- Simple rotational grazing
- Intensively planned / adaptive multi-paddock; _____ years
- Cropland; _____ years
If cropland, what is a typical crop rotation? _____
- Perennial forage in rotation with row crops (e.g., corn silage/alfalfa); _____ years
- Hayfield; _____ years
- Forest
- Unknown
- Other (please specify): _____; _____ years

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- Clover
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- Other (specify):

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Phosphorus (P)		
Potassium (K)		
Lime		
Other (please specify)		

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- Tillage
- Aeration
- Mulching
- Cover crops
- Other (please specify): _____