

- 6 pounds forage/day/animal unit x 365 days = 9,490 pounds forage/year/animal unit
- 9,490 pounds forage/year ÷ 20 acres/animal = 475 pounds forage/acre/year

If 475 pounds of forage/acre/year is needed for livestock consumption at this stocking rate, then total forage production per acre must be 1,900 pounds annually to avoid risk. This allows for another 475 pounds lost but unconsumed, and for 950 pounds to be left as residue.

It is difficult to determine grazing intensity until the end of the grazing season when total production can be compared to the amount of forage removed during the year. But when stocking rates and grazing times are evaluated continually throughout the season by monitoring the forage supply and residue, then there is adequate time for the manager to predict forage shortfalls and make necessary adjustments before the forage resource is harmed or financial problems occur.

Through adequate planning and periodic evaluation of range conditions, forage harvest can be controlled to meet short- and long-term ranch goals and reduce risks.

Other Extension Publications

L-5400, "Stocking Rate: The Key to Grazing Management Decisions."
 L-5141, "Do You Have Enough Forage?"
 B-5036, "Stocking Rate Decisions: Key to Successful Ranch Management"
 E-127, "Managing Residual Forage for Rangeland Health"

For Further Reading

Galt, D., F. Molinar, J. Navarro, J. Joseph and J. Holechek. 2000. Grazing capacity and stocking rate. *Rangelands* 22:7-11.

Holechek, J. L., M. Thomas, F. Molina and D. Galt. 1999. Stocking desert rangelands: What we've learned. *Rangelands* 21:8-12.

For additional range management information see: <http://texnat.tamu.edu>

For additional risk management information see: <http://trmep.tamu.edu>

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