



5 STEPS TO JUMP START YOUR PASTURE



Washington State University Skagit County Extension's Pasture Management Technical Assistance Program

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence on noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension Office.





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5 STEPS TO JUMP START YOUR PASTURE

Take Inventory of Your Pasture

- Do a soil test to determine soil's lime & fertilizer needs.
- Fertilize according to soil test.
- Assess ground covered by desired species and weed problems.

1

Perform Pasture Management

- Control weeds by not overgrazing and by clipping pastures.
- Rotate animals off when grass is 4" tall.
- Read herbicides carefully and apply during best times (fall & spring). Avoid applying before heavy rainfall to prevent runoff into streams.

2

Use Simple Practices for Success

- Harrow & mow. Use both after each grazing pass.
- Install fencing to allow for rotational grazing.
- Leave 6" of grass height for winter to protect pasture.

3

Reseed Existing Pasture

- Choose high quality pasture seed mix.
- Mow pasture to 4".
- Broadcast seed followed by harrowing.
- Reseed during spring or fall (this requires 1.25 - 1.5 times recommended rate).

4

Maximize Your Pasture with Rotational Grazing- Increase Population by 30%

Subdivide large pasture into smaller pastures and develop pasture-rotation grazing system. Move animals in when pasture is 6-8", rotate out at 3-4".

5

Have questions? Contact Joan DeVries at joand@wsu.edu

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