



**Best Practices for**

# **GRASS TURNOUT**

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**In this guide, we'll cover three best practices for a successful grass turnout:**

- 1** **Range & Pasture Management**
- 2** **Breeding and Bull Power**
- 3** **Disease Prevention**



*You'll also find a list of popular grass turnout products and supplies for your pasture and cattle at the back of this guide.*



# RANGE & PASTURE MANAGEMENT

## Ensure Your Range and Pasture Meet Your Herd's Needs

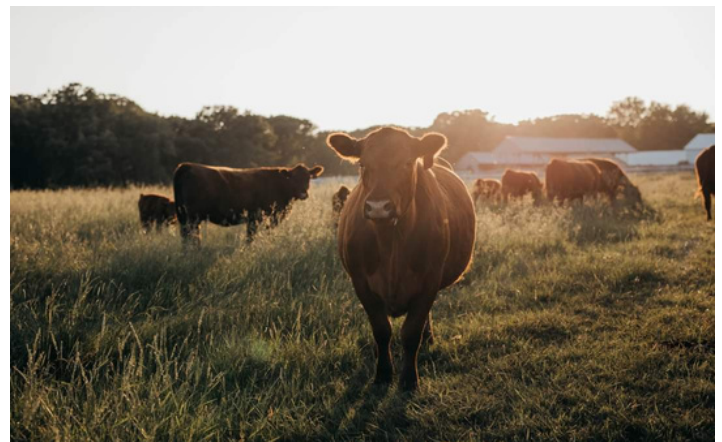
Understanding your grass is a crucial aspect of sustainable and efficient livestock management. Different types of grasses have varying nutritional profiles, and different breeds of cattle have varying nutritional needs.

**Conducting pasture testing can help you determine mineral levels, as well as potential toxins, in your herd's environment.**

Pasture quality and required management can be affected by temperature and moisture, so it will be a little different every year. Drought conditions, for example, can lead to reduced soil moisture, which in turn limits the growth of pasture grasses and other forage plants and impacts grazing potential or rotation. Regularly monitoring pasture conditions and weather forecasts, and having pasture management strategies in place for various scenarios, can help set you up for success this spring.

By understanding the factors impacting your operation, you can take any necessary steps to:

- Boost pasture growth
- Eradicate weeds competing with grasses for resources
- Enhance irrigation
- Provide supplemental mineral to your herd





### Don't Overgraze Too Early

Your herd can be anxious to get out to newly green pasture, but it's important not to overgraze too early. When possible, take out your herd, and **rotate pastures frequently** instead of letting them graze to the root or mud down fragile pastures.

Understand the balance of cool season and warm season grasses in your pastures to maximize the amount of growth you can get from the grass on an annual basis.

### Consider Grass Height and Maturity

It is equally important to not let the grass grow too tall. As grass matures, the seed heads have the potential to damage your cattle's eyes as they graze and potentially lead to pinkeye challenges later in the season. Consider haying or clipping your pastures to refresh the growth and mitigate the risks and nutritional deficiencies associated with more mature forage.

## Pasture Maintenance

### Repair Fences

Before turning your cattle out to pasture, inspect your fences and make any necessary repairs. Proactively have [fencing supplies](#) on hand to make repairs throughout the season.

In addition to keeping cattle where you intend them to be, quality fences can also help:

- Protect cattle from predators
- Limit accidents and liabilities
- Ensure livestock have consistent access to essential resources such as water and shade
- Allow for rotational grazing systems
- Safeguard crop fields

**Good fences make good neighbors.** Fences help clearly define property boundaries, reducing the risk of disputes with neighbors over livestock

trespassing. In many areas, maintaining proper fencing is a legal requirement for livestock owners, so it's crucial to research and adhere to fencing and livestock containment laws in your local region.

### Maintain Pastures

Spraying herbicides or pesticides in pastures where cattle graze requires careful planning to ensure the safety of the livestock and the effectiveness of the treatment. Ideally, spray herbicides or pesticides before introducing cattle to the pasture to allow the chemicals to dry and become less likely to be ingested by the animals. Some crop protection products have specific grazing restrictions, indicating how long you should wait before allowing livestock to graze on treated pastures.

**Consider weather conditions when spraying.** Avoid spraying on windy days to prevent drift. Do not spray if heavy rain is expected shortly after application, as it can wash away the newly applied chemicals, reducing their effectiveness and potentially contaminating water sources.



**Pasture sprays  
available at FBN**

**Gunslinger® AMP**

**Gunslinger® P+D\***

### Evaluate Fertilizer ROI

It's also a good time to evaluate the ROI of a [fertilizer program](#). This will differ from farm to farm, but introducing fertilizers into your management program can help you maximize the value of your pasture.



## Meet Your Herd's Nutrition Needs

As we head into grass turnout, it's crucial to pay attention to your cows' [mineral](#) needs. There are several key factors that impact their nutrition:

- Trace minerals are essential for good conception rates.
- During reproductive stages, cows have higher nutrient demands for biological activities like fetal growth, reproductive recovery, and milk production.
- During gestation, the minerals the cows get will impact their calves' mineral status at birth, which plays a crucial role in their health and growth.
- After calving, your cows' calcium and overall mineral needs will increase as a result of their milk production.

By utilizing a breeder [mineral](#), you increase the calcium available to the cows, which is needed for milk production. Introducing trace minerals in a

hydroxychloride form will maximize the availability of trace minerals that the cows can actually use because they prevent mineral from being tied up by antagonists like sulfur.

In rapidly growing spring forages, potassium and magnesium compete for uptake in the grass. The plant can be limited or deficient in the amount of magnesium it provides when cows graze it. This can cause a magnesium deficiency in cattle, known as **grass tetany**. Offering a [mineral supplement](#) to your herd can help enhance herd health.



**Prevent Grass Tetany**  
with Farmers First™ Choice  
Hi-Mag Mineral

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# BREEDING AND BULL POWER

## Breeding Season

The success of your breeding season plays a crucial role in the productivity and profitability of your herd. Spring turnout is an ideal time to start the breeding season because it aligns with the natural reproductive cycles of cattle.

## Have Enough Bull Power

As you're doing semen evaluations on your bull batteries and planning turnout, consider your bull-to-cow ratio. On average, **a good bull-to-cow ratio is in the range of 1:20 or 1:30**, but it can differ between ag operations and, most importantly, between bulls.

You should determine the right ratio for your herd by considering all operating factors, including the age of the bull and how many acres the bull has to cover. When there's a lot of area to cover, the 1:20 ratio is more practical. In a more confined range situation, the 1:30 ratio makes sense. If your bull is older, you may

want to limit the number of cows he is required to cover in order to ensure optimal performance and health.

## Confirm Bull Fertility

Try to semen check your bull as close to turnout as possible for a real-time measure of fertility, and continue to monitor its [body condition](#). If a bull loses a significant amount of weight throughout the winter or has been exposed to frigid weather conditions, this will often affect his fertility. These implications can be temporary or permanent and often require veterinary consultation to determine the outlook. Keep an eye on breeding activity when your bull is in the pasture to see that there are effective pairings.

## Deploy Bulls Effectively

When working your herd in the spring, keep your bulls separated from each other in confined facilities as much as possible to prevent risk of injury.





# DISEASE PREVENTION

## Biosecurity

Knowing biosecurity risks for your herd will help inform some of the management decisions that you face throughout the year. **Be aware of the conditions of the animals that you've purchased and monitor them closely.** These animals have the potential to bring in new strains of pinkeye, [Bovine Viral Diarrhea \(BVD\)](#), or Johne's disease.

Being aware of [biosecurity risks](#) can help you develop an appropriate vaccine and management strategy. For example, you may need to quarantine new animals for 30 days, or you may consider using a metaphylactic antibiotic treatment strategy.

**Consult with neighbors who may have fence-line contacts.** Many diseases can be introduced across fence lines. Having conversations with your neighbor about the health of their herd could have potential implications on how you manage your own herd.

Some common questions to ask your neighbor about their herd include:

- Have you seen any changes in health?
- Did you see more abortions this year?
- Did you have more open (nonpregnant) cows than you did last year?
- Are you treating more calves for summertime pneumonia?
- Are you seeing more foot rot or pinkeye?

If both you and your neighbor are more vigilant about biosecurity risks, you have the opportunity to better protect the health of your herd.



## Vaccine Protocols

Pastures can harbor pathogens from wildlife that cattle may not have been exposed to while in confinement. It typically takes a few weeks for the immune system to fully respond to a vaccine, so administering vaccines well before turnout ensures that cattle are protected when they go to pasture.

By vaccinating the entire herd, you create herd immunity, which reduces the overall risk of disease outbreaks and protects animals that may have weaker immune responses. **Preventing diseases through vaccination is generally more cost-effective than treating sick animals.** It reduces the need for veterinary interventions, medications, and potential losses from decreased productivity.

Work with a veterinarian to develop the right vaccine protocols for your operation.

### Get Prescriptions Delivered

[Ordering prescription livestock products](#) (identified by the grey RX clipboard icon) from FBN is easy. Provide your preferred veterinarian's contact information at checkout, and we'll secure the prescriptions for you.



## Clostridium

Clostridial diseases are one of the many diseases that occur during grass turnout. There are multiple types such as tetanus, blackleg, redwater, and overeating. During a clostridial infection the Gram positive bacteria produces endotoxins that cause tissue damage. Using a 7-way (7 types of Clostridial strains) vaccine is the [best for prevention](#) while being extremely effective to reduce disease severity and death from clostridial diseases.

## Deworming

Farmers lost [\\$21 billion](#) as a result of parasite impact on cattle health and productivity in 2023.

Internal parasites cause reduced growth and performance. Parasites can also lead to blood loss and a weakened immune system or organ damage. External parasites cause reduced performance mostly due to cattle rubbing and scratching as a result of the irritation.

Deworming helps control internal parasites such as roundworms, lungworms, and liver flukes. Consider a strategic deworming program that targets key times in the parasite life cycle.





## Fly Control

Start fly management and prevention early in the season. Keep in mind that flies can migrate up to 2 miles. **The flies you see are only 15% of the population; the other 85% hasn't hatched yet.**

Flies can put your herd's health in jeopardy. The severity depends on the type of fly and how large the infestation is.

TYPE OF FLY	IMPACT ON CATTLE HEALTH	MANAGEMENT
<b>Stable Flies</b>	Stable flies cost farmers as much as <a href="#">\$2 billion annually in lost production</a> , according to the USDA, because their painful bites lead to reduced weight gain, reduced milk production, and anemia.	Stable flies target legs and are difficult to control. Grass management and sprays from the start of spring turnout are good practices.
<b>Horn Flies</b>	Delivering painful bites to cattle, horn flies can create serious issues, including decreased weight gain, reduced milk production, and damaged hides.	Sprays, dust bags, and ear tags are effective against horn flies.
<b>Face Flies</b>	Although face flies don't bite, they feed on mucus secretions around cattle's eyes, mouths, and nostrils, and cattle may eat less due to the stress. As well, these flies can carry harmful diseases to cattle.	Face flies are difficult to control since they only spend time on the face, but ear tags and dust bags do help.
<b>House Flies</b>	These pests generally don't harm cattle, but they can add to their stress.	Kunafin, sprays, tape, and bait are effective against house flies.

## Pinkeye

Pinkeye can have serious effects on your herd, including:

- Poor performance
- Reduced gain
- Diminished weaning weights

Pinkeye is usually a combination of bacteria and pathogens, but it can be viral pathogens too. Flies, excessive sunlight, and physical irritation such as wind, dust, and grass can play a significant role in pinkeye infections.



### Prevent pinkeye with:

- Fly control
- Quality mineral
- Pasture management
- Vaccines



# SHOP RANGE & PASTURE MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS AT *FBN*

Get all the range & pasture management products you need in [one spot at FBN](#). Shop online for pasture sprays, fencing, animal health products, and feed & nutrition, and get direct-to-farm delivery on your schedule.

Pasture Sprays	
TYPE	NAME
Crop Protection	<a href="#">Gunslinger® AMP</a>
	<a href="#">Gunslinger® P + D*</a>

Fencing	
TYPE	NAME
Tensile Wire	<a href="#">Bekaert Hi-Tensile Smooth Wire</a>
Studded T-Posts	<a href="#">Steel Studded T-Post</a>
Barbed Wire	<a href="#">OK Brand® Premium Barbed Wire</a>



# SHOP ANIMAL HEALTH PRODUCTS AT FBN



Disease Prevention		Fly Control		Breeding	
TREATMENT	NAME	TYPE	NAME	TYPE	NAME
7-Way Clostridium Vaccines	<a href="#">Bovilis® Vision® 7 with SPUR®</a>	Fly Spray	<a href="#">Permethrin SFR</a>	Reproductive	<a href="#">Eazi-Breed™ CIDR®</a>
	<a href="#">Alpha-7®</a>		<a href="#">Prozap Insectrin X Concentrate</a>	Pre-Breed Shots	<a href="#">Bovilis® Vista® 5 VL5 SQ CFP</a>
	<a href="#">Ultrabac® 7</a>	Fly Tag	<a href="#">Double Barrel® VP</a>		<a href="#">Bovi-Shield GOLD® FP® 5 VL5</a>
	<a href="#">Caliber® 7</a>		<a href="#">Dominator®</a>		<a href="#">PregGuard® GOLD FP® 10</a>
3-Way Clostridium Vaccines	<a href="#">Inforce™ 3</a>		<a href="#">CyLence® Ultra Insecticide</a>		<a href="#">Express® FP 5 VL5 HB</a>
	Pinkeye		<a href="#">I-Site XP®</a>		<a href="#">Max40™ Insecticide</a>
<a href="#">Bovilis® 20/20 Vision® 7 with SPUR®</a>			<a href="#">Corathon® Insecticide</a>		<a href="#">CattleMaster® GOLD FP 5 L5</a>
Dewormer	<a href="#">Cydectin® 1% Injectable</a>	Fly Bait	<a href="#">QuikStrike®</a>		<a href="#">Pyramid® 10 HB</a>
	<a href="#">Dectomax® Injectable</a>		<a href="#">Agita® 10 WG</a>		<a href="#">Express® FP 10 HB</a>
	<a href="#">Valbazen®</a>		<a href="#">QuickBayt®</a>		<a href="#">Triangle® 10 HB</a>
Respiratory Vaccines	<a href="#">Bovi-Shield Gold® 5</a>	Fly Trap	<a href="#">Starbar® Fly Terminator® Pro Fly Trap with Attachment</a>	Implants	
	<a href="#">Pyramid® 5</a>		<a href="#">Starbar® Fly Trap Attractant Refill</a>		
		Feed Through	<a href="#">Altosid IGR XRB Bolus</a>	Implant	<a href="#">Ralgro®</a>
			<a href="#">ClariFly® Larvicide Premix 0.67%</a>		<a href="#">Revalor®-G, 100 Dose</a>
		Pour-On	<a href="#">Ivermectin Pour-On for Cattle Value Pick, 2x5L</a>		
			<a href="#">Clean-Up™ II Pour-On</a>		

Shop Range & Pasture Products

# SHOP FEED & NUTRITION AT FBN

## Feed

TYPE	NAME
Loose Mineral	<a href="#">Farmers First™ Prime Breeder</a>
	<a href="#">Farmers First™ Choice All Purpose with Essential Oil</a>
Lick Tubs	<a href="#">FBN Mineral Tub Garlic</a>
Liquid Supplement	<a href="#">See store for options</a>

Shop Feed



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