



Healthy Country

managing the land for healthy waterways

Sustainable grazing

FarmFLOW

growth through good practice

Grazing Land Management '1234' practice framework for SEQ

The '1234' practice framework for grazing is a best management practice 'benchmarking' tool for grazing enterprises in South East Queensland.

It can assist graziers and others identify current practices and management as well as highlighting recommended management practices and innovative 'cutting edge' practices. The framework provides a definition and a scale of improvement from 'high risk' (rating 4) to 'cutting edge' (rating 1) practices. The framework allows you to choose a rating that overall best describes your management and resource condition and the practices which will assist the grazier to improve farm management and land condition.

The framework includes sustainable land management practices that also contribute to achieving profitable grazing systems and has been developed in consultation with graziers, grazing extension officers, Industry representatives and Natural Resource Management groups.

The practices outlined in this framework are intended to:

- promote long-term farm profitability
- retain good land condition
- promote sustainability
- optimise nutrient and chemical use
- optimise water use
- improve soil health
- support on-farm innovation
- benefit the region's waterways

As maintaining or improving land condition (e.g. ABCD land condition) is vital to grazing enterprises resource condition is the most important factor of this practice framework. The remainder of the framework is about the use of management practices that improve, maintain or degrade the resource condition.

Practice level	Category	Practice description
1	Innovative or cutting edge	Practices that are highly innovative and further minimise off farm risks and potential resource degradation.
2	Best Practice/ Low Risk	Practices that are the current recommended management practices to minimise resource degradation and off farm risks.
3	Moderate Risk	Practices that reduce risks and off farm impacts compared to Level 4 but may lead to degradation the degradation of resources in certain circumstances (e.g. overgrazing of frontage country).
4	High Risk	Practices that have an unacceptable risk to the surrounding environment or that will ultimately lead to degradation of resources.

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Healthy Country partners:



<p>Rating 1</p> <p>Description: Grazing land management</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Low stocking rates 2. Stocking rates assessed and altered regularly, 3. Pasture spelling/resting on a regular basis determined by pasture monitoring 4. Land and remnant vegetation types and characteristics are known, mapped and managed accordingly 5. Carrying capacity documented over time and based on objective and accurate assessments of resource condition 6. Cattle walk less than 1km to permanent water 7. Clear and documented knowledge of the weeds present and monitor their distribution and abundance and control in line with a weed management plan 8. Well documented fire management plan or tree management plan with clear objectives that feeds back into the grazing plan <p>Resource condition indicators (all indicators at this level):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Good cover of 3P grasses 2. No significant weeds 3. No erosion and good soil surface condition 4. No sign of woodland thickening 5. Riparian areas in good condition <p>Planning, monitoring and record keeping:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Well documented, objective pasture monitoring which becomes part of the grazing plan 2. Well documented grazing management plan 3. An implemented and clearly documented weeds BMP plan including recommended control methods, appropriate scheduling, coordination of treatments, and monitoring to aid regular reviewing of the plan <p>Infrastructure: Fencing and watering points</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Comprehensive and appropriate infrastructure 2. All riparian areas and wetlands are managed separately to other land types and a grazing plan is in place to manage riparian vegetation. 3. Rehabilitation of major erosion sites is under way, including fencing to limit stock access. 	<p>Rating 2</p> <p>Description: Grazing land management</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Medium stocking rates 2. Stocking rates adjusted annually according to available dry season feed and carrying capacity 3. Pasture spelling/resting on a regular basis at appropriate times 4. Land types and characteristics are known and managed accordingly. Manage for most sensitive land types especially frontage country within paddocks 5. Carrying capacity is based on historical data and a subjective assessment of resource condition 6. Cattle walk 1-2km to permanent water 7. Good knowledge of weeds on the property and their location. Also, a weed management plan in place 8. Fire used in accordance with documented fire management plan or other methods of managing tree grass balance (e.g. native forest management practices) <p>Resource condition indicators (one or more indicators):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No decline in 3P grasses 2. Minor weeds, if present, are managed 3. Soil condition good or being monitored and managed 4. Some thickening of woody plants 5. Riparian condition good or being improved towards B condition <p>Planning, monitoring and record keeping:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Documented objective pasture monitoring (e.g. photo points, Stocktake etc). 2. Informal documented grazing management plan 3. Documented and implemented weed plan or calendar of when to treat each weed. <p>Infrastructure: Fencing and watering points</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adequate infrastructure – may require a few more internal fences/off-stream watering points 2. Major riparian areas and wetlands are managed separately to other land types. 3. All sites of major erosion are fenced and/or managed to prevent further erosion or for their recovery 	<p>Rating 3</p> <p>Description: Grazing land management</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High Stocking rates 2. Flexible stocking rate variation ie Ad hoc 3. Minimal pasture spelling/resting 4. Understand land types on property but do not manage them separately 5. Carrying capacity based on historical management and/or informally documented anecdotal advice ie diaries/notebooks 6. Cattle walk 2-3km to permanent water 7. Limited weed knowledge of weeds that appear on the property and very basic weed management strategy in place 8. Fire used regularly based on historical management or anecdotal advice <p>Resource condition indicators (one or more indicators):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General decline in perennial, palatable and productive (3P) grasses 2. Increase in less desirable pastures 3. Susceptible to erosion 4. Some increase in areas of bare ground 5. Increase of weeds 6. Riparian areas in moderate condition <p>Planning, monitoring and record keeping:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimal pasture monitoring and documentation 2. Basic documented grazing plan e.g. diary/calendar 3. A loose scheduled weed plan <p>Infrastructure: Fencing and watering points</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Minimal infrastructure – significantly more required 2. Riparian areas and wetlands are recognised and some management practices are in place for their protection, such as fencing. 3. Some management of erosion sites or 'at-risk' areas through fencing and stock management 	<p>Rating 4</p> <p>Description: Grazing land management</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Very high stocking rates 2. Continuous set stocking rates 3. No pasture spelling/resting 4. Very little understanding of characteristics of land types 5. Carrying capacity based on historical management/anecdotal advice 6. Cattle walk more than 3km to permanent water 7. No weed knowledge/management 8. No use of fire or no fire plan or other methods to manage tree grass balance <p>Resource condition indicators (one or more indicators):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. General lack of any perennial, productive & palatable (3P) grasses 2. Increasing areas of bare ground. Erosion problems in fragile soils 3. Thickets of woody plant growth and weed invasion 4. Riparian areas in poor condition with no special management <p>Planning, monitoring and record keeping:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. None <p>Infrastructure: Fencing and watering points</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Basic boundary fence 2. Very basic internal fencing and watering points 3. Riparian areas and wetlands are not managed separately 4. Uncontrolled cattle access to all wetlands and waterways, access points eroded, waterlogged and inappropriately located.
<p>Rating 1</p>	<p>Rating 2</p>	<p>Rating 3</p>	<p>Rating 4</p>