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## THE ESSENTIALS OF FORAGE MANAGEMENT

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1. Livestock are merely harvesters of the primary crop – forage. A healthy forage crop ensures healthy, thriving livestock.
2. Never, never, never graze below minimum stubble height:
 - 3 inches for bunch grasses (orchard grass, rye grass or tall fescue)
 - 2 inches for sod grasses (blue grass and bent grass)
3. Never, never, never put livestock or equipment on wet soil.
4. Provide fertilizer to meet, BUT NOT EXCEED, crop needs.
5. MANURE IS FREE FERTILIZER! Use it first, and don't put it where, when and in amounts that you wouldn't put commercial fertilizer.
6. Bare soil is generally a symptom of a livestock distribution or overpopulation problem. Figure out the cause and fix it, because:
7. Bare soil does not stay bare. Something will grow there. Something often obnoxious, but possibly noxious or poisonous.
8. Weeds are usually the result of ignoring #1 - #7. Practice #1 - #7, mow, hoe, pull, wick, wipe, or spray as needed and practice #1 - #7.
9. Reseeding is always a last resort. It is expensive and ties up acreage. Give the current stand a year (or two) of intensive management (see above) first and see if it improves adequately.
10. A seed mix should contain species:
 - Suited to the site
 - Suited for the use: production or protection?
 - Suited to each other: similar maturity and palatability