

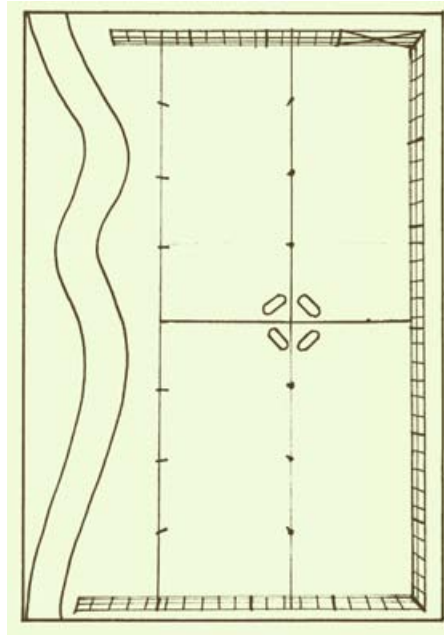
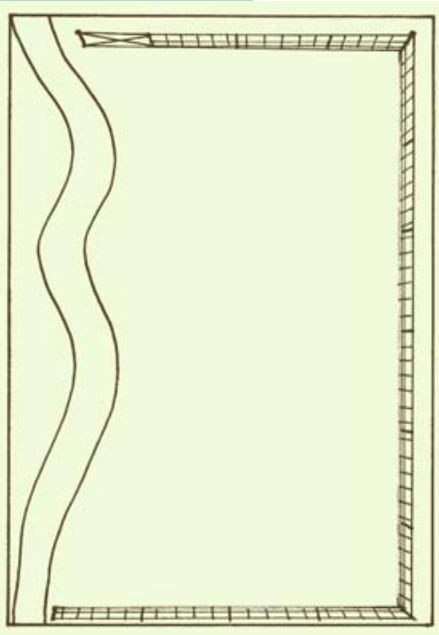
## STEP 1. SET GOALS

The term “managed grazing” encompasses a range of strategies and philosophies. But as you set goals for pasture production and environmental protection, remember that the most critical component is management. The specific riparian grazing system you choose is important, of course. But it’s good management – with controlled use – that will get you desired results.

Other critical components of riparian grazing practices include:

- ▶ combining managed upland grazing practices with good riparian grazing management
- ▶ installing alternative watering systems and controlling grazing to minimize deposition of manure in or near streams
- ▶ adapting grazing management practices to local conditions and to the species being grazed
- ▶ employing long-term rest from grazing when riparian areas are highly degraded
- ▶ employing short-term or seasonal rest to protect wet streambanks and riparian vegetation that is emerging, regenerating, or setting seed
- ▶ maintaining streambank structure and function by maintaining a healthy cover of riparian vegetation
- ▶ using a flexible approach that involves documenting mistakes so that they are not repeated.

**Keep livestock from streams and streambanks.**



As with upland grazing practices, livestock should be managed to ensure that they optimize forage use, graze evenly across paddocks, and do not congregate in any one area.

Constructing small paddocks that are more square than rectangular, and placing water and any supplements at different corners of the paddocks will encourage livestock to move around paddocks.

Alternative water systems and controlled crossing areas are critical management tools for riparian areas.

**To encourage livestock to move around paddocks, construct small paddocks that are as square-shaped as possible, and place water in each paddock.**

**PUTTING STREAMSIDE GRAZING BMPs INTO PRACTICE**

**GOAL**

**BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES**

REDUCE STREAMBANK DEGRADATION

- create designated stream-crossing areas
- move alternative water, salt and other features to reduce congregation

RECOVER DEGRADED RIPARIAN AREAS

- monitor streamside area to identify areas of concern
- replant where necessary – use establishment techniques suitable for streamside areas
- rest pastures to allow new plants to become well-established
- exclude livestock from heavily damaged riparian areas

IMPROVE PERFORMANCE OF STREAMSIDE VEGETATION

- delay grazing to help plants recover before regrazing
- control weed growth in adjacent areas
- restrict access where forage plants are flowering or going to seed
- restrict access where regrowth or survival of forage plants is in jeopardy

REDUCE RISK OF MANURE LOADING

- move alternative water, salt and other features to reduce congregation
- use shrubs and stones as barriers to reduce access time in surface waters
- use crossing systems that reduce contact with water

REDUCE SOIL COMPACTION

- only graze when soils are dry
- keep livestock away from sloughing banks
- move alternative water, salt and other features to reduce congregation
- deter the formation of pathways



**Monitor pasture condition. Rest paddocks where forage species are seeding.**

**Use BMPs to encourage livestock to move away from actively sloughing banks.**



**Move alternative water sources out of the floodplain.**