

General recommendations for horse turnout times on dryland pasture

Use this document as a rough guideline for planning potential stocking rates. Overgrazing of some areas may still occur without the use of grazing cells and practicing rotational cell grazing (**chart below assumes no grazing cells used**). Rotational cell grazing will optimize forage utilization (cells ~1000 sq ft per horse): move horses to next cell every 7 days or when grass in current cell has been grazed down to 4 inches tall (whichever comes first). Turnout to next cell only when grass is 6-8 inches tall. Avoid late winter/early spring grazing before grasses reach 6-8 inches tall. Avoid early fall grazing (mid-September – mid-November) as grasses store carbohydrates in the roots and form next year's grass buds in their crowns. Keep horses in a drylot when grass <6 inches tall and during critical periods described above. For more information see:

“Grass Growth and Response to Grazing”

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/06108.pdf>

“Managing Small Acreage Pastures During and After Drought”

<http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/natres/06112.pdf>

****Chart below from the Douglas County Soil Conservation District**

No. of Horses	LAND AREA			
	30 Acres	10 Acres	5 Acres	2.5 Acres
1	24 hrs/day	8 hrs/day	4 hrs/day	2 hrs/day
2	12 hrs/day	4 hrs/day	2 hrs/day	1 hr/day
3	8 hrs/day	2.6 hrs/day	1.3 hrs/day	40 min/day
4	6 hrs/day	2 hrs/day	1 hr/day	30 min/day
5	4.8 hrs/day	1.6 hrs/day	50 min/day	24 min/day
6	4 hrs/day	1.3 hrs/day	36 min/day	N/A
8	3 hrs/day	1 hr/day	30 min/day	N/A
10	2.4 hrs/day	50 min/day	24 min/day	N/A

