

## Key Tips for Reducing your Feed Costs

The difference between the least profitable and the most profitable cattle producer is commonly illustrated by the amount of hay fed. Meaning that one of the best ways can increase your ranch's profitability is by grazing more days per year. In this guide, we have included several key strategies to help you reach your goal and save your operation money.

# Key #1: Assess Your Current Grazing Management System

Even the best road can develop ruts. With advances in technology and grazing management, consider your current system and ask yourself: "Are there things I can do to better manage the forage I already have?"

When it comes to asking yourself this question, here is a great place to start.

## Key #1: Assess your current grazing management system

Now that you have started, sit down and take stock of your current practices.

- How many days per year am I currently grazing?
- What Grazing Strategies do I use?
- How much money am I spending on feed?

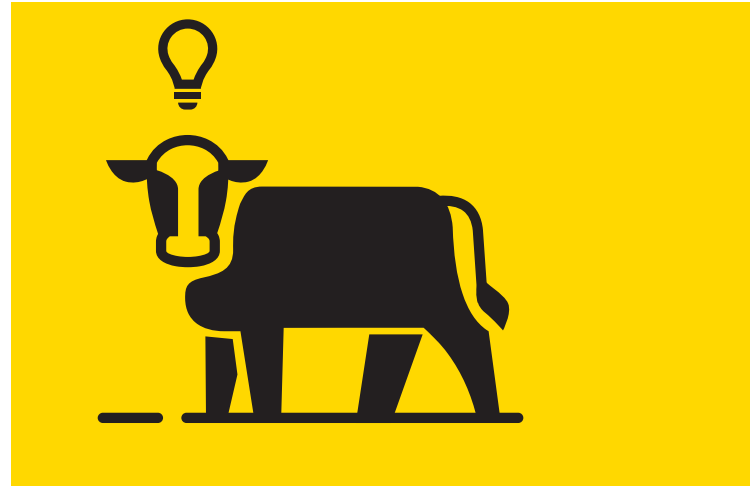
These are just examples of questions you could ask to assess your current practices. Once you have a good idea, consider the following four points.

### 1 Rotation Grazing System

If you haven't already, implementing an adaptive planned rotational grazing system is a great place to start!

Whether it's Management Intensive Grazing (MIG), Adaptive Multi-Paddock Grazing, Holistic Planned Grazing, or a similar, the important thing is to use a system that focuses on these things.

- Your grass's preparedness for grazing
- Leaving adequate residual grass after grazing
- The effects on soil health
- A system that emphasizes full recovery of the grass before re-grazing



### Integrate New Grasses

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By integrating new grasses on a regular basis, you add diversity to your pasture. Not only this, but this is an important technique to increase your pasture's health as well as providing you with additional grazing options.

Newer varieties of grass can add as much as 25-30% in forage availability and quality and can fill forage gaps by offering greater early and late season grazing options.

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These new varieties can be incorporated through no-till or broadcast seeding into your existing pasture, or by a complete pasture renovation.

For professional assistance and aid in assessing your options, contact your local Barenbrug dealer.

# Key #1: Assess Your Current Grazing Management System

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## 3 Subdivide Your Pastures

By subdividing your pastures, you're not only condensing the area that can be grazed, you are also increasing the amount of land that is rested.

## 4 Apply Good Grazing Principles

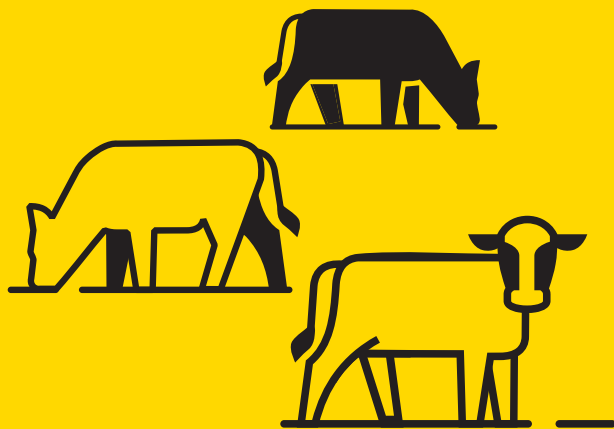
1. Initiate grazing when grass is on average 8-10 inches tall and in the 4<sup>th</sup> leaf stage
2. Never graze grass to a height lower than 4 inches
3. Don't re-graze grass until it is fully recovered (re-grown to 8-10 inches tall & in the 4<sup>th</sup> leaf stage).

## Good Grazing

### Principles:

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## Key #2: Assess Where Your Forage Gaps Are



Production records regularly indicate that winter feed costs are the single largest expense, and keeping feeding costs low is key to a profitable operation.

However, many operations could also have forage shortages in spring, summer or fall, which depending on your climate, presents a major challenge. Understanding where your gaps are, is key to finding a viable solution to fill these forage gaps.

# Key #3: Develop a Plan to Fill Your Forage Gaps

## Winter Forage

If lack of winter forage is the challenge you face, a combination of stockpiled grazing, swath grazing, and CoverGraze can supply all or most of your winter feed needs.

Stockpiled grazing is a strategy that defers the grazing of a pasture until fall/winter.

Swath grazing is another great strategy to fill your winter forage gaps. This strategy is the process of cutting your pasture and leaving what has been cut in windrows.

Then allowing your livestock to graze what has been cut during the winter months.

Our Barricade seed mix is an ideal option for both stockpiled, bale, and swath grazing.

This mix can be supplemented by using a CoverGraze mix planted in the late summer or early fall that can be used for winter grazing.



## Barenbrug USA

Here at Barenbrug USA we love seeing you succeed. Not only this but we love providing our expertise to help your operation save money!

If you have any questions, contact your local Barenbrug distributor/dealer and we can help you start your journey.

## Spring Forage

If Spring Grazing is your forage gap, consider using Barricade. This seed mix is a good perennial pasture option that greens up as much as 10 days to 2 weeks (or more) sooner than other grasses.

In some areas, fall planted forages such as an Annual Ryegrass, or Green Spirit Italian Ryegrass can survive over winter and also be used to fill a Spring forage gap.

In other climates, early spring planting is a better option.

***These strategies can save an operation as much as \$150-\$200 per cow annually!***

## Summer Forage

If you face a gap during the summer months, consider using a CoverGraze mix that includes our Moxie or Mojo warm season grasses.



To find a distributor in your area, visit:  
**[www.barusa.com](http://www.barusa.com)**