

Spring 2002

Business Resolutions

One normally thinks of making resolutions for the New Year, but good managers are thinking and planning all the time. Here are some resolutions that you might consider implementing at any time:

- 1. Look at your continuing education program.** Resolve to spend at least five days to learn more about forage production and management skills. Attend field days, pasture walks and other meetings to gain new knowledge and new perspectives.
- 2. Take a good look at your fencing and watering systems.** Are these two components of your grazing system as complete and as improved as they should be? Is the fencing system properly grounded? Is water available in every paddock or close to every paddock?
- 3. Get your office organized.** One of the hardest organizational problems for most people is keeping track of all the information that comes across their desk. Resolve to file information by category, so that it is easily found when it is needed.
- 4. Promise to set aside a couple of days for long-range planning.** Start by taking a blank sheet of paper and writing down goals to improve your business and personal life. Then figure out how to reach those goals. This might best be done away from the farm. Employ the assistance of others as you take a good look at your operation.
- 5. Practice good time management.** Time is a very important resource. It must be used effectively in order to get everything accomplished and to be successful. Resolve to analyze your work habits and the resulting output. Make needed changes.
- 6. Meet with other graziers and advisors.** Resolve to meet with others regularly in order to evaluate new information and new plans. Experience of other may save you several dollars or a lot of anxiety as you plan changes in your operation. Support of others is very important as we learn new skills and concepts.