

## Mob Grazing Experiences

Have you tried ultra high stock density grazing yet – what some people are calling mob grazing?

Mob grazing is a practice where a large concentration of animals, especially cattle, are restricted to graze a small area, usually for a very short period of time. How large a herd? How small an area you ask? Well, there is no strict definition, but some folks have suggested that it be at least three hundred thousand pounds of animals per acre. That's around two hundred cow-calf pairs per acre or one thousand pairs on five acres or fifty pairs on a quarter acre. A few mob grazing experts have gone more than three times higher, to over a million pounds of animal per acre.

Obviously, this mob of animals usually will finish grazing all the available forage in just a few hours. So it's not unusual to move them to a fresh area to graze several times a day. Or even eight or more times per day if you're pushing a million pounds per acre.

What also happens is that nearly everything in that small area is either eaten or trampled. This includes weeds and less palatable grasses. So more of the total biomass grown gets used as feed or is recycled back into the soil litter. Manure also gets distributed very evenly and also is trampled into the soil, improving soil fertility.

Last year was the first time I tried mob grazing for a lengthy time. I started again this year a couple weeks ago. Both times I received a relatively heavy rain within a couple days of starting. The looks and the response of the pasture to mob grazing is quite different under wet compared to under dry conditions.

Dr. Bruce Anderson, Extension Forage Specialist  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
314 Keim Hall—East Campus  
Lincoln NE 68583-0915  
402-4742-2577  
[banderson1@unl.edu](mailto:banderson1@unl.edu)

