

Allan Savory's Explanation of "Time Control"

From: The Savory Grazing Method or Holistic Resource Management. Allan Savory, 1983.

"No matter how short the grazing periods, overgrazing will result unless the grazing periods are what I call "time-controlled" which means that the grazing periods relate to the daily growth rate of the plants in the growing season. The grazing time on the range has always to be linked to three things simultaneously. These are:

1. the actual rate (or speed) at which the plants are growing during the grazing period;
2. the time when the animals are likely to return to graze that land and the rate (or speed) at which the plants are growing during this time; and,
3. the availability of forage to meet the nutritional requirements of the animals."

My elaboration and expansion of Allan's list:

1. Plant growth rates under grazing
 - a. We know these to be functions of...
 - i. Period of season
 - ii. Water availability
 - iii. Nutrient availability
 - iv. Light availability
 - v. Stocking density (animal consumption rate)
 - vi. Plant stage of growth
 - vii. Leaf Area Index
2. Plant growth rates under release
 - a. We know these to be functions of...
 - i. Period of season
 - ii. Water availability
 - iii. Nutrient availability
 - iv. Light availability
 - v. ---
 - vi. Plant stage of growth
 - vii. Leaf Area Index
3. Intervals between grazing events
4. Nutritional adequacy of the forage (for the grazing animals)