

# Pasture Utilization: When does optimum go to far?

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Drought Workshop

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- Define Stocking Rate.
  - How does it compare to Carrying Capacity?
  - The affect of each on your pasture resource.
    1. Short term
    2. Long term
- 



# How is available forage determined?

- Windshield survey?
  - Tradition?
  - Monitoring?
  - Established Data source?
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# Take half/Leave half Theory

## Calculations:

1. Acres in pasture X pounds/acre (NRCS guides or clippings) = Total pounds of production
2. Total pounds of production = Acres in pasture X pounds/acre
3. Pounds of production available = Total pounds of production X 50% (take half/leave half)



# Take half/Leave half Theory

4. Pounds of production used = Pounds of production available X % of production used by kind of grazing animal.
5. Animal Unit Months (AUMs) available = Pounds of usable production/1,000 pounds per Animal Unit (AU)

General rule of thumb: Every 100 lbs of body weight = 0.1 AU



# Estimating Forage Demand

## Percent of Body Weight

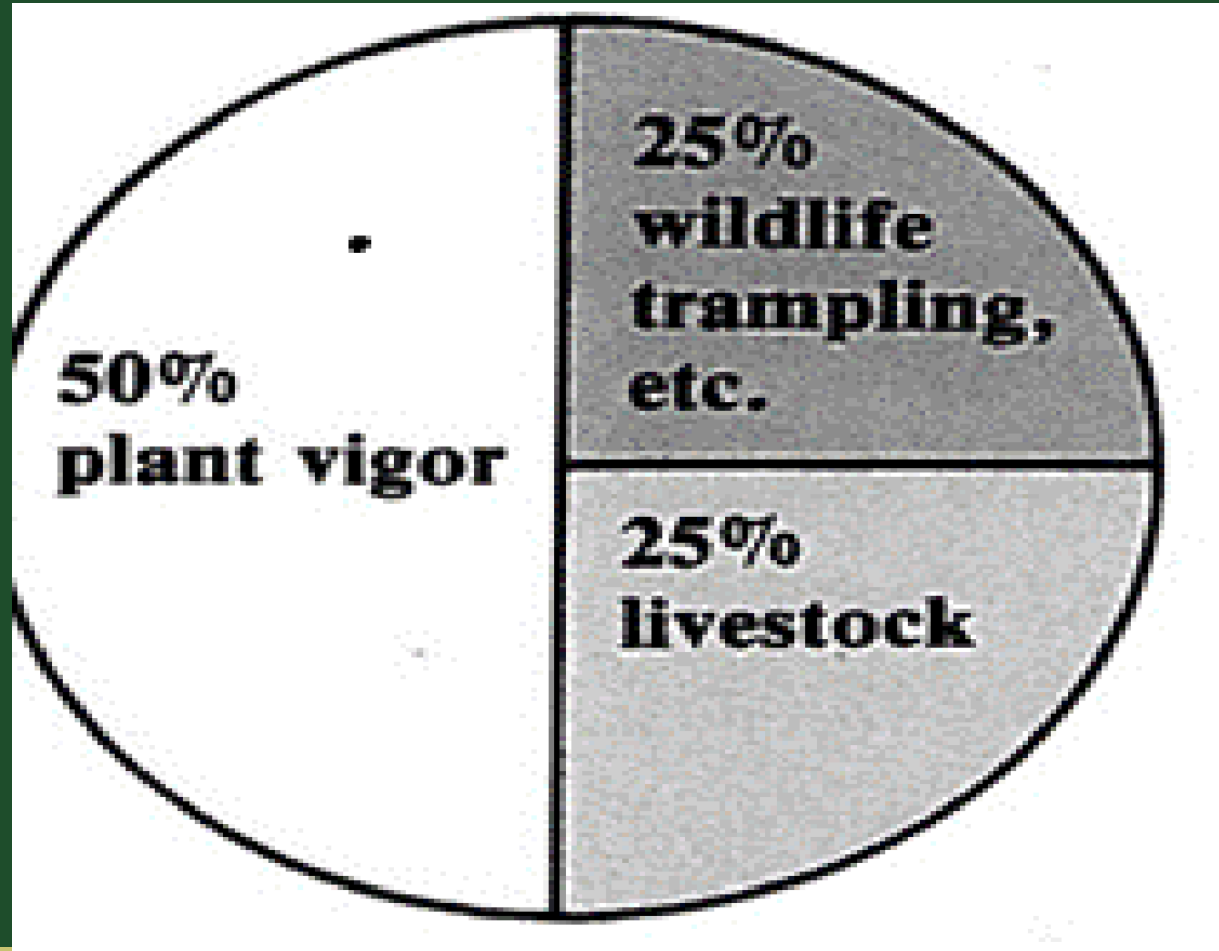
Stocker – 2.5 to 3.5%

Horse – 2 to 3%

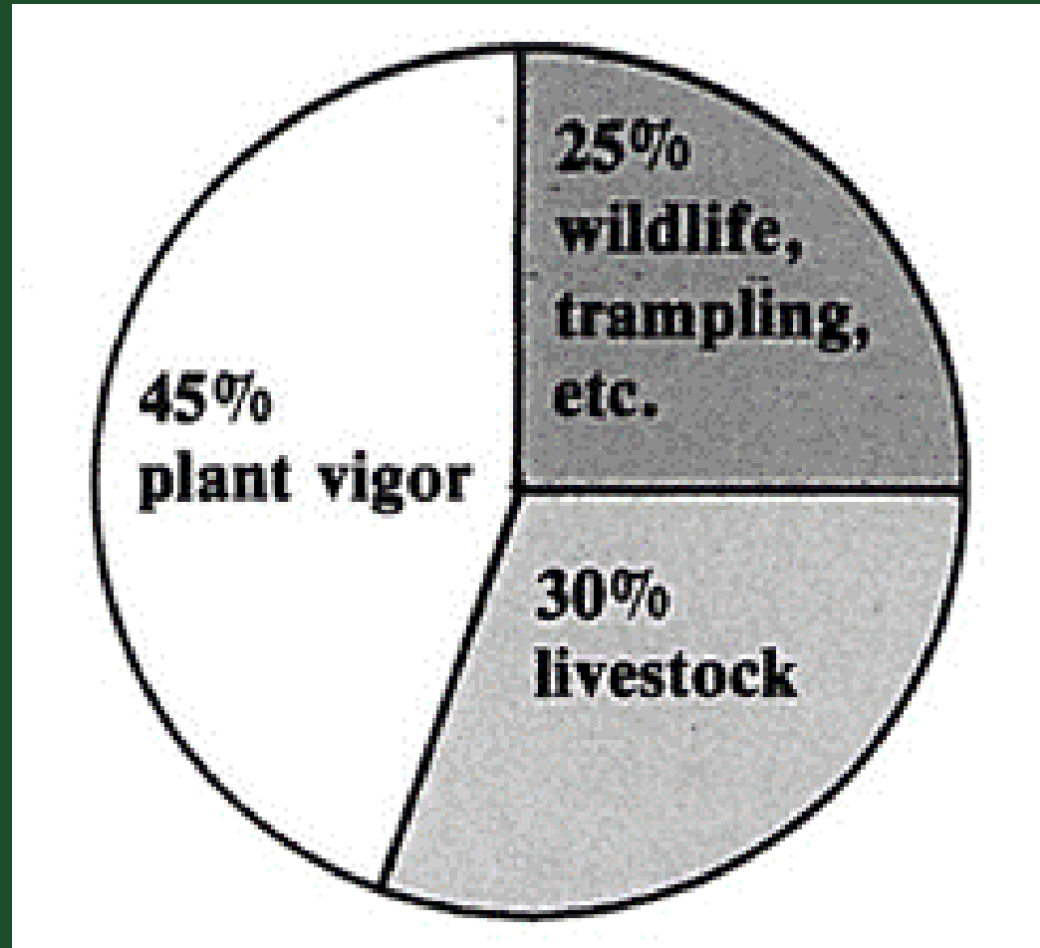
Sheep and goats – 3.5 to 4%



# Continuous, season-long grazing

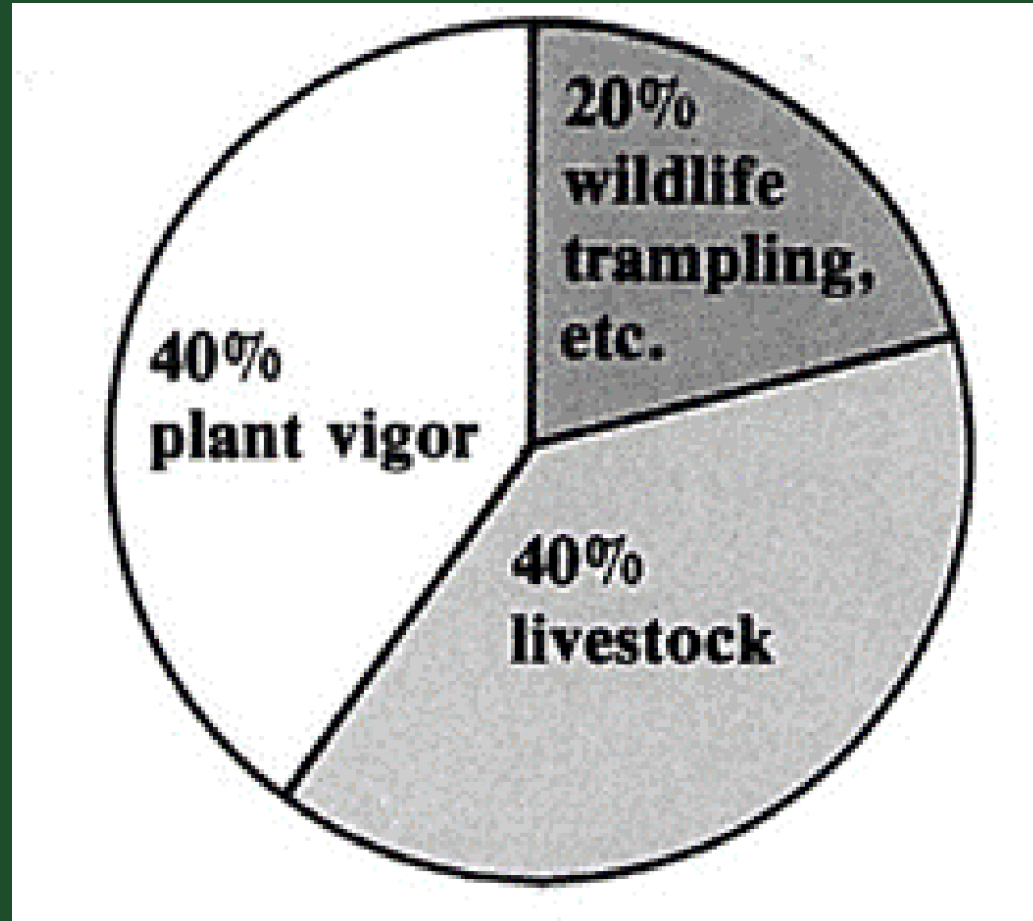


# Simple rotation





# Intensive Rotation



# Resources:

<https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>

Integrated Resource Management Course study: Integrated Forage Management:

- Designing the Grazing Strategy
- Forage Allocation of Rangelands



# Questions or Comments:

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