Many times grazing management decisions are often made on the "seat of the pants" day to day basis. With 'Management Intensive Grazing' the emphasis is placed on the increased management of the system. One aspect of management that is often overlooked is a systematic approach to monitoring the system. There are some simple objective indicators that can be easily determined and used to help make grazing management decisions. The indicators listed below give a good framework for a monitoring system that can be used to determine how well the system is working and when adjustments need to be made. The forms on the following 2 pages may be used as an example to record monitoring information or you can make your own, just do it!

Visual Forage Indicators:
- Color- degree of greenness
- Forage density- how thick is desirable vegetation
- Uniformity of grazing
- General paddock rating- vigor, health - poor-excellent

Measured/Calculated Forage Indicators:
- Length of grazing period
- Length of rest period
- Residue height at end of grazing period
- Inches of grazeable forage in paddock and next paddock
- Pounds per acre of available grazing ahead of you
- Reserve herd days - the number of days grazing left if no more growth occurred - forage available in all paddocks

Stock Indicators:
- Manure- consistency- loose or stacked
  - stacked indicates mature, fiberous, low quality
  - loose/sheet cake indicate leafy, vegetative, high quality
- Manure - distribution - well distributed or concentrated
- Body condition scores
- Measured performance- adg., milk prod., breeding
- Stocking rates and stock density - may change throughout the year
- Health - general health of the livestock

Environmental Indicators:
- Erosion problems
- Trails or paths developing
- Streambank erosion and cover
- Plant diversity
- Manure distribution
- Earthworm populations
- Wildlife presence or use