NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Adaptive veld management Ernest Mogomotsi Mokua Tel: +27 18 299 6631 Fax: +27 18 297 7135 Email: emokua@nwpg.gov.za Agricultural Research Services Oersonskraal 2022 August 17

Adaptive veld management

- This system of management operates in a trial and error basis. The farmer is expected to make management decisions by learning from the mistakes and successes of neighbouring farmers including his experience.
- In this system the farmer is not left on his own, it is a joint exercise between the farmer, the extension officer and the researcher.

1. Make an inventory of natural resources on the farm

- Water sources
- Vegetation
- Stock feeds
- ·Grazing area
- Fencing

2. Set objectives.

- What type of animal he requires?
- What animal performance he requires?
- What veld condition he requires?

3. Assess each veld type or one camp for each veld type.

- · Through proper veld survey.
- · Take photographs.
- Assess each camp
- · Camp visit before grazing
- · Identification of indicator species
- · Utilisation of indicator species

Utilization class	Palatable species	Unpalatable species		
Not utilized/ under utilized	Slightly utilized	Not utilized Slightly utilized		
Utilized	70% utilized			
Over utilized	100% utilized	70% utilized		

4. Determine the stocking rates.

- · Through appropriate techniques
 - · Browsing and grazing capacity
- Through reliable estimates

5. Design initial management system

- · Implement actual veld management.
- All the camps should be monitored and information recorded in the form provided.
- Attempt to achieve objectives set at step 2.
- Record grazing and burning programme applied to each camp.
- Record the rain fall and environmental changes.
- Record the amount of feeds before and after occupation

Record keeping

- •Measuring the performance of the animals.
- Measuring change in the vegetation or veld condition.
- •Recording the management systems that are being applied.
- Recording the environmental conditions which occur.

Resurvey the camps again after every two years

- Evaluate the objectives set at step 2.
- Note performance of animals and veld condition
- Identify the mistakes and correct them if any or review your stocking rates
- If things are not doing well the farmer will consult the extension officers or the relevant expert can be contacted through extension officer

7. Return to step no. 5 and repeat the process

- A unique grazing system can be developed for specific farm and in time modified according to new circumstances and new information.
- If the process continue for a longer period the farmer can develop a model specifically for his farm.
- •The information can be passed from generation to generation or even sold to new owner.

TWO TYPES OF VELD MANAGEMENT **SYSTEMS**

- **≻Continuous Grazing**
 - •Manipulate grazing through watering points
 •Summer & Winter grazing areas
- >Rotational Grazing
 •Multi-camp system

 - •Rotate between camps (rest periods)
 •Summer & Winter camps

Conclusion

- •Man must measure.
- •Man must monitor.
- •Man must manage.

		itor species	
Utilization class	Palatable species	Unpalatable species	Action taken
A =Not utilized/ under utilized	Mhatfha=A Mosu=A Mooka=A	Mosetiha=A Mosiasia=A Motshotiho=A	Stock and graze
B≃ Utilized	Morobe=B Mokgalo=B Moretiwa=A	Motihaje=8/8 Morukhuru=A/B Mogodiri=A/B/C	Withdraw animals from camp
C =Over utilized	Mogotiho=C Moselesele=C Species 3=C	Mokwerekwere=B =A Species 3=A	Withdraw animals immediately



