

## Resting Pastures — the Key to More Productive Pastures

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Giving your pastures a three-week vacation between grazing periods is a great way to produce more forage for livestock and produce a more nutrient-rich pasture. This vacation, better known as rotational grazing, allows a "rest" period for pasture grasses and legumes to recover and rebuild plant vigor. There is, therefore, more leaf area to capture sunlight, and thus more solar energy converted to plant energy.

As you rotate and rest pastures, the number of pasture plant species will increase and create a more diverse plant population. This will result in more pasture productivity throughout the grazing season.

Confining animals to a smaller pasture area for a shorter time will encourage ani-

mals to graze a higher percentage of the available forage in each pasture. It will also allow the remainder of the pasture to recover from grazing and hoof damage and to regrow at a faster rate. Animals, especially horses, are notorious spot grazers if not forced to eat all species in the pasture.

Electric fencing can make light work of subdividing grazing areas into paddocks so that pasture plants can rest and recover. Making water available to all paddocks can be expensive.

Using temporary watering systems (heavy duty garden hose or plastic pipe above ground) can make providing water for each paddock a workable option. Be creative. Don't let current water resources or current fences limit your efforts to divide pastures into paddocks and rotationally graze.

A rotational pasture design should fit your land resources

and your management style. Pastures don't need to be uniform in size. Fences should be placed by topography as much as possible. Low wet areas should be fenced separately from hilltops. Similar vegetation should be fenced together. The rate of rotation per paddock will vary, but the main goal is to provide a three-week rest period per paddock, before returning to that paddock to graze. Pasture rotation will need to be faster in the early spring when growth is lush.

Another goal is to not graze plants too short. Begin grazing cool season grasses (orchard grass, brome grass) at 8–10" height and don't graze below 4" height. Begin grazing bluegrass at 6–8" height and don't graze below 2". Pasture plants that have begun to flower or head out are done growing. Those plants should be mowed to stimulate new plant growth.

## On-site Wastewater Certification Trainings

On-site wastewater treatment systems, such as septic systems, treat about 25 percent of the wastewater that is generated in Nebraska. Properly installed and maintained on-site systems are essential to protecting human health and the environment.

Certification of industry professionals is an important part of assuring systems are correctly installed.

Every on-site wastewater treatment professional in Nebraska must pass the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) certification exam for specific categories by December 31, 2005. There must be a certified professional at every active job site beginning January 1, 2006. Are you ready?

On-site wastewater professionals are invited to attend one or more of the certification training courses offered by the

University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) Extension. If you are not accustomed to taking written tests; if you are not routinely familiar with Title 124 (the on-site rules and regulations); if you are interested in general industry practices

and the basic reasons why those practices are necessary; if you just feel uncomfortable with the idea of taking a written test about your business and your

technical skills knowledge; if you have employees working independently on a job site then a certification training course is for you and your employees.

One course is scheduled for each of the categories of "pumper", "installer", and "inspector" at five locations across the state. Each course will be one day long and will require preregistration and a fee

of \$100 per person. Training materials, breaks and lunch are included.

Courses are sponsored by the UNL Extension in partnership with the Nebraska On-site Wastewater Association and the NDEQ. For more information or a registration brochure, go to <http://wastewater.unl.edu> or contact Jan Hygnstrom at 472-9614.

For more information on the NDEQ exam process, contact Mary Wilson at 471-4285.

### Upcoming Trainings

#### INSPECTOR

Sept. 1 — Grand Island  
Sept. 29 — North Platte  
Oct. 27 — Mead  
Nov. 17 — Norfolk

#### PUMPER

Sept. 27 — North Platte  
Oct. 25 — Mead  
Nov. 15 — Norfolk

#### INSTALLER

Sept. 28 — North Platte  
Oct. 26 — Mead  
Nov. 16 — Norfolk

## Upcoming Acreage Insights Clinics

"Acreage Insights — Rural Living Clinics" are designed to help acreage owners manage their rural living environment. This series of seminars are presented by University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension at various locations in the state.

Pre-registration is \$10 per person and must be received three working-days before the program. Late registration is \$15 per person. For more information or to register, contact extension at 441-7180 or go to the Acreage & Small Farm Insights Web site at <http://acreage.unl.edu>.

The following seminars will be held in Lincoln at the Lancaster Extension Education Center, 444 Cherrycreek Road on Thursdays from 7–9 p.m.

### Septic Systems • Sept. 15

Have you ever wondered what happens to wastewater when you take a shower or flush the toilet? Maybe not — unless it's backed up into your house or surfaced in your yard. This clinic will cover:

- 1) What happens to wastewater when it goes down the drain
- 2) How your actions — operation (O) and maintenance (M) — affect your system's performance. Lincoln clinic will cover septic system and lagoon O and M.

*Note: NebGuides will be available on design and installation, but these topics will not be addressed in the clinic.*

### Grapes • Oct. 13

Steve Gamet, UNL Viticulture Technician, will discuss topics such as variety selection, the types of fencing and equipment needed for grapes, the economics of grape production, insect, disease and wildlife control for grapes, and the marketing of grapes to wineries. Steve will also answer your questions regarding grape production.



### Woody Florals • Nov. 10

What are woody florals? Plants commonly grown in Nebraska with decorative stems, such as curly willow or redbud dogwood, that are harvested for use in decorative arrangements. Who buys them? Wholesale and retail florists. Can you really make a profit with these plants? Yes, you can! Join us for this presentation by the Nebraska Woody Florals group to learn the basics of this acreage enterprise, including plant species, planting and growing requirements, and harvesting techniques. Marketing and sources of plant material will also be discussed.

## Forestry Field Day, Sept. 24

"Planting Trees — Making the Good Life Better" is the theme for Forestry Field Day 2005, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 24 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Horning State Demonstration Forest near Plattsmouth. Admission to Horning State Demonstration Forest and all Forestry Field Day activities is free. No pre-registration is required.

Horning State Demonstration Forest is located two miles south of Plattsmouth on Horning Road. Signs will direct the way from U.S. Highways 73/75 and 34.

The 2005 program features five concurrent sessions in which professional foresters and other tree experts will demonstrate and discuss proper tree planting techniques. Added attractions include educational booths and exhibits, portable sawmill demonstrations, and portable post peeler demonstrations. Professional foresters will be available to answer questions.

Forestry Field Day 2005 is sponsored by the Nebraska Forest Service, University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension, the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum.

For more information, contact Dennis Adams at (402) 472-5822 or go to <http://www.nfs.unl.edu/NFSCalendar.htm>.

## Tree and Landscape Maintenance Workshop, Sept. 29

The Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, the Nebraska Forest Service and University of Nebraska–Lincoln Extension are cooperating to conduct a series of tree and landscape maintenance workshops across the state, including one at the UNL Agricultural Research Center near Mead on Sept. 29 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Registration begins at 8 a.m.

The workshops are intended for anyone who helps plant or care for trees and important green spaces such as parks, school grounds, college campuses, fairgrounds, golf courses, cemeteries, acreages, etc. Professional CEUs offered for Certified Arborists, Turf-Care Professionals & Park and Recreation Professionals.

The workshops will provide the latest information on such topics as weed/pest identification and control, disease management, basics of tree and shrub pruning, maintenance of landscape beds, effective mulching, and tips for growing trees and turf in harmony. The workshops will include indoor classroom sessions, outdoor tours and hands-on demonstrations.

Cost includes lunch and educational materials: \$35 if received by Sept. 16, \$50 after. For more information or registration form, call 472-2971 or go to <http://arboretum.unl.edu/>.