

## STEP 4. DETERMINE FORAGE REQUIREMENTS

Remember that the primary goal of most livestock grazing systems is to produce weight gain on livestock. An increase in animal size will mean an increase in estimated forage needs through the grazing season, as long as animal numbers do not change. Adjust livestock weights for each month to provide a more realistic estimate of forage needs.

### **What are the plans for potential expansion of the livestock operation?**

If an increase in herd size is a goal of the operation, estimate what adjustments to forage will be needed and consider how to best meet those needs with forage supply.

Are there enough acres in the existing pasture to meet the needs of the larger livestock herd? What is the potential forage supply if improvements are made to the pasture or grazing system?

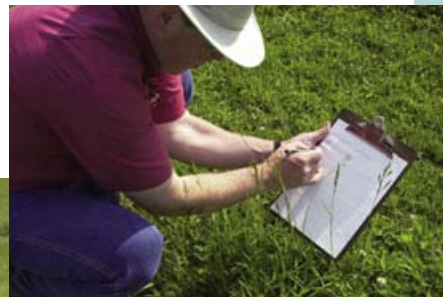
### **How many herds will be grazed?**

You may want to separate the grazing herd into groups based on production, animal species, animal size, or class differences. When the number of herds increases, you'll have to increase the number of paddocks.

When dividing the pasture, consider:

- ▶ how many groups could potentially be grazing at the same time
- ▶ whether the different groups can graze next to each other – obviously you won't want to place male animals in paddocks adjacent to females in heat.

**Calculate daily utilization rate based on numbers, average weight and average intake.**



**Determining seasonal forage requirement will help plan for paddock design and layout.**