

Managed Intensive Grazing Heifer Checklist

How do your procedures measure up? Do they provide the opportunity for your heifers to grow into their genetic potential? Let's consider procedures for managed intensive grazing. Compare your routines with the standards in this checklist.

- _____ 1. I have a plan to transition heifers from a milk/concentrate ration to grass that avoids a post-weaning slump.
- _____ 2. I have selected grass species that will provide good quality feed throughout the grazing season.
- _____ 3. I manage my paddocks by harvesting surplus forage and topping so that the available grass is of high quality.
- _____ 4. I have arranged my paddocks, gates and tracks to make it easy to move animals into and out of paddocks. [Low stress on both humans and animals.]
- _____ 5. I have reviewed with my nutritional consultant the ration for my replacement heifers to ensure an age-appropriate ration for each group.
- _____ 6. I group replacement heifers by similar age and weight.
- _____ 7. I have a written vaccination program to follow for all replacement heifers.
- _____ 8. I treat replacement heifers for internal and external parasites.
- _____ 9. I routinely monitor growth. If possible I use weight, height and body scores.
- _____ 10. If replacement heifers are moving from grazing to confinement housing and feeding, I have a transition plan to maintain consistent growth.
- _____ 11. I look at my heifers every day and monitor heifer well being and the availability of high quality feed making timely changes to maintain good health and growth.
- _____ 12. For calves on milk and grass I keep calves on very young succulent pasture (lots of hemicellulose) to encourage early rumen development.

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