

## Follow-up on Mob Grazing

Back in early June I promised to tell you more about my impressions of mob grazing, especially during wet conditions.

I started mob grazing in late May this spring. As you recall, mob grazing involves ultra high stock density. In my situation, I was placing the equivalent of around four hundred thousand pounds of cattle on one acre of grass each time I moved animals and fence. That's a lot of grazing pressure at one time, so each fresh strip didn't last very long. Therefore, the animals needed to be moved to four or five fresh strips each day to meet their intake demands.

This season has been unbelievably wet. I haven't experienced any direct flooding on my pastures but they have been wet and soft almost constantly and there is water standing in areas I've never seen it stand before. As a result, the cattle have generated a lot of mud.

Normally I don't worry too much about muddying up a small piece of pasture. If the animals are on that piece of pasture no more than one day, it usually recovers quite well, although a little slowly.

Unfortunately, my livestock water system required that cattle walk back to water over previously grazed strips during a two to three day period before a fresh water site was available. This extra traffic caused severe damage during time periods when the ground was soft throughout the time it was exposed to cattle. So now I have areas of nearly bare ground near watering points while the last strip grazed before moving watering points remains in good shape.

Time prevents me from telling you the changes I am making to my grazing at this time. Next time I'll share these changes and some other challenges.

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