

Georgia Envirothon – 2018 Rangeland Management Scenario

Your position or role in scenario:

Your role in the scenario is to be an experienced Rangeland Management Specialist.

The scenario case or issue:

Farmer Rick has just purchased a ranch with 200 acres of grazing land in North Georgia. The ranch has gently rolling hills with 4-8% slopes. There is a large stream flowing through the property that the previous owner used as the primary water source, the banks are showing signs of over use. The ranch is currently divided into two 100-acre pastures. One pasture is dominantly bluegrass/white clover (3-6 week regrowth interval) and the other pasture is alfalfa/smooth brome grass mixtures (5-6 week regrowth interval). Currently, the ranch produces 2 tons hay/ac/year. Farmer Rick also has used the ruler method to determine that his average forage mass/ac is 3000lb. Farmer Rick would like to implement a rotational grazing plan with 10 paddocks. Farmer Rick has been told that a cow needs 25 lbs dry matter/day. He will keep the cows on the ranch year-round, so he thinks he will need to hay at least half of the paddocks. Farmer Rick is very concerned about protecting his natural resources. He is an avid bird watcher and likes to fish so wildlife habitat is important. He is very concerned about the stream running through his ranch and wants to protect it. Farmer Rick has hired you as his consultant.

Prepare a plan to present to the farmer detailing your recommendations.

The following topics should be covered:

- How many cattle the farmer should purchase
- Address whether or not 10 paddocks will be enough division to allow his grazing pasture the recuperation time needed
- Identify BMPs the farmer should install/implement to protect his natural resources
- Identify BMPs the farmer should install/implement to create wild life habitat
- Where to get possible cost share assistance for BMPs and what programs are called
- Environmental concerns
- How to be a good steward of the land's natural resources