Rules of Thumb

Rest Periods

Cool Season Grasses:
- 14-16 DAYS during fast growth (April-Jun. 15)
- 30-40 DAYS during slow growth (summer)
- 20-30 DAYS during fall (Sept.- Dec.)

Legumes:
- 24-32 DAYS throughout the season

Warm Season Grasses:
- 14-21 DAYS during early fast growth
- 21-28 DAYS during normal growing conditions
- 35-45 DAYS during slower growth (cool, cloudy, or dry)
- 45-60 DAYS during adverse weather (drought)

Native Warm Season Grasses:
- 30-45 DAYS during normal growth
- 45-60 DAYS during adverse weather
  (probably should not have rest periods shorter than 30 days to maintain stand)

Grazing Periods

The faster the growth the shorter the graze period
- 3-5 days maximum spring
- 5-9 days maximum early summer
- 9-12 days late summer
- 5-9 days fall
  (based on initiation of new growth)

For optimizing animal performance:
- Dairy cattle- move 1-2 times per day
- Stocker cattle- move every 1-2 days
- Cow/Calf- move every 2-5 days