SW Center Forage Grazing Protocol

January
1) Plate meter entire farm by January 20 to determine average cover.
2) Have average cover near 1,200 lb/acre by February 1.

February
1) Plant oats if needed by February 20 if stand failure of established forages from fall planting.
2) Plate meter farm by February 20 to determine growth.

March
1) Apply 50 lbs. actual nitrogen to all fields and other amendments based on soil test from fall. To be applied by March 1.
2) Apply 20 lbs. actual nitrogen every 30 days until June 15.
3) Plate meter weekly beginning March 1.
4) Record and submit plate meter readings on grazing wedge web site.
5) Begin to graze oats (if planted) when reaches 1,800 lb/acre.
6) Begin to graze other annuals and perennials when average cover of farm reaches 1,600 lb/acre and growth rate
7) Calculate daily feed demand for farm
   a. Stocking rate * dry matter intake/cow/day * estimated round length
      (1.5 cows/acre * (38 total pound DMI-12 pounds grain = 26 pounds forage) * 20 days = xxxx #/day)
8) Calculate daily feed demand weekly to determine if farm is in surplus/deficit forage production status; report feed demand on grazing wedge web site.
9) When growth rate exceeds feed demand, determine potential paddocks to remove from system. Recalculate new growth rate based on reduced paddocks to determine if meets feed demand,
10) When paddocks are determined to be removed from system for harvest (1-2 weeks prior), contact SW Center foreman to schedule harvest.

April
1) Plate meter weekly.
2) Continue calculating feed demand and growth rates.
3) Apply 20 lbs. actual nitrogen on April 1.

May
1) Apply 20 lbs. actual nitrogen on May 11.

June
1) Apply 20 lbs. actual nitrogen on June 1.

July
1)
August
   1) Apply 40-50 lbs nitrogen/acre by August 30 if moisture is available.
   2) Spray for insects/grubs if regressing.

September
   1) Apply 40-50 lbs. nitrogen/acre by September 15 if no application prior.

October
   1)

November
   1)

December
   1) Graze paddocks to 1100 lb./acre as needed with milking herd (by December 15) or dry cows. Sets paddock for spring freshening.
   2)