

Graziers' Comments
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It has been suggested that we should not look at feeding our cows but the organisms in the animal's gut, as they are the ones that convert grass to profit. The same should be said for our pastures; we should be looking after the life in the soil and not that on the soil.

The consistency of cowpies changes with diet. The rate that these break down also varies quite a bit with season. Late fall cowpies just aren't going to disappear like those in the midst of the growing season because the biological activity is so much slower in the cooler weather.

Cows do not like grazing slopes. If a paddock has a range of slopes in it, then the steeper slopes will not be grazed efficiently, and there will tend to be a transfer of fertility from the steeper areas to the flatter. Fence the more significant slopes in such a manner that the livestock can graze them separately to overcome this.

An acre of well-fertilized, low-lying pasture can easily yield 500,000 earthworms.

When earthworms were added to New Zealand fields (earthworms do not occur there naturally), pasture productivity increased 72%.

Irish research found that 40 inches of slightly acid rainfall produces lime losses of 250 to 500 pounds per acre per year.

Pastures that are correctly managed increase output with age.

Pastures deteriorate because they are badly managed. If a pasture has degenerated, it is because the aggregate of conditions determining the flora is favorable to the development of a sward of poor quality. Man is to blame - not the grass.

If the goal is make a profit off the pasture, then we need to think about the way the plant grows and what the plant needs to produce a crop.

Great works are performed not by strength but by perseverance -- Samuel Johnson

Most folks are about as happy as they make up their minds to be-- Abraham Lincoln

Leave one-third of the pasture acreage ungrazed in the fall. Graze this in the spring or late winter to add dry matter to the very washy spring growth.

If legumes are contributing fewer than two plants per square foot, consider overseeding.

Grass does not grow really well until soil organic matter reaches four percent.