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LET'S LOOK AT THE PASTURE

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It has been said that the best fertilizer for pastures is the footsteps of the grazer. Paddocks should be visited every ten days throughout the grazing season. Various factors should be evaluated and several questions should be asked.

Some of the questions are:

Is there a good, dense stand of forage throughout the paddock(s)?

Do legumes make up thirty percent of the stand?

Are all grasses, especially tall fescue, in the vegetative stage of growth?

Are forage species appropriate for the conditions -- drainage, soil type, topography, pH, soil fertility, rotation length, etc.?

Are the forage plants showing good vigor?

Are different forage species available for season-long grazing?

Are livestock moved when forage is at a four-inch height?

Are weeds under control?

Have the paddocks been grazed uniformly?