

# River View Veterinary Service Newsletter

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## News and Upcoming Events:

- It's time to start preparing for breeding season. Be watching for our upcoming breeding school!
- Check out the CowCalf 5 app for your smartphone for easy, cow-side records that we can help you manage!

*Welcome to the River View Veterinary Service Newsletter,  
designed to provide cattle producers with  
timely information and education on a variety of topics.  
Sarah Foust, DVM and Terry Foust, DVM*

## 5 Grazing tips to “chew on” before turnout

(Adapted from Progressive Cattleman, Christopher Clark, 28 March 2018)

Grazing season is just around the corner – a welcome break from cold weather, muddy lots and delivering feed to cows. As springtime approaches, it may be worthwhile to think about ways to improve your grazing system.

### 1. Delay turnout until grass is growing well

Tall cool-season grasses should be 4 to 6 inches tall prior to turnout and Kentucky bluegrass should be at least 2 inches tall. Pastures that were overgrazed the previous season will be slower to take off and may require additional time prior to grazing.

### 2. Utilize some form of rotational grazing

Rotational grazing can allow paddocks to rest and recover, ultimately improving forage yield. Rotational grazing can also encourage more uniform use of pasture forage, promote more uniform manure distribution and promote plant diversity.

### 3. Build plant diversity

Consider the use of additional grass species and legumes. Legumes can offer several benefits such as nitrogen fixation, drought tolerance, high-quality forage and continued production through the heat of the summer. Some legumes can be a bloat risk when consumed in large quantities, and incorporation of legumes will have an impact on your weed control program. With some effort though, legumes can be high-quality, productive components of pasture mixes.

### 4. Monitor pasture condition and body condition of the cattle

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has developed a pasture condition score worksheet that can help evaluate your pasture based on 10 important criteria. Additionally, monitor body condition score (BCS) of your grazing cattle. Any significant loss of condition throughout the grazing season is evidence that something in your grazing program needs attention.

### 5. Consider fertilization to improve productivity

Fertilization with nitrogen can improve overall productivity and yield. However, be strategic in how you utilize nitrogen. Soil testing can be used to evaluate soil pH, potassium and phosphorous, and management decisions can be made based on soil test results.