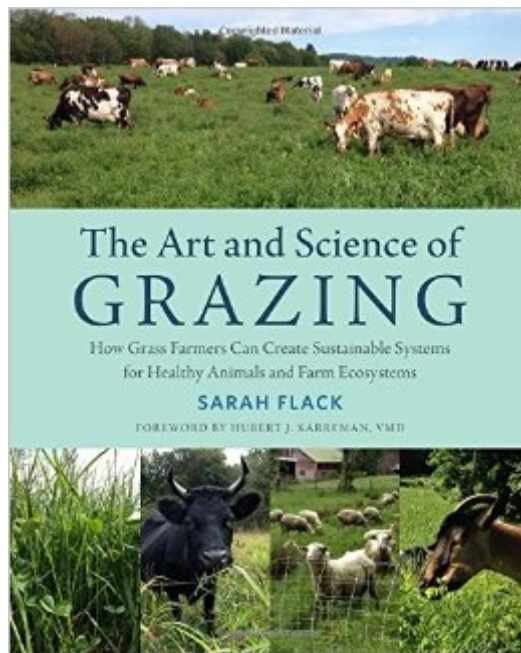


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The Art And Science Of Grazing: How Grass Farmers Can Create Sustainable Systems For Healthy Animals And Farm Ecosystems



Synopsis

Grazing management might seem simple: just put livestock in a pasture and let them eat their fill. However, as Sarah Flack explains in *The Art and Science of Grazing*, the pasture/livestock relationship is incredibly complex. If a farmer doesn't pay close attention to how the animals are grazing, the resulting poorly managed grazing system can be harmful to the health of the livestock, pasture plants, and soils. Well-managed pastures can instead create healthier animals, a diverse and resilient pasture ecosystem, and other benefits. Flack delves deeply below the surface of what the cows eat grass, demonstrating that grazing management is a sophisticated science that requires mastery of plant and animal physiology, animal behavior, and ecology. She also shows readers that applying grazing management science on a working farm is an art form that calls on grass farmers to be careful observers, excellent planners and record-keepers, skillful interpreters of their observations, and creative troubleshooters. *The Art and Science of Grazing* will allow farmers to gain a solid understanding of the key principles of grazing management so they can both design and manage successful grazing systems. The book's unique approach presents information first from the perspective of pasture plants, and then from the livestock perspective, helping farmers understand both plant and animal needs before setting up a grazing system. This book is an essential guide for ruminant farmers who want to be able to create grazing systems that meet the needs of their livestock, pasture plants, soils, and the larger ecosystem. The book discusses all the practical details that are critical for sustained success: how to set up a new system or improve existing systems; acreage calculations; paddock layout; fence and drinking water access; lanes and other grazing infrastructure; managing livestock movement and flow; soil fertility; seeding and reseeding pastures; and more. The author includes descriptions of real grazing systems working well on dairy, beef, goat, and sheep farms in different regions of North America. The book covers pasture requirements specific to organic farming, but will be of use to both organic and non-organic farms.

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Customer Reviews

I love to read, and will state that at the outset. I moreover love to read about one of my undying passions, Sustainable Agriculture in general, and grazing in particular. Sarah Flackâ™s recently published book, âœThe Art and Science of Grazingâ• is an absolute âœmust readâ• for anyone interested in grazing and animal agriculture. This book is a comprehensive tome covering all facets of grazing and pasture management for farmers who have beef cattle, sheep, goats, and dairy cattle. It is published by Vermontâ™s Chelsea Green Publishing company which has a history of producing excellent quality books on a variety of sustainable topics. If anyone was in need of an excellent book to teach a course on grazing, then you need look no further than this book to instill new techniques and knowledge in your audiences. I heartily recommend this edition and rate it with five stars. Why do I rate it so high? Quite succinctly, Sarah Flack has provided a treasure trove of information and techniques based on sound ecological practices, which can support economically viable farming with animal agriculture. This is a four part book with fifteen chapters and several appendices. Part One âœLaying the Groundworkâ• has two chapters; Benefits of Good Pasture Management, and Types of Grazing Systems. Part Two âœGrazing from the Plantâ™s Perspectiveâ• has four chapters; Grazing Adapted Plants, Pasture Soil Health, Managing Pasture Plants, and Common Pasture Plants. Part Three âœGrazing from the Animalâ™s Perspectiveâ• has six chapters; The Unique Digestive Ability of Ruminants, Ruminant Nutrition from Pasture, Meeting Livestock Nutritional Needs, Grazing Behavior, 100 Percent Grassfed, and Health Concerns.

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