Monthly Pasture Management Schedule for Western Washington Horse Farms

JANUARY:  Rest pastures, no grazing. Service tractor, mower & compost spreader. Remove manure from confinement area(s) at least every 3 Days.

FEBRUARY: Rest pastures, no grazing. Walk pasture fence lines to check for winter storm damage & mend fencing as needed. Continue manure removal in confinement areas. Complete a soil sample test to determine appropriate soil amendments.


APRIL: Begin rotational grazing of pastures, in 1/2 hour increments - work up to several hours over a period of weeks. Clip weeds and tall grasses, harrow manure. Pull emerging weeds.

(Mid-April): Fertilize: Apply 35% of annual compost or commercial fertilizer requirement.

MAY: Implement rotational grazing system - never graze below 3” and don’t allow grass plants to go to seed. Fertilize: Spread thinly (1/4 - 1/2” layer) 40% of annual compost or 40% of commercial fertilizer. Continue to clip weeds and tall grasses. Harrow manure in grazed pastures after rotating livestock.

JUNE: Rotate livestock on pastures, graze (to 3”) - mow - harrow. Wait until pastures regrow to 6 or 8” before re-grazing. Mow and clip
weeds and tall grasses. Harrow to spread manure after rotating livestock.

JULY: Rotate livestock. Inspect for weeds - contact CD office for help with ID & control methods. Continue harrowing to distribute manure and clipping tall grasses. Repair or build winter confinement areas and covered manure storage areas.

AUGUST: Conduct soil test & send in for analysis (if not done in spring). Continue to rotationally graze - mow - harrow. Finish winter confinement areas and covered manure storage bins.

SEPTEMBER: Fertilize: Spread 25% of annual compost ¼ - ½” thick or commercial fertilizer. Finalize preparations for winter confinement areas - order any needed additional footing. Continue to rotate livestock and mow, harrow. Check gutters, downspouts, and outlets.

OCTOBER: Spread lime in pastures according to soil test results. Remove livestock from pasture when rains start. Begin manure collection at least every three days in confinement areas.

NOVEMBER: Remove livestock from pasture if they aren’t already in confinement. Collect manure and compost it for next spring.

DECEMBER: Rest pastures, no grazing; Store pasture equipment for winter. Collect manure and compost it for next spring.