Horses for Clean Water

Monthly Pasture Management Schedule for Western Washington Horse Farms & Ranches

**JANUARY:** Rest pastures, no grazing. Service tractor, mower & compost spreader. Remove manure from confinement area(s) at least every 3 days.

**FEBRUARY:** Rest pastures, no grazing. Walk pasture fence lines to check for winter storm damage & mend fencing as needed. Continue manure removal in confinement areas. Complete a soil sample test to determine appropriate soil amendments.

**MARCH:** Rest pastures, no grazing. Inspect supply of temporary fencing & buy needed materials. Continue manure removal. Plant native trees and shrubs for filters, hedgerows, summer shade and stormwater management.

**APRIL:** Begin rotational grazing of pastures, in \(\frac{1}{2}\) hour increments – work up to several hours over a period of weeks. Clip weeds and tall grasses, harrow manure. Pull emerging weeds.

**(Mid-April):** Spread compost: Apply compost in a thin layer (\(\frac{1}{4}\) - \(\frac{1}{2}\)" layer) or 35% of annual commercial fertilizer requirement.

**MAY:** Implement rotational grazing system - never graze below 3” and don’t allow grass plants to go to seed. Fertilize: Spread compost thinly (\(\frac{1}{4}\) - \(\frac{1}{2}\)" layer) or 40% of annual commercial fertilizer requirement. Continue to clip weeds and tall grasses. Harrow manure in grazed pastures after rotating livestock.

**JUNE:** Rotate livestock on pastures, graze (to 3”) then mow & harrow. Wait until pastures regrow to 6 or 8” before re-grazing. Mow weeds and tall grasses. Harrow to spread manure after rotating livestock.

**JULY:** Rotate livestock. Inspect for weeds - contact CD office for help with ID & control methods. Continue harrowing to distribute manure and clipping tall grasses. Repair or build winter confinement areas and

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covered manure storage areas.

**AUGUST:** Conduct soil test & send in for analysis (if not done in spring). Continue to rotationally graze – mow – harrow. Finish winter confinement areas and covered manure storage bins.

**SEPTEMBER:** Spread compost in a ¼ - ½" layer thick or spread 35% of annual commercial fertilizer requirement. Finalize preparations for winter confinement and high traffic areas – order any needed additional footing. Continue to rotate livestock and mow, harrow. Check gutters, downspouts, and outlets.

**OCTOBER:** Spread lime in pastures according to soil test results. Remove livestock from pasture when heavy rains start. Begin manure collection at least every three days in confinement areas.

**NOVEMBER:** Remove livestock from pasture if they aren’t already in confinement. Collect manure and compost it for next spring

**DECEMBER:** Rest pastures, no grazing. Store pasture equipment for winter. Collect manure and compost it for next spring.