

USDA, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE PRESCRIBED GRAZING PRACTICE STANDARD

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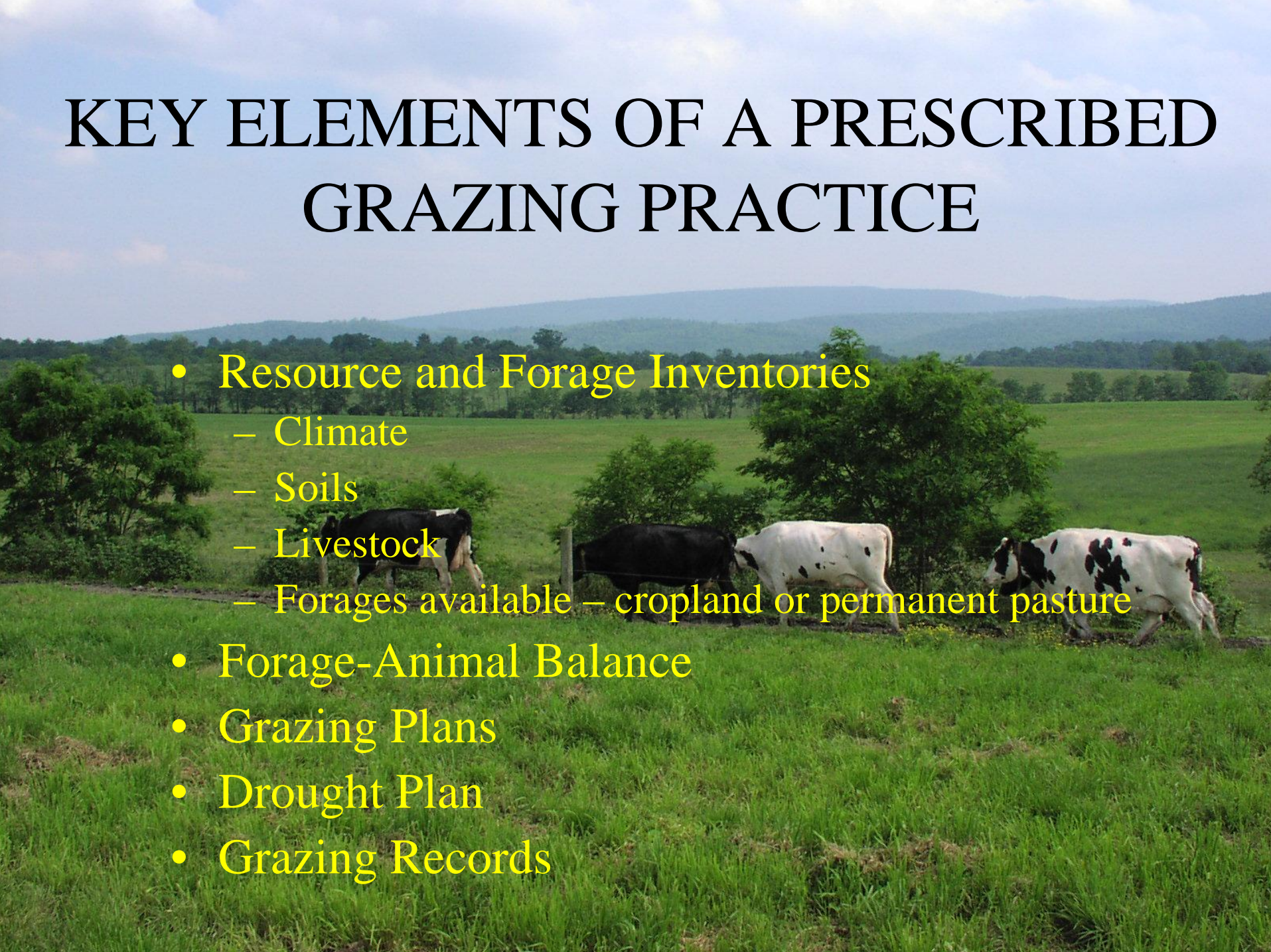


Prescribed Grazing Practice Standard

- National Standard – last revised in 2003
- State Supplements –
contain more details and are the standard for a grazing farm to follow based on where the farm is.

KEY ELEMENTS OF A PRESCRIBED GRAZING PRACTICE

- Resource and Forage Inventories
 - Climate
 - Soils
 - Livestock
 - Forages available – cropland or permanent pasture
- Forage-Animal Balance
- Grazing Plans
- Drought Plan
- Grazing Records





Forage-Animal Balance

- Lactating Dairy Cows often supplemented
 - To increase effective fiber in diet
 - To balance protein with carbohydrates
- As a result, forage-animal balance needs to account for other feedstuffs in ration
- This decreases amount of pasture required to feed lactating cows.

Forage-Animal Balance

- If a percentage of dry matter intake of total ration from pasture becomes a part of the NOSB final rule:
 - The forage-livestock balance table can document the PLANNED percentage of pasture in the ration.

GRAZING RECORDS

- Grazing records can confirm APPLIED percentage of dry matter intake of total ration from pasture.
 - Can be measured easily in rotational pastures
 - Measure before turning cow into a paddock
 - Measure residual forage when they leave
 - Record pounds of forage consumed from pasture at each paddock
 - Does not have to be overly rigorous, but should be representative of grazed paddock

