

**NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL
DEVELOPMENT
AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES**

**How to improve or
maintain your veld**

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PASTURE SCIENCE

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Rural Development**
Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Introduction

Natural veld is the main feed source for grazing livestock.

Veld is the cheapest source of fodder. Production is influenced by climate and utilisation. Natural resources needs to be managed for sustainable farming. This only applies if it is kept in a good condition.



Aim of veld management

- Optimum animal production
- Optimum veld production



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Veld rest

- Why should we allow veld to rest
- Grass needs to recover
 - To produce leaves
 - To reproduce seeds
 - And to store nutrients for the next growing season



There two types of veld management system

- Continuous grazing
- Manipulate grazing using watering points in one camp
- Summer and winter grazing areas



The primary objectives of rotational grazing are to

- Control the frequency at which plants are grazed by controlling the frequency with which each camp in the system is grazed
- Control the intensity at which plants are grazed by controlling the number of animals that graze each camp and their period of occupation
- Reduce the extent to which veld is selectively grazed by confining a relatively large number of animals to a small proportion of the veld so as to offer them little opportunity to select



Planning makes anything possible

- Plan your pastures for calving- if you have a specific mating time this will be easy to know when will your calving month be
- Plan your weaning pasture - this should go hand in hand with proper fixing of fences to separate the mother from the calve
- Plan your pastures to separate your heifers from your mature cows
- Plan your pastures to separate your bulls from the rest of the herds



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What happens if the farm is over stocked?

- Because of continuous over utilization grass tufts are small (there is not enough food for the animals).
- In time the composition of veld deteriorates.
- Lesser new seedlings develop, bare patches increase and the basal cover is poor.
- Water run off increases.
- Animal production is poor.



Conclusion

- What really matters is that you combine resting and grazing periods effectively. But even if you do, don't expect quick results. Rewards come only after careful management and patience.
- There's no limit to improving your veld
- Give veld time to rest and recover
- Stock farm according to grazing capacity



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Pula.....

