Grazing Management 2016

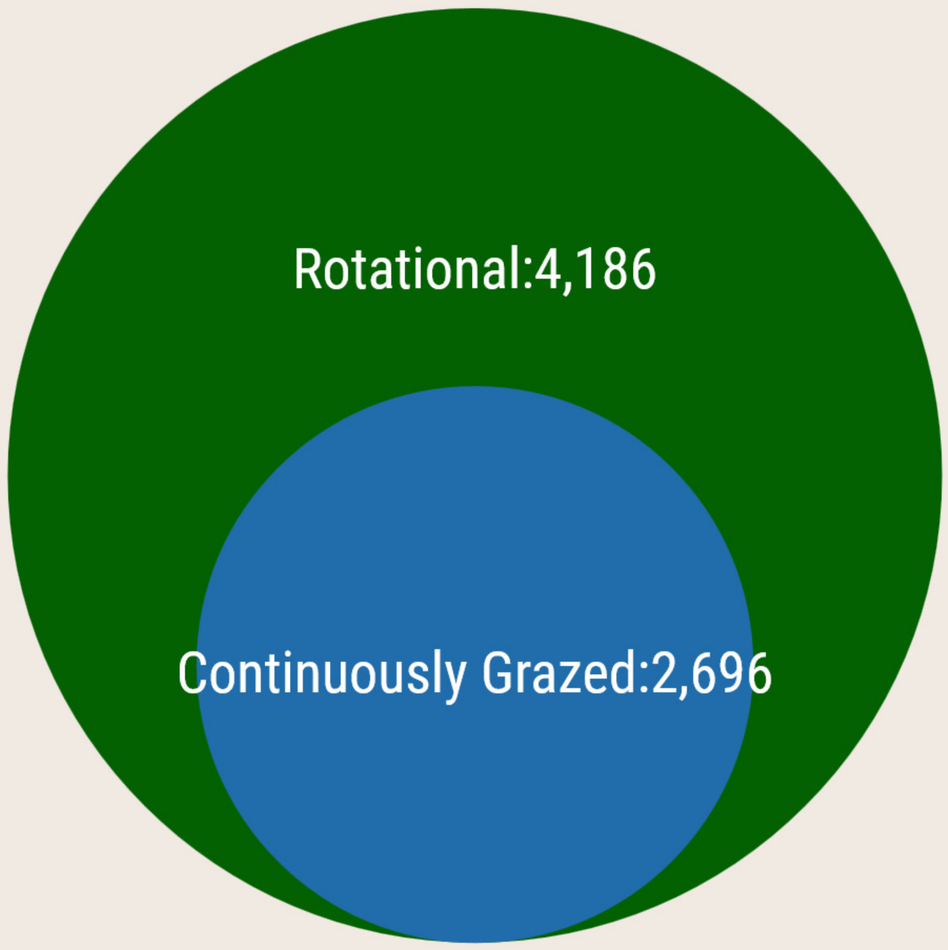
Soil Nutrients

The pasture improvement demonstration and assessment project was looking at the effects of transitioning from continuous grazing to rotational grazing management in pastures. Soil samples were taken in October 2016. When looking at the nutrient analysis, the only significant difference was sodium (Na). There was significantly more Na in the continuously grazed areas in the pastures located in Laird. Sodium in the soil can naturally build up over time. Plus, with compaction from livestock, the sodium can be blocked from moving through the soil. Other than sodium, there were no other significant differences in nutrient levels across management systems. When comparing 2015 to 2016 nutrients, there again was no significant change.

Grass Yield

During this project, RAIN measured the continuously grazed and rotationally grazed grass separately. When adding the yields up over the whole season, it was clear that the rotational grazing produced a better yield. It has been well documented that overgrazed grass does not yield well.

Grass Yield (kg DM/ha) 2016



Author:
Mikala Parr

For more information:
Christine O'Reilly
705-942-7927
ext: 3147
coreilly@ssmic.com

Growing Forward 2
AAC agricultural adaptation council
Ontario
Canada