



# FARM BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

★ 3 ★  
INCHES

always maintain a minimum grass height of 3 inches



## Rotational Grazing

Rotational grazing increases available forage by allowing sections of pasture to rest and re-grow. Graze pastures that are 6-10 inches tall and rotate out at 3 - 4 inches tall. This might mean excluding from pastures until they re-grow.



## Exclusion Fencing and Filter Strips

Use fencing to keep animals out of saturated areas and reduce erosion. Having filter strips between fencing and waterways can reduce erosion and potential pollution.



## Weed Management

Clipping pastures after grazing helps reduce competition from weeds. Always identify the weeds in your field in order to manage them safely and effectively.



Use gutters and downspouts to move water away from high traffic areas.



**Harrow or Drag Manure** in your pastures. Breaking up manure piles spreads nutrients more evenly for more effective absorption.



**Collect and Cover Manure** from heavy use areas. Clearing manure every 1-3 days protects the health of your animals. **Cover the manure to prevent oversaturation.** Properly composting manure will kill bacteria and flies.



All of these best management practices help to keep your farm healthy and reduce the amount of bacteria polluted runoff that leaves your property.

## HEAVY USE AREA (HUA)

HUAs are places to shelter and exclude animals from pastures during rainy months (October-April). Adding footing materials, like gravel or mulch, can help reduce mud and create a dry environment for your animals.



### Resources:

- Skagit Conservation District
- Skagit WSU Extension
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Natural Resource Stewardship Program
- Voluntary Stewardship Program

