

Closed Plan (Non-growing Season) notes

Basic Information and disclaimer

1. The sheet is 'Protected' for ease of use, but may be modified by selecting the "Tools" menu, then "Protection". There is NO 'Password' protection to the sheet.
2. Failure to transfer these calculations to a written *Holistic Graze Plan and Control Chart*, which is created, completed and monitored in accordance with the *Aide Memoire for Holistic Grazing Planning* will likely produce inferior animal performance, reduced financial and biological results, and significantly add to human stress levels. Failure to use a written plan may possibly cost your business the entire property. The *Aide Memoire for Holistic Grazing Planning* is included in the *Holistic Management Handbook*, and where applicable, your course manual.
3. This worksheet is provided free of charge. No performance warrant of any kind is expressed or implied.

How to use this sheet:

The sheet is 'protected', and will only allow data to be entered into cells that are coloured 'yellow'. Please do not enter data into any other cells! The Model is only for Non-growth and Drought Reserve periods, and is suitable for up to 105 paddocks / blocks / divisions of land.

Begin at Section A:

1. In 'Section A', place the cursor into the cell marked 'Date created' and enter today's date – Excel will show the data in the format 'dd-mmm-yy' as you tab out.
2. Move from yellow cell to yellow cell, entering required data.
 - a. Enter a number representing how you plan to run the cell during each of the 'Non-growth' and 'Drought Reserve' periods. See notes adjacent to the Cell
NB: If (and ONLY if) you enter '4' (*Two or more mobs, any paddock*), you will also need to enter the 'Number of Mobs' – [must be '2' or more mobs for this option to work] in the grey coloured cell immediately below. Otherwise the grey cells should always be empty.
 - b. Enter a number representing the number of selections you plan to take during both the Non-growth and Drought Reserve periods.
Hint: If practical, always aim for one selection, but consider rumen performance, physiological condition of your animals, production requirements and so on.
 - c. Enter a number representing whether you wish to measure in Hectares (1) or Acres (2)

Move to Section B

1. Enter the Number of Days of Non-growth and the Number of Days of Drought Reserve you are planning for.
2. In Column '3', for each paddock that will be included in the cell for this planning period, enter its name and its size (in hectares or acres as appropriate for you)
 - a. It is suitable for up to 105 subdivisions of land within a cell, and for a maximum of 3 mobs within the cell
3. You may choose any number of Non-growth and Drought Reserve days
4. In Column '1', for each paddock enter the RAW data you have collected during your field assessments:

The number you enter will be the length of one side of a square that you assess will satisfactorily feed one standard animal for one day in that paddock, and still leave the soil covered the way you want it to be.

The computer will then calculate the area required for one animal for one day, and the ADH rating of the paddock. YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO THAT CALCULATION. THE ADH RESULT IS AUTOMATICALLY PLACED IN COLUMN 5 of the Model.

*** MAKE SURE that ONLY the paddocks or blocks your stock will be using during this period have data entered in Column '1'. Column '1' controls calculation of the number of paddocks in the Cell, and this influences all other calculations. Check the accuracy of the Paddock Count in the blue coloured Summary area of 'Section A'!**

The model will then calculate:

1. The figures for the 'Paddock rating'. This is placed in Column 6 for each paddock or block and is achieved by multiplying the rating in Column 5 by the Hectares/Acres in Column 3
2. The total number of Animal Days of feed in the Cell. This is shown in white within the black cell, G29 of the Model. You will transfer this figure to Row 'A' of your planning sheet.
3. The Actual Graze Periods per selection are calculated for:
 - a. The 'Non-growth' period. The calculated graze period is shown in Column 4
 - b. The Drought Reserve'. The graze period is shown in the formerly 'Blank' column now called 'Drought Reserve'.

NOTE: If you have planned for a 'Leader/Follower' or other type of grazing, the calculated Figures are for EACH mob, per Selection.

Printing the pages

When you are satisfied the calculations for the Non-growth and for the Drought Reserve are correct, print the pages out, and use this data to plot your moves on the planning sheet through the period. **YOU MUST DO THIS STEP!**

Things to look for when printing

1. The Page Layout is set up for 'US Letter'. This will work ok for both 'US Letter' and 'A4' printers
2. The model is set to print the pages as 'Black and White'. If you wish to print them as colour pages, go to the 'File' menu > 'Page setup' > 'Sheet'. In the sub-heading at this level choose 'Print' and de-select 'Black and White'.
3. The model can cope with up to 105 paddocks or blocks, and to fully print will use 4 pages. Print only the pages you need. Page 1 contains all of the summary information you are likely to need.

IN ADDITION – Stocking Rate calculations

Once all of the above steps have been completed you may wish to fine-tune your carrying capacity calculations. The Worksheet, 'Stocking Rate Adjustment' replicates Rows 29 to 34 of the paper based planning sheets.

How to use the 'Stocking Rate Adjustment' sheet:

The sheet is 'protected', and will only allow data to be entered into cells that are coloured 'yellow'. Please do not enter data into any other cells! The Model is **connected** only to the **Non-Growth – Feed Square Asses** worksheet

Begin at Section A:

1. In 'Section A', place the cursor into the cell marked 'Start date of this closed plan' and enter the expected starting date – Excel will show the data in the format 'dd-mmm-yy' as you tab out.

Move to Section B

1. In Column B, Rows 22 to 29, enter the various classes of stock you expect to have in the cell during the Closed Plan period.
2. For each month of the planned period, for each class, enter:
 - a. The number of animals you expect to be in the Cell
 - b. The rating (% Unit) applicable to the class for that month

Move back to Section A:

Section A will now show you:

1. The expected surplus/(deficit) of feed within the cell
2. The days of surplus/(deficit) based on the daily demand you expect during the last month of the plan
3. An indication of your average daily demand compared to your average daily supply

Based on this information you can consider whether you need to make an adjustment to planned stock numbers.

REMEMBER: It is better to make a smaller adjustment at the earliest opportunity rather than being forced to make a much larger adjustment later on!
