

# Grazing Principles Checklist

## Practice Adaptive Management

- Practices adaptive management, including:
  - Formal, collaborative setting of diverse goals
  - Monitoring of goal-relevant outcomes
  - In-season and year-to-year adaptation
  - Formal meetings to integrate lessons learned
- Identifies and engages stakeholders relevant to goals

## Optimize Stocking Rate

- Has a well-considered base stocking rate in mind, incorporating:
  - Local/historical knowledge
  - Forage production data from technical advisors and/or online tools
  - Operation-specific context
- Makes year-to-year adjustments in actual stocking rate using:
  - Local/historical knowledge
  - Climatic forecasts and indicators
  - Operation-specific context
  - Enterprise flexibility
- Connects stocking rate decisions to goals

## Use a Grazing Plan

- Uses a written grazing plan, integrating:
  - Triggers for movements and other actions
  - Drought contingencies
  - Connection to goals, including ecological goals
- Keeps records of grazing movements and actions
- Integrates multiple sources of data into planning and decisions
  - Monitoring data
  - Technical support and data
  - Experiential knowledge

## **Prioritize Ecological Health**

- Grazing management goals include measurable ecological health metrics
- Management practices support heterogeneity, vis-à-vis:
  - Variable grazing impact within/among pastures and/or year-to-year
  - Management maintains diverse plant communities
  - Sensitive areas identified and managed appropriately
- Is familiar with relevant ESDs and/or other technical ecosystem information

## **Consider Distribution**

- Goals and plans account for distribution within pastures via strategic:
  - Placement of attractants
  - Site-specific fencing
  - Low-stress herding
- Livestock breeding accounts for local landscape and climate

## **Welfare Begets Performance**

- Grazing plan ensures access to nutritious forage and high-quality water
- Written herd health plan includes grazing:
  - Availability of appropriate minerals and supplements
  - Mitigation of environmental stressors when possible
  - Plan for monitoring of livestock health
- Quantitative performance data are tracked

## **Think Beyond the Range**

- Engages with relevant external stakeholders
- Participates in public education efforts
- Shares lessons learned with other livestock producers