

## CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

### GRAZING MANAGEMENT

Continuous grazing is the most common grazing practice implemented by landowners with livestock. The continuous grazing usually results in a plant community of less-desirable species. When livestock graze continuously without restriction, they eat the most palatable forage first. If plants are repeatedly grazed without allowing time for their roots to recover and leaf, they will die. Plants that are not eaten by livestock will mature and go to seed. This will cause the plant populations of desirable plants to increase.



An option for landowners to offset the negative affects of continuous grazing is by applying a rotational grazing system on their property. Rotational grazing allows the pasture time to rejuvenate from the constant livestock feeding and traffic. With a grazing system in place livestock producers can extend their forage supplies and carry more animals per paddock.

Rotational grazing is accomplished by dividing your pasture into smaller pastures or paddocks with a water source for each paddock. The livestock are then moved from one paddock to the next. Grazing systems can be very different from one farm to another. Many different factors determine the setup of a grazing system and are personalized to fit your property and your own personal needs. The best way to determine the size and set up of a grazing system for your property is to contact the office for technical assistance.

The Bollinger SWCD has cost-share available to assist landowners interested in implementing grazing systems. Cost-share is available for the components used to cover the following: Water Development, Water Distribution, Fence, Lime and Seed. Please keep in mind that there can be a wait for cost-share due to limited funds per fiscal year. To be eligible for cost-share for a grazing system you will be **required** to attend an approved grazing school. There are grazing schools offered every spring in this area. The school consists of a two day class and field visit. If you have any questions regarding grazing systems or would like to request technical assistance, please contact the office at 573-238-2671 ext. 3.