

Open Plan (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!

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.

Move to Section B

1. Enter the 'Fast', and 'Slow' Recovery Periods you expect you might encounter during this plan. Make the range wider than narrower, to cover all eventualities.
2. Enter a number representing how you plan to run the cell during this planning period. 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' – ['2' or more] in the grey coloured cell immediately below. Otherwise the grey cell should always be empty.
3. Enter a number representing whether you wish to measure in Hectares (1) or Acres (2)
4. 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)
5. In Column '1' enter either your 1 to 10 rating, or better still the ADH or ADA figure from Column 8 of your last CLOSED PLAN

*** 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 2 for each paddock or block and is achieved by multiplying the rating in Column 1 by the Hectares/Acres in Column 3
2. The Actual Graze Periods for 'Fast – Slow' Guidelines. These are shown in Column 4.
NOTE: If you have planned for a 'Leader/Follower' grazing, the Figures in Column 4 are for EACH mob

Printing the pages

When you are satisfied the calculations in Column 4 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.

Paddock rating

1. The Worksheet is for an Open Plan ie Growing Season, only
 - a. It is suitable for up to 105 subdivisions of land within a cell, and for a maximum of 3 mobs within the cell
 - b. You may choose any range of recovery periods (Fast, Slow)
 - c. For periods when the cell is to break into mini cells (eg during lambing, kidding etc), create a separate Excel plan for each mini cell (If using the '1 - 10' rating in Column 1, you may need to adjust ratings).

When using the '1 - 10' rating the best performing paddock(s) (ie most productive per hectare or acre) in each Cell is rated highest - 10. Rate remaining paddocks in the cell in relation to the best paddock(s)

NOTE: The '1 – 10' comparison is only between the group of paddocks IN THIS PLAN, and not against other paddocks on your property that are in another cell. This means that a paddock rated "10" in one cell may not have the same rating in another cell. For example: It may possibly have a much lower rating in another cell which contains a range of very good paddocks, and so on.

Including set stocking in a plan of movements

REMEMBER: Set stocking ("parking the animals") for a period in one or more paddocks, or moving very slowly (for example, during lambing) is a PLANNED EVENT. It must be written on a GRAZING PLAN. If you don't do this, you will have difficulty restarting movements after the set stocked period, and most certainly will unnecessarily decrease your animal performance and increase the stress on you.