Guide to Developing a Grazing Management Plan for Solar Grazing Operations



Introduction

ASGA's Guide to Developing a Grazing Management Plan for Solar Grazing Operations provides guidance on developing a Grazing Management Plan (GMP) for managed sheep grazing on solar energy sites. The contents of this guide are designed to assist solar graziers as they devise their grazing management strategy for individual solar sites. In Part 3, a template is provided for a grazing planning document that solar graziers may be asked to submit to their solar company clients.

This guide covers several key aspects of developing a Grazing Management Plan, namely:

1. Site Assessment and Evaluation;
2. Developing Your Grazing Management Strategy;
3. Grazing Management Plan Template; and
4. Evaluating Your Plan.

How to use this guide:

This resource is designed to aid solar graziers when evaluating solar sites for sheep grazing, preparing bids, and developing grazing plans. During the pre-bid process, a Grazing Management Plan can also be submitted with a cover sheet outlining your company's background.

The development and implementation of a grazing plan will vary based on site conditions, region, and the particularities of the solar grazier's operation, such as flock size, mowing, and herbicide capabilities. The type of grazing plan documentation a solar company requires the grazier to submit may also vary significantly from client to client. For that reason, the information in this guide is meant to provide useful guidance that can be adapted to different circumstances.

The Importance of a Grazing Management Plan

Sheep excel at vegetation management on all sizes of solar facilities, from smaller distributed generation facilities to larger, utility-scale solar sites. Intentional and skillful sheep management, combined with good communication between the solar grazier, asset owner, and asset manager, is essential for implementing sheep grazing effectively. A properly designed and well-executed Grazing Management Plan (GMP) provides a clear roadmap to achieving vegetation management and livestock production goals.

Being adaptable to changing conditions is essential for solar graziers to successfully meet the vegetation maintenance requirements as defined in their contracts. To account for changes in forage conditions, precipitation, or emergency situations such as drought or natural disasters, a GMP should not be overly prescriptive. Graziers may encounter drought conditions one year and higher-than-expected rainfall the next, requiring changes to their grazing plans and stocking rates from year to year. Solar graziers will also find that a GMP helps them manage seasonal variability.

A GMP should be flexible enough to allow the grazier to deploy the appropriate mode of vegetation control, as defined in the solar grazing contract, to meet changing conditions when operating as a comprehensive service provider. It is common for GMPs to blend grazing and mowing activities into a structured document that provides direction and clarification on how vegetation will be managed inside and outside the solar facility.

Spring flushes and warm-season surges can make it challenging for sheep-only operations to meet maximum vegetation height requirements, as they require higher stocking rates. Mowing provides a reliable backstop — a way to stay in compliance when conditions outpace the flock without having to temporarily add more sheep during periods of high growth. For a grazing-only contractor, a well-defined GMP can also help avoid friction with third-party mowing services.

When a solar asset owner and solar grazier establish a grazing plan, it provides the foundation for both parties to work together to ensure vegetation on the solar site remains in compliance amid changing conditions. It establishes a shared framework for understanding the sheep grazing operation and serves as a key reference point when contingencies arise, allowing the grazier and site team to communicate effectively. Having a properly designed GMP also lays the foundation for healthy animal management and sustainable agricultural production on the solar site.

A properly designed Grazing Management Plan should include elements of the following:

- Baseline Inventory
- Approximate Timelines
- Seasonal Considerations
- Special Management Areas
- Justifications for Scope of Work
- Protection for Contractor and Solar Asset Owner

1: Site Assessment and Evaluation

Making Your Baseline Assessment

A baseline assessment is a critical first step in developing a Grazing Management Plan. The assessment will provide the grazier with a high-level view of the site's attributes, vegetation resources, and infrastructure. This preliminary assessment can also be a helpful tool for estimating pricing and identifying potential areas of deviation from traditional management methods.

MAPPING AND DATA

Map the site in as many layers as is feasible. Aerial photography, GIS, site topography, and soil mapping are all helpful for estimating vegetation quality and growth potential for mowing. Online resources like the Rangeland Production Explorer provide an estimate of forage growth throughout the year, a great starting point to estimate forage production of a site.

WALK THE SITE!

Arrange a tour of the solar site. Note tracker type (single-axis vs. fixed tilt), cab system and drive line layout, row spacing, panel height, terrain roughness, gate and access locations, and vegetation composition. These factors determine equipment options, mowing speeds, and what sheep can practically access. A pre-bid site visit allows the solar grazier an opportunity to identify potential problem areas such as standing water, steep topography, and limited mowing or fencing access due to photovoltaic (PV) equipment layout and engineering. If you're an ASGA Member, see the "Visiting the Site" section of ASGA's "Quick Guide: Navigating Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for Solar Grazing."

FORAGE BASELINE AND SITE HISTORY

The forage resources on a solar site can vary dramatically, from previously productive pasture, which often provides excellent grazing, to formerly forested sites cleared with minimal agronomic inputs, where establishing a viable stand requires sustained effort and patience. Walk the site, assess vegetation composition using a systematic method, and calibrate your expectations accordingly. Do not assume that acreage on paper translates to equivalent grazing capacity. The point-step method from North Carolina State Extension is one example of a systematic method for assessing vegetation. When assessing a site prior to construction, discuss with the developer or asset owner what seed mix will be used to seed areas that are disturbed during construction.

WATER MANAGEMENT

Water access represents one of the most significant operational challenges for solar grazing enterprises. Inadequate access to water is an animal welfare issue, directly impacting sheep health, breeding success, and lamb survival rates. Confirm whether pressurized water is available on site, whether the solar developer is willing to support infrastructure for a well, or whether hauling is the only option. Hauling water to sheep is manageable – far more so than hauling to cattle – but it adds labor and cost that must be factored into your contract terms from the start.

PERMIT RESTRICTIONS

The solar site permit may impose restrictions on mowing or grazing activities. Is there a time restriction on mowing activities to protect grassland birds or other endangered or sensitive species? Is there a requirement for sickle bar mowing instead of rotary mowing to protect snakes/turtles? Are there permit conditions that specify vegetation height must be above or below a certain threshold? Are there relevant erosion control/stormwater conditions? Is there a requirement to maintain pollinator species, and what does that requirement look like in practice? Request all relevant permitting documents from the asset owner.

PROBLEMATIC VEGETATION

Every solar site will be different; vegetation can vary dramatically from region to region and even within the same state or county. Examples of potential vegetation issues include:

- Sites with **woody vegetation** present challenges for sheep management. Multiflora rose, mulberry, and similar brush species regrow through repeated defoliation. Without 100% defoliation and bark damage, these species gain height each rotation — a trajectory that sheep alone cannot reverse and that mechanical removal, possibly combined with herbicide, must address.
- **Problem forbs** can create challenges for timing your grazing rotations. Bull thistle, giant ragweed, and other tall-growing annuals can outpace the grazing rotation. Sheep eat these species when the rotation reaches them at the right growth stage. This is not always possible for larger scale operations. Supplemental mowing can help control these species.
- There are some plant species that sheep will not eat. Woolly croton in Texas, pokeweed in the Southeast, and similar **low-palatability plants** require mechanical or herbicide intervention regardless of flock size, stocking rate, or timing. These species must be addressed directly — typically once per year in late summer before they go to seed — and ideally identified during the site walk before contract signing.



- **Pollinator and native seeding sites** typically require structural mowing. When contracts call for low stocking density to let native forbs and wildflowers bloom and set seed, sheep are intentionally not eating everything down. Stalky residue and unpalatable species can accumulate through the season. A fall cleanup mow — typically late September through October — may be required on these sites to remove that material before winter and meet end-of-season O&M inspection. Resolve height expectations with the asset owner at contract signing: native forbs must reach flowering height to establish, and a contract requiring vegetation below 8–10 inches may be incompatible with a pollinator seeding goal. Grazing can complement pollinator habitat and re-stimulate bloom.
- Wetland vegetation growing in **saturated soil conditions** may indicate areas where grazing and standard mowing equipment will not be suitable. Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides ponding frequency and drainage classes of soils that can be reviewed prior to a site walk to identify potential special management areas.
- **Vining species** can climb racking and have the potential to weave into wires and between modules, shading modules and decreasing production. If aggressive vining species are present, discuss the need for hand removal and set expectations with the asset owner. Adjust your proposed pricing appropriately.

2: Developing a Grazing Management Strategy

The data and baseline assessment information gathered in the previous section will be used to develop your grazing management strategy. This section will provide the framework for calculating flock size, as well as potential paddock sizes and recovery periods, all of which will give a clearer picture of how sheep will be used to manage vegetation. This will then allow you to calculate where, how, and what time of year to supplement grazing with mowing when necessary. Once you have these values, you will be able to estimate the potential mowing equipment needed, appropriate sizing for the site's scale, and how many mowers you will need.

In most cases, the data and final values you arrive at in this section will be the figures you provide in the Grazing Management Plan that you submit; it is not necessary to provide the calculations in your final plan.

Purpose and Scope: Writing Your Grazing Plan

The Grazing Management Plan should provide a clear picture of how you will successfully control vegetation. This will include the sheep management strategy, as well as plans to use mowing and/or herbicide to augment grazing on site. A well-designed plan will include a baseline assessment of the site, its attributes, and acreage. It is most helpful to include a management calendar, spreadsheet, or seasonal chart to support your operational overview.

It should also show that you will manage sheep in accordance with best industry standards and practices. The grazing plan may include an animal health plan, a justification for yearly vs. seasonal grazing, and potential equipment that may be used, such as portable corrals, utility task vehicles (UTV), temporary electric fencing, intermediate bulk container (IBC) totes, and other livestock equipment. Consider providing a grazing map showing potential paddock sizes or layouts.

It is important to remember that this plan must be flexible. It may not be possible to account for the exact layout of the solar array and pass-through areas for electric fencing in the grazing plan. The grazier will need to make adjustments in response to changing weather patterns, site conditions, and emergency situations.

Key items that you should consider including in your Grazing Management Plan

- ☑ **A baseline inventory** of vegetation, terrain, safety considerations, and potential obstacles to grazing and mowing. Forage sampling, productive capacities, and potential biomass estimates should all be gathered in the baseline inventory.
- ☑ **Proposed livestock numbers** - You should provide a clear overview of the amount of sheep you plan to deploy on site to manage vegetation and how you will manage them across the site to achieve vegetation goals.
- ☑ **Approximate timelines** - While graziers need to remain flexible and any timeline outlined in the GMP will likely change during operations, graziers should include an approximate timeline that is achievable based on normal rainfall and forage conditions, the amount of livestock, mowing equipment capabilities, and human resources. Timelines should also factor in conditions such as weather and precipitation.
- ☑ **Protection for the contractor and solar asset owner** - A GMP allows for open and honest conversations among the solar grazier, site ownership, and O&M personnel. It is important for a GMP to align with the conditions laid out in contractual documents to avoid conflicting expectations. It is helpful to propose an annual meeting with the asset owner to ensure both parties are in agreement with expectations and outcomes prior to commencing work each year.
- ☑ **Seasonal considerations** - A Grazing Management Plan should address seasonal considerations for livestock grazing such as potential forage stockpiling and supplemental feeding strategies and methods. These seasonal considerations should be guided by initial forage sampling and estimates. Asset owners will need to be aware of and approve any forage stockpiling plans and locations.
- ☑ **"Scaling" livestock numbers** - If you are scaling your sheep operation to fit a larger site, and will be "growing into" the size of the site gradually, this is the section to provide information on how you plan to address this and how you will supplement livestock grazing as a form of vegetation management as your sheep numbers increase.
- ☑ **Justifications for scope of work (SOW)** - A grazing management plan is also an opportunity for the solar grazier to justify proposed timelines and management decisions. Every site will be different in the layout of the arrays, ground conditions, and vegetation. A GMP can be helpful for situations where a solar grazier must justify alternative management decisions for vegetation control or extenuating circumstances.
- ☑ **Map & Satellite Imagery** - A Google Earth map, GIS map, or other similar geospatial map that shows the site boundary and proposed management strategy for each location of the project is extremely helpful in communicating plans with the asset owner and identifying any potential conflicts with site infrastructure maintenance schedules. A map is a very useful way to show incremental grazing and mowing progress across the site when providing status updates to the asset owner.

Timeline

A timeline provides a flexible estimate of the timing of management practices for use by both the grazier and the solar company. As with much of the information you gather for this document, the timeline is not intended to be an "absolute" estimate. Weather, project site maintenance schedules, livestock health and nutrition, and the feasibility of management and labor availability will all affect the execution of a proposed timeline. It is especially important that solar owners and operators understand that the timeline is a rough approximation of the grazing schedule and real-world conditions will require flexible management. There are a few ways you can visually provide your timeline to the solar company, including the following:

- A Gantt Chart provides a visual timeline showing when you'll perform each treatment type across the year. Some items to track include:
  - » Sheep grazing months;
  - » Mowing schedule;
  - » Herbicide application timing, if applicable (pre-emergent, post-emergent); and
  - » Vegetation or soil monitoring.
  - » Download an example Gantt Chart here.
- Provide an alternative template format that can be used, such as a table or management calendar.

Calculating Your Grazing and Mowing System

A proper solar grazing stocking rate will need to combine the following considerations: animal nutritional needs, existing or proposed flock size, required vegetation height specification, and the site's vegetation quality and amount. **Stocking rates for solar sites will be different from conventional stocking rates.** Keep in mind that after you begin grazing the site, you will need to adjust your initial calculations based on observed growth patterns, rainfall, flock performance, and site infrastructure.

Here you will want to consider the configuration of the PV system you observed during your site visit. The type of tracking system (single-axis tracking vs. fixed-tilt tracking), the presence of above-ground CAB lines and driveshafts, and topography will all add to the complexity of both grazing management and mowing. On large utility-scale sites, you will also need to consider site access and how sheep can be moved between fenced array fields.

Account for infrastructure constraints when mapping paddock sizes. Drive shafts and cab lines run continuously across many sites, with gaps occurring only at fixed intervals. This limits where cross-fences can actually be set, which means paddock sizes are often dictated by site infrastructure rather than ideal stocking math. Map break points before finalizing your grazing plan, and be prepared for paddocks that are larger or smaller than your calculations suggest. Use paddock-mapping software (such as field management apps that overlay paddock boundaries on aerial imagery) to identify constraints.



FLOCK SIZING AND STOCKING RATE

To begin estimating your flock size and stocking rates, you will need to calculate the following:

- **Estimate recovery days** - This is the time from a grazing or mowing event until vegetation returns to maximum contract height on a monthly basis. For example, in cool-season-dominant landscapes, May and June may require full-site mowing twice; July may require only one pass; September through November may require a clean-up event. In high-rainfall areas, precipitation can dramatically shorten recovery days. Most importantly, recovery periods may vary greatly by geographic region; it is best practice to use local land-grant university resources and cooperative extension agents for more regionally relevant data.
- **Estimate sheep nutritional needs** - Multiply flock total body weight by 3% to determine daily dry matter intake. Divide by estimated forage yield per acre at the point of grazing, apply a 60–80% utilization rate, and determine acres covered per day. Map that against the recovery schedule to identify where and when mowing must fill the gap.
- **Calculate usable and actual vegetation** - Deduct approximately 5% for bare ground (roads, pads, graveled areas). On freshly seeded sites, apply only 60–80% of the calculated theoretical rate — new seedings are highly vulnerable to overgrazing, and overgrazing before stands mature invites invasive species and may trigger re-seeding requirements at the operator's expense. Use WSS data for potential forage yields according to soil type and composition; validate against observed on-site yields once grazing begins. Even for sites that are established, remember that you will not be using 100% of the forage available; you will be leaving residual vegetation to prevent overgrazing. Calculate accordingly to reflect this in your estimate.

- **Mowing Math** - The number of acres per hour that a machine is capable of mowing is calculated using a simple formula involving the mowing equipment deck width and the estimated speed in miles per hour (MPH). These calculations will always be a rough estimate. They do not take into account the highly variable speed at which equipment will be operated. When calculating mowing equipment needs, you will also need to account for repairs, equipment downtime, and replacement or spare machinery.

  Mowing calculation:

$$\frac{\text{Deck Width (in.)} \times \text{Speed (MPH)}}{100} = \text{Acres per Hour}$$

Note: When making the above calculations, make sure to use the total grazeable acreage which will likely be different from the total acreage of the site.

SOLAR SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS

Solar sites introduce operational variables that do not exist in a conventional pasture context, and each one deserves specific attention before grazing begins. A grazing plan for solar sites should address the following considerations unique to solar sites:

- **Create a plan to mitigate perimeter fencing issues and predator pressure** - Solar site perimeter fencing varies widely in quality and design, and it must, at minimum, slow predator access and contain livestock guardian dogs (LGDs). If you were able to tour the site, have a plan for mitigating gaps, low sections, or compromised woven wire before animals arrive. Retrofitting fencing after a predator event is more costly – in time, money, and animal welfare – than addressing it in advance.
- **Rotational grazing and temporary fencing on a solar energy site** - Most solar graziers find that some form of paddock rotation produces meaningfully better forage utilization and animal performance than continuous stocking across the full site. Temporary polywire fencing run between panel rows allows you to create 4 to 8 paddocks on a typical community-scale site (25 to 40 acres), improving utilization without permanent infrastructure investment. More frequent moves – even twice weekly rather than weekly – increase the percentage of available forage that actually reaches the animal rather than being trampled or fouled. Work with the solar developer to confirm that temporary fencing will not interfere with operations and maintenance access; most developers will accommodate it.
- **Vegetation height requirement** - Remember, solar companies will require vegetation to be maintained at a specified height in inches, and a grazier's job is to keep the site in compliance according to the terms of the contract. Achieving that standard with grazing alone is possible, but in practice many graziers find that a hybrid approach is more reliable for maintaining compliance.

Flock Health and Welfare

The health and welfare of your livestock are essential to the success of a solar grazing operation. Healthy animals are more productive, better able to utilize a wider variety of vegetation, and will eliminate negative public perception problems that come from poor health and management.

A flock health plan should be developed with a veterinarian under a Veterinarian-Client-Patient Relationship. ASGA provides the following animal health guides and fact sheets for solar graziers to utilize:

- Guide to Developing a Flock Health Management Plan for a Solar Grazing System
- Best Practices: Water Hauling Strategies for Solar Grazing Operations
- Parasite Management in Solar Grazing Systems
- Best Practices: Biosecurity for Solar Grazing Operations
- Best Practices: Disease Prevention for Solar Grazing Sheep

Selecting Mowing Equipment

Many solar graziers deploy a hybrid grazing and mowing system to manage vegetation according to the contract specifications. The type of mowing equipment and how that equipment pairs with site conditions can have a major impact on the Grazing Management Plan.

Unfortunately, there are no standard equipment recommendations that are valid across all sites, and certain brands and types of mowers may work well on one site and poorly on another based on vegetation conditions and geography. In an ideal scenario, a solar grazier will select the proper mowing equipment after evaluating site conditions. Here are key factors to consider when selecting mowing equipment:

- **Row spacing**: A mower will need to fit through the panel gaps. A mower that fits but doesn't divide evenly into the gap width can waste precious mowing time. For example, a 15-foot deck on a 20-foot gap still requires two passes, making effective cutting width closer to 10 feet. In practice, a deck just over one-quarter of the gap width tends to maximize efficiency when two full passes are required.

- **Terrain**: Remember that solar sites were construction sites for the 1-2 years before the grazing management contract starts. Graziers may encounter ruts, embedded debris, nails, and uneven ground on newly constructed sites. This can create challenges for standard mowing equipment. Zero-turn mowers rated for commercial turf, for example, are not built for thousands of acres of rough pasture. Tire failures are common on new sites so expect to keep a full spare set on site at all times. During the site walk, look for large rocks that may interfere with mowing equipment and smaller rocks that could be kicked up by the mower and break a solar panel. Note any rock issues in your proposal and Grazing Management Plan and ensure extra management associated with rock removal or special equipment is accounted for.
- **Vegetation type**: Dense, high-legume forage is significantly harder to process through a rotary deck than tall, stemmy grass. It can be thick, wet, and sticky in a way that your listed mower specs don't account for. High-legume mixes demand substantially more horsepower than the listed ratings suggest. A 40-horsepower zero-turn laboring through thick clover growth may fall well short of its theoretical throughput, which can significantly impact how many acres you can cover in a day.
- **Downtime**: Build downtime into your mowing strategy from the beginning. It is not uncommon for at least 20% of your mowing fleet to be out of service at any given time on an active site. Warranty repairs through dealer service routinely take 3–4 weeks. Experienced graziers recommend stocking common wear parts on site and training staff to handle basic repairs themselves.

A functional equipment combination for large utility-scale sites typically includes:

- **Small-format under-panel mowers** (zero-turn or articulated four-wheel-drive with flail deck) for between rows and under tracking panels; plan for 1–2 acres per hour under panel conditions.
- **Mid-size specialty mowers** (articulated four-wheel-drive, low ground clearance, front and rear power take-off (PTO)) for uneven terrain, woody brush, and tight headlands.
- **Large-frame equipment** (100-horsepower tractor with 12-foot batwing) for open areas, road margins, and exterior fire buffers.
- **Sickle bar attachments** for very low panel lead edges (12–24 inches off the ground) where rotary or flail mowers cannot reach without panel contact risk.

Avoid side-discharge rotary mowers on any row or under-panel work; debris thrown onto panels creates hotspots and panel damage. Use rear-discharge or flail mowers for all in-row applications.

3: Grazing Management Plan Template

In this section, we will combine all the elements you gathered and calculated into a formatted plan for submission to your solar company or asset owner. The plan template provides an easily editable document for solar graziers to develop site-specific Grazing Management Plans. This document is not intended to serve as the only resource and will require effort from the solar grazier using it to format it and input information and data specific to the site they will be managing.

The completed Grazing Management Plan should provide a clear roadmap that preserves flexibility. Remember that your audience will have varying levels of familiarity with livestock and grazing terminology, so avoid overly technical language or explanations. It is also important to note that although we calculated and estimated many different values in the previous section, it will not be necessary to submit all of your methodology in the completed GMP; the final values will provide a clearer picture of grazing and mowing management once deployed.

This template is meant to be a guide only. It is designed to help you develop your own Grazing Management Plan that you can tailor to your operation and the specifications of the solar site you will graze. Download the GMP template here.



How to Determine if Your Grazing Management Plan Is Sufficient

Once you have a final draft of your Grazing Management Plan, make sure to review your document for grammatical and language errors as well as confirming the accuracy of your calculations and data.

In most situations, it is beneficial to ask an outside reviewer to look at your Grazing Management Plan. Potential outside reviewers may be another trusted solar grazier, ASGA staff, a veterinarian, or university and extension staff.

Use this sequence to evaluate the durability and feasibility of your Grazing Management Plan:

- ☑ **Is the plan formatted correctly?** Are the sections in logical order, properly numbered, and clearly headed?
- ☑ **Have you considered all possible scenarios**, including: The number of sheep needed? Potential grazing rotations and paddock sizes? Mowing estimate with properly sized equipment to match supplemental needs beyond grazing?
- ☑ **Have you provided a timeline or calendar chart** that clearly identifies all potential management tasks, including sheep management tasks, mowing, potential herbicide applications, and on/off dates if seasonal grazing is to be used?
- ☑ **Walk the site before signing.** Record tracker type, row spacing, cab system layout, terrain conditions, panel lead-edge heights, and current vegetation composition. Identify problem species requiring mechanical intervention.
- ☑ **Select equipment to match the site.** Confirm effective cutting widths against actual gap dimensions; assess terrain for zero-turn viability; identify whether any areas require flail or sickle bar access.
- ☑ **Calculate a conservative initial stocking rate.** Apply WSS data with deductions for bare ground and shading; target 60–80% of theoretical capacity on new or recently seeded sites.
- ☑ **Map a monthly vegetation calendar.** Identify the 4–6 week spring flush window; flag warm-season surge periods and fall slowdown dates for your region.
- ☑ **Build the hybrid schedule.** Allocate mowing days per month based on recovery calculations; determine mowing acres per day required; calculate labor and equipment hours needed.
- ☑ **Establish safety and compliance protocols.** Confirm insurance levels for livestock and mechanical operations; deploy required site signage; brief all staff on personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements and panel proximity rules.
- ☑ **Track actuals against the plan.** Log grazing days, mowed acres, labor hours, and equipment downtime by activity and site from day one. Use this data to rebid accurately and improve the plan each season.
- ☑ **Validate and recalibrate.** Observe forage yields, vegetation recovery rates, and flock body condition throughout the season; adjust stocking rate and mowing frequency as conditions warrant.

Potential Recommendations

If, throughout the development of your grazing management plan, you identify a recommendation that could improve the feasibility of grazing or vegetation management, you can communicate it to your site manager or include it in your proposal.

Try to ensure that your recommendations are realistic, achievable, and actionable.

In addition to the grazing management plan, many companies request a background document about your solar grazing company. This can be a relatively simple one-page document that highlights your background, previous accomplishments, or existing solar grazing experience. This document also allows solar graziers the opportunity to tell their stories. For example, graziers can discuss being first-generation producers or how solar grazing provides a means to continue a multi-generational farm.

In your proposal and Grazing Management Plan, show that you clearly understand the difference between conventional grazing and solar grazing. Solar grazing is providing a vegetation management service to maintain site compliance. Your plan should show that you understand the business shift from a production agriculture mindset to a service provider mindset, and have a plan to maintain site compliance with your resources.

Resources:

Rangeland Analysis Platform: provides forage estimates and stocking rate calculations for a designated area. https://rangelands.app/

Web Soil Survey: provides soil and forage productivity data as well as potential dominant plant species by soil type. Also provides valuable information about soil erosion, ponding, and invasive species risks. https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/

Gantt Chart template provided by Holistic Energy Solutions. Download the Holistic Energy Solutions templates.