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EC56-115 Irrigated Pasture Calendar for Nebraska

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Pastures have become an important part of the irrigated farm. As it became necessary to produce beef and milk as efficiently as possible, it was soon learned that irrigated pastures were an excellent source of high-quality, low-cost roughage.

This information has been prepared to point out various combinations of grasses and legumes adapted to irrigated pastures, the approximate carrying capacity per acre and the season of the year at which forage is furnished. As a guide to the planning program the chart on the inside pages can be used to point out to farm operators the pastures that will give the longest grazing season and the highest production. For example, a combination of rye and vetch with sudan grass will furnish almost as much forage per acre over a longer period of time than a bromealfalfa pasture.

Production from any irrigated pasture will be no better than the management practices followed. Top forage production from irrigated pastures requires adequate fertility, conscientious irrigation, rotation grazing and proper rates of stocking.
This guide has been designed to help plan a program for irrigated pastures which will provide the longest grazing season and the highest production. It was prepared by Laird Wolfe, Agronomist, Soil Conservation Service and Donald Burzlaff, Assistant Agronomist, University of Nebraska Agricultural Extension Service.