Adaptive Grazing – Module 5

Economics of adaptive grazing

Module 5 – Adaptive grazing economics

Objective: Students will have financial and economic data supporting the value of adaptive grazing.

Economics of Adaptive Grazing

- In general, a good manager can expect a 2 – 4 fold increase in forage production from a set-stock continuously grazed or simple (2 – 6 paddock) rotation system within 3 – 4 years of implementing adaptive grazing. This is like increasing the size of your farm or ranch at a fraction of the cost.
- As previously discussed, we can observe a marked increase in forage Brix levels in as little as 1 year. There is a direct relationship between increases in Brix levels and gain. Brix levels in the mid-teens can begin to rival feed lot gains in cattle.
- We routinely see the grazing season extended 30 – 90 days beyond a set-stock or simple rotation system (2 – 6 paddocks). This also reduces the amount of manure being handled.
- As pasture soil biology and plant diversity increases, animal longevity, reproduction, and overall health and performance increase reducing input, veterinarian and replacement animal costs.
- Overview article: https://understandingag.com/the-accrued-benefits-of-adaptive-grazing/

Economics of Adaptive Grazing: Resources

- https://www.agriculture.com/farm-management/farm-land/the-economic-value-of-rotational-grazing
- https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0308521X1630364X?via%3Dihub
- https://greenlandsbluewaters.net/Perennial_Forage/dairy.html

About the author

- This curriculum was developed by Kent Solberg. Kent has been involved in managed and adaptive grazing since 1986. He has owned and managed his own grazing operation for 23 years and has been a consultant for the past 13 years. His consulting work has taken him to Michigan, Ohio, North Dakota, Iowa, Wisconsin and across Minnesota working with a variety of crop and livestock farms. He has also taught courses in community and technical college on grazing management and soil health. Kent and his wife live on their farm in north central Minnesota. He can be reached with questions about this curriculum at sevenpinesandfence@gmail.com.