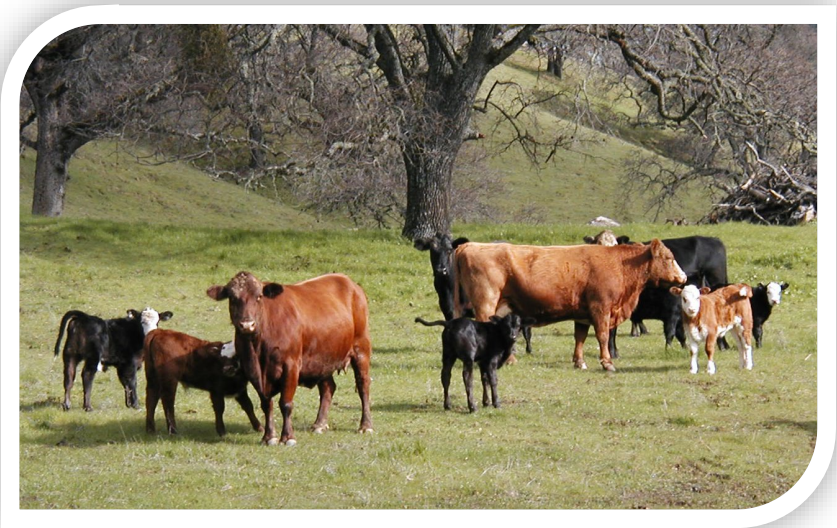
Grazing Record – Worksheet

Instructions and definitions



1. *Graze Field ID* - Number and/or name of the field being grazed
2. *Period of Grazing* - Beginning and end date the herd was in the particular field
3. *Stocking Rate* - Number of livestock
4. *Livestock / Animal Class* - Use Table 1 below to categorize animal class
5. *Note supplements or hay* - Dates of feeding, how much per head, for what duration (anything you feel is important)
6. *Wildlife Inventory* - Estimation of how many deer, elk, or other grazing wildlife present on the property during the average month

Table 1

Operational Kind/ Class Animal
Dry Cow
Cow with calf
Bull, mature
Cattle, 1 yr old
Cattle, 2 yr old
Horse, mature
Sheep, mature
Lamb, 1 year old
Goat, mature
Kid, 1 yr old

Animal class categories used in prescribed grazing

Example of Table filled out:

Graze Field ID	Period of Grazing		Stocking Rate	Livestock
Field 1	5-01-2012	8-01-2012	80	Cow/calf
"	"	"	1	Bull, mature

Recording Sheet
528 - Prescribed Grazing - Range/Pasture

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

For: _____

Ranch Location: _____ Date: _____

Graze Field ID	Period of Grazing		Stocking Rate	Livestock	Any notes concerning, hay feeding, supplements (how much/dates/type/etc). Note the condition of the range when supplementation starts.
	Begin date	End date	Head	Animal Class	

The general estimation of number of deer, elk, or other grazing wildlife seen on your property on the average month.	Deer:	Elk:	Other:

Residual Dry Matter Measurement Procedures

Residual Dry Matter (RDM) is simply **the amount of plant material retained** on the land after cattle are moved off. RDM is mulch that provides good germination conditions for plants, helps prevent erosion and assists in moisture retention after rains have fallen. Adequate RDM levels are shown in tables 1-3.
Residual Dry Matter measurements are taken in the fall before the first rain, ideally between September and early October.

Measuring RDM is best done with a combination of clipping/weighing and visual estimation. Refer to the UC Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 8092, California Guidelines for Residual Dry Matter (RDM) Management on Coastal and Foothill Annual Rangelands or California NRCS Annual Grassland Residual Dry Matter Evaluation Guide.

Materials needed to conduct RDM evaluations: Hanging scale in grams, 2-3 bags per transect (paper lunch bags work well), clippers, square foot frame/hoop, camera, marker, evaluation form, and notepad. Always take a photo of the landscape and soil surface of the sample area.

Rules for clipping a plot (taken from ANR Publication 8092).

1. Place a square foot quadrat or .96 sq. ft. hoop on the ground surface.
2. Remove from the area within the quadrat all summer annuals such as tarweed, yellow star-thistle and turkey mullein.
3. Remove any tree leaves
4. Clip the remaining plant material within the quadrat as close to the ground as you can without disturbing the soil surface.
5. Rapidly collect as much of the clipped plant material as is practical without inadvertently including bits of soil.
6. Weight the plant material. The plant material should be dry in September or early October unless there has been unusually early rain.

The Comparative Yield method can also be used to conduct RDM measurements.

A minimum of 5 clippings should be done within each field/ecological site. A combination of clipping and visual estimation is acceptable. Clipping is preferred until the conservationist is able to conduct fairly accurate visual estimations.

From the clipped measurements subtract the weight of the bag. Average the results of each sample. If a 0.96 sq.ft. hoop was used, multiply the average by 100 to get lbs/ac of residual vegetation. If a square foot quadrat was used, multiply the average weight in grams by 96 to get pounds per acre of residual dry matter.

If possible, bring the landowner with you and teach them how to conduct the measurements next time. Have them take the photos and participate in the monitoring

Table 1. Minimum residual dry matter (RDM)** guidelines for the coastal prairie (Less than 12" average annual precipitation)

Percent Woody Cover	Percent Slope			
	0-10%	**10-20%**	**20-40%**	**>40%**
0 – 25	300	400	500	600
25 – 50	300	400	500	600
50 – 75	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
75 – 100	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Table 2. Minimum residual dry matter (RDM)** guidelines for annual grassland/hardwood/range (12-40" average annual precipitation)

Percent Woody Cover	Percent Slope			
	0-10%	**10-20%**	**20-40%**	**>40%**
0 – 25	500	600	700	800
25 – 50	400	500	600	700
50 – 75	200	300	400	500
75 – 100	100	200	250	300

Table 3. Minimum residual dry matter (RDM)** guidelines for the coastal prairie (mixed perennial and annuals with variable rainfall)

Percent Woody Cover	Percent Slope			
	0-10%	**10-20%**	**20-40%**	**>40%**
0 – 25	1,200	1,500	1,800	2,100
25 – 50	800	1,000	1,200	1,400
50 – 75	400	500	600	700
75 – 100	200	250	300	350

**RDM values may need adjustment based on site specific characteristics. Consult with your field biologist to ensure that these values are compatible with species habitat needs.