

INSTRUCTIONS—FORAGE, ROUGHAGE AND LIVESTOCK BALANCE WORKSHEET

SECTION A: Present Forage Availability and Grazing Needs

Table 1 – Present Grazing and Harvested Roughage Available:

This table records what the **current** situation is for the producer. The left side of the table records forage sources, acres, and AUMs; and represent amounts taken from the Grazing Land Forage Inventory Summary Sheet, MT-CPA-18A (total of Column I).

The right side of the table records harvested roughage type, acres, and AUMs; and are usually obtained from producer records/interviews. Any hay/silage to be sold should be recorded, as well as any excess hay/silage that will be set aside for emergency reserve.

Total the AUMs from grazing (1) and roughage (2).

Table 2 – Present Forage and Harvested Roughage Balance:

The AUMs from forage and roughage transfer down from Table 1, and are totaled together (3). This amount represents the total AUMs presently available to the producer.

The total AUMs (3) are divided by 12 months, and the resulting number represents Animal Units (AUs) (4) available each month.

Animal Units by Month Available from Forage: The AUMs from Forage (1) are divided by the number of months grazed. The resulting number represents how many animal units are available for each month grazed from the forage sources.

Animal Units by Month Available from Roughage: The AUMs from Roughage (2) are divided by the number of months fed. The resulting number represents how many animal units are available for each month fed from the roughage sources.

Table 3 – Grazing Needs Inventory:

In the Number column, enter the current number of livestock and wildlife present on the operation.

The Animal Units (AUs) figure is found by multiplying the number of livestock/wildlife type by the AUE figure. Instructions for cows, calves, yearlings, and heifers are found below the table. All values in the AUE column can be adjusted based on the specific animal needs and requirements.

Total AUMs are found by multiplying AUs by the number of months that class of animal is in the operation. For example, if a producer had ten yearlings weighing 950 pounds, the AUE would be .95, and $.95 \text{ AUE} \times 10 = 9.5 \text{ AUs}$. If the yearlings are only kept for 9 months, then $9.5 \text{ AUs} \times 9 \text{ mo} = 85.5 \text{ AUMs}$.

AUs / MONTH are found by taking the AUs of each animal class and placing that number in each month column that the animal is in the operation. This procedure should be done for all classes of livestock/wildlife present on the operation, and total the AUs for each month at the bottom. The numbers may vary, depending on whether different animal classes are retained in the operation for the whole year or not.

Table 4 – Production vs. Needs:

This table compares how much forage and roughage is available versus how much is needed. In the Total grazable AUMs available per month row and the total roughage AUMs available per month row, enter the appropriate AU/Month figure present from Table 2.

In the Total AUs Needed row, enter the monthly figures from the bottom of Table 3. These numbers should self populate if using an electronic version.

The last row will be the difference between AUs forage and roughage available and total AUs Needed. Subtract row three (Needed) from rows 1 and 2 (Forage and Roughage Available). If the resulting number is positive, then forage

availability vs. needs is potentially balanced*. If the resulting number is negative, then forage available does not meet forage needs. The possibility exists for the entire year to be out of balance, or just a few months.

***Caution should be taken when looking at overall AUs available and AUs needed. Table 4 may show a balance between production and needs, but are the AUs available *when needed*?**

Table 5 – Wildlife Use Information: This table provides documentation space for wildlife species present and habitat availability for each species. Enter field number(s) and acres containing the different key areas, and also document when the use occurs.

SECTION B: Planned Forage Availability and Grazing Needs

Table 6 – Planned Grazing and Harvested Roughage Available After Conservation Practices:

Table 6 is filled out in the same manner as Table 1 in Section A, but reflects forage amounts available after conservation practices are installed.

Table 7 – Planned Forage and Harvested Roughage Balance After Conservation Practices:

The AUMs from forage and roughage transfer down from Table 6, and are totaled together (8). This figure represents the total planned AUMs available to the producer after conservation practices are installed.

The total AUMs (8) are divided by 12 months, and the resulting number represents planned Animal Units (AUs) (9) available each month.

Animal Units by Month Available from Forage: The AUMs from Forage (6) are divided by the number of months planned to graze. The resulting number represents how many animal units are available to graze by month from the forage sources.

Animal Units by Month Available from Roughage: The AUMS from Roughage (7) are divided by the number of months planned to feed. The resulting number represents how many animal units are available to feed by month from the roughage sources.

Table 8 – Planned Stocking Rates to Balance Livestock with Forage Resources by Month:

This table is filled out the same as Table 3, but reflects adjustments of animal numbers to balance with forage resources. Depending on planned conservation practices, numbers in this table may stay the same as the existing numbers, or may increase or decrease to balance with the forage supply. Follow the same procedure for filling out this table as for Table 3 in Section A.

Table 9 – Production vs. Needs:

This table compares how much planned forage will be available versus how much is needed. In the Total AUs Available row, enter the figure from Table 7, AUs Present (9).

In the Total AUs Needed row, enter the monthly figures from the bottom of Table 8.

The last row will be the difference between AUs Available and AUs Needed. Subtract row three (Needed) from rows 1 and 2 (Forage and Roughage Available). If the resulting number is positive, then forage availability vs. needs is potentially balanced*. If the resulting number is negative, then forage available does not meet forage needs. The possibility exists for the entire year to be out of balance, or just a few months.

***Even though conservation practices are installed with the intent to balance forage availability and needs, the planner still needs to check back to Table 7 and see if the AUs are available during the various forage seasons.**

Table 10 – Wildlife Use Information: This table provides documentation space for wildlife species present and habitat availability for each species. Enter field number(s) and acres containing the different key areas, and also document when the use occurs. Enter any changes reflecting improvements due to planned conservation practices.