Once planted, avoid grazing reseeded pastures for at least the first growing season. Pull on a plant at the base. If the roots come out, it is not ready to be grazed. This establishment period may increase supplemental haying for a while, but the result will be increased pasture carrying capacity.

Weeds

Keep pasture plants vigorous, healthy, and competitive. Weeds will have less chance to establish. It's critical to know what weeds you have and control them when they are most susceptible to your selected method (cultural, chemical, mechanical, biological).

Two excellent resources on noxious weeds in Oregon include: http://weeds.ippc.orst.edu/pnw/weeds and http://www.weedmapper.org/.

Livestock

Weight

It's important to know the best weight for the type of animal you keep. For example, increased weight gain is desirable on livestock raised for meat. On the other hand, horse owners want to be sure that their horses are not too fat or too thin.

Most horses kept on pasture are overweight because they graze constantly. Horses can get all the nutrition and exercise they need from pasture in 2 to 4 hours of grazing. The rest of the time, keep them in a sacrifice area.

Shade and shelter

Animals need shade in summer and shelter in winter. This reduces stress and prevents undesirable weight loss. Shelter can be structures or trees planted as windbreaks.

Structures should be open-sided in the summer, oriented north-south, and at least 10 to 12 feet high to improve air movement and cooling.

Table 3. Sq ft of shed space recommended per head

Cow	30	Ewe w/lamb	12
Calf	15	Goat	10
Horse	80	Llama	25–30
Sheep	8	Alpaca	20–30

Plant windbreaks or shelter belts perpendicular to the direction of prevailing wind (this can vary depending on the land's topography). Ask for technical assistance when designing windbreaks to be sure that they are placed correctly to give the desired benefit.

How much water?

Cool, clean water is as essential for healthy livestock as it is for humans. Water assists digestion and the animal's ability to cool itself. Water consumption varies based on outside temperature, animal size, lactation, and feed intake.

Table 4. Estimated gallons water needed per day

Horse	8–12	Goat	1–4
Cow	7–12	Llama	2–5
Sheep	1–4	Alpaca	1–4

Water needs increase with higher outdoor temperatures.

Controlled water systems (such as troughs, nose pumps, or automatic water units) are best. Make sure your animals have fresh water several times a day, regardless of how you deliver it. Note that allowing livestock uncontrolled access to streams damages stream banks and riparian vegetation and degrades water quality. If you cannot provide off-stream water, a hardened access point can minimize damage to streams.

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For more information on pasture and livestock management, contact your local OSU Extension agent, Soil & Water Conservation District, or Oregon Department of Agriculture. Technical and financial assistance is available for livestock owners wishing to address resource concerns on their property.

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