



## A Guide to Livestock Leases for Annual Rangelands

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Principal Natural Resource Scientist at LD Ford and Consultant in Rangeland For landowners and managers with little direct experience in livestock grazing, some guidance in developing grazing leases can significantly help with meeting management objectives and avoiding pitfalls (sidebar 1).

#### Sidebar 1: Grazing Lease versus License

In legal terms, typical grazing leases are more accurately described as licenses, as a lease implies that the lessee holds exclusive rights to accurate the real property for the



Cattle grazing lease to support native biodiversity.

## **Types of Legal Agreements**

- Who's responsible and for what?
- Who pays or gets paid? How?

- Lease
- License
- Agreement



#### Considerations

- Time of year
- Infrastructure
- Length of agreement
- Species and class
- Neighbors
- Goals



## When to graze?



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# Forage Growth & Season Considerations

- Forage quality
- Forage quantity
- Need/ Impact of Supplements





#### Infrastructure





## Length of Agreement

Long-term versus one-time contract





#### **Grazing animal selection**

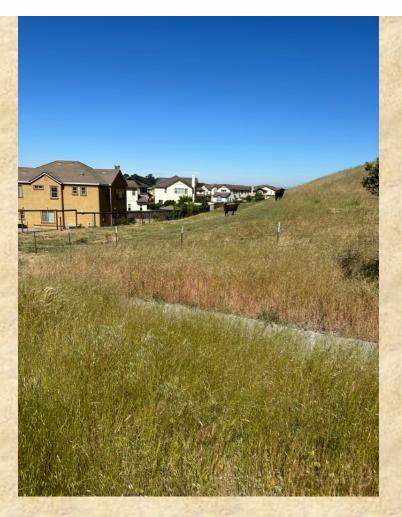


- Species
- Age/ production class
- Experience



## Clearly Define Goals & Expected Outcomes





## **Grazing Management Goals**

- Fuels reduction
- Vegetation height
- Residual Dry Matter (RDM)
- Invasive Species Control
- Species composition

#### Rancher Stewardship Goals

- Infrastructure maintenance
- Woody plant control
- Invasive species management

#### Neighbors

- Collaboration
- Extension of neighbors' grazing land
- Knowledge and experience

#### **Lease Terms**

- Payment Who pays whom?
  - Acre
  - Site
  - AUM
  - Gain



#### **Lease Terms**

- Length of lease
- Termination of lease
- Disease and death loss
- Insurance
- Infrastructure (Fence, Water)
- Supplemental feed
- Supplementary Services
- Rent Credit