

# Small Ruminant Rotational Grazing Session 1





# On Farm Climate Action Fund

- OFCAF overview
- OFCAF Program
- Rotational grazing
- Grazing principles
- Producer perspective



# OFCAF Goals

The objective of the Fund is to support farmers in adopting beneficial management practices (BMPs) that store carbon and reduce greenhouse gases.

These practices also provide other environmental benefits such as improved biodiversity and soil health.

Other activities to support the adoption of beneficial management practices, such as outreach, education and training are supported.



# OFCAF Program

- 700 Million announced in 2021 and additional 300 Million renewed in 2024
- 13 projects geared to help producers access funds under three streams
  - Cover Cropping
  - Nitrogen Management
  - Rotational Grazing

# Provincial Distribution for CFGA OFCAF Dollars

- British Columbia – BC Forage Association
- Alberta – Agricultural Research Extension Council of Alberta
- Saskatchewan – CFGA
- Quebec – Conseil Quebécois Plante Forragères





# Provincial Support

## Local Grazing Mentors

The program also offers training to support folks with experience in grazing management to become a mentor and/or advisor. There is live, online training sessions that they can attend, or they can also work through the materials independently. There are then monthly meetings with mentors across Canada – creating a network of experienced grazing experts, sharing information and training the next generation of extension specialists.

You have the opportunity to work with a grazing mentor to support the development of a Grazing Management Plan. We have a growing network of mentors across Alberta and are trying hard to develop additional regional coverage.

- Mike Hittinger - Westlock Edmonton North
- Etienne Poulin - Busby/ Northern Alberta
- Dale Engstrom - Yellowhead County
- Lacey Gould - Hanna South East
- Karin Roen - Oyen South East
- Stephen Smith - Red Deer Central
- Karin Lindquist - Flagstaff East Central
- Albert Kuipers - Red Deer Central
- Herman Wyering - Ponoka Central
- Deborah Skeels - Rocky Mountain House West Central
- John Reid - Rocky Mountain House
- Kelly Sidoryk - Lloydminster
- Sonja Shank For additional mentor contacts

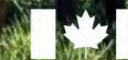


## CFGA Feb. 14 & 28, 2025 NEW MENTOR TRAINING

- Feb. 14 - Overview of mentorship to support producers starting in rotational grazing including the OFCAF program
- Feb. 28 - A deeper look into cell design and development of mentor-producer relations

Become a recognized grazing mentor with CFGA's Advanced Grazing Systems (AGS) program

Register by Feb. 1!



Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada



CFGA-OFCAF Rotational Grazing Program



# Canadian Forage and Grassland Association

- Deliverables for CFGA
  - Rotational grazing education (Advanced Grazing System)
    - Online course development
  - Extension activities
    - Field days, speaker fees, grazing clubs
  - Mentorship
    - Mentor development and education
  - Rotation grazing implementation



# On demand learning

Seven Self directed modules

- Science of Grazing
- GRASS Concepts
- Water
- Fencing
- Cell Design
- Planning, Records, Economics
- Grazing Plans

**ADVANCED GRAZING SYSTEMS**  
Online course to learn the basic techniques of rotational grazing and improve your grazing system

**GESTION AVANT-GARDISTE DES PÂTURAGES**  
Cours en ligne pour apprendre les techniques de base du pâturage en rotation de courte durée et améliorer votre système de pâturage

*Join for free!*  
*Inscrivez-vous gratuitement!*








# Workshops and Grazing Clubs

CFGFA supports provincial partners to implement programs that make sense regionally.

Workshops are typically one-day events where you can learn about rotational grazing and/or develop your own plan.

Grazing clubs are ongoing sessions where groups can regularly connect to learn from each other.

# ••• Extension Activities



**B.C. FORAGE COUNCIL**  
PROVINCIAL, INTERACTIVE ADVANCED GRAZING CLUB

Coming Soon!

## Online Grazing Club

Mondays, 6:30-8:00pm PT  
February 10th, 17th & March 3rd, 10th

**BE POSTPONED**




**CFGA** *Drought*  
MITIGATION  
LEGION HALL - 218 MAPLE ST. -  
MAPLE CREEK, SK

**JANUARY 18, 2025 - 1:30-6:30PM**  
**BUILDING PASTURE RESILIENCE**  
*Join Us for Supper & Dance*

music by **Terry & Terry** ★★★★★

1:30 **Welcome**  
1:45 - 3:30 **Bluesette Campbell** - Drought Resiliency (experiences, planned grazing, the power of simple data collection)  
3:30 - 4:00 Networking and coffee break  
4:00 - 4:30 **Stockboss** presentation  
4:30 - 5:00 **Ranchland** presentation  
5:00 SUPPER  
6:00 - 6:30 Bluesette Campbell - Garden Soil Health Properties  
6:30 **Ralph Corcoran**, thank you & question period - grazing plans, funding contacts, application assistance  
7:00 Networking and dance

Register Here **HEIDI 306-661-7683** *Call or Text*  
CATERED BY "THE SHOP"

**\$10 ENTRY**

**FaRM Resilience Mentorship**  
A Program of FCS

**CFGA** Canadian Forage & Grassland Association  
Association Canadienne pour les Plantes Fourragères



**KT&CO.**

## GRAZING CLUB

BLACKFOOT HALL  
BLACKFOOT, AB  
6:30 P.M.

**FEB 20/25**

**INTERESTED?**

- Networking
- Learning
- Management Strategies
- Peer Group

**TO REGISTER**  
780-872-2585/780-808-1397  
kelly@ktandco.ca/terra@ktandco.ca



CFGA-OFCAF Rotational Grazing Program





# One-on-one learning

Mentor network which is experienced and trained in working with producers to develop new practices on their farm.

Mentors can help you troubleshoot technical issues with a grazing plan and how it applies to a unique property and with a unique operation.

This requires an application for funding up to \$1,500.00. We recommend upon approval you begin the planning process.





# Grazing Mentors



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Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada / Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada

- Interested producers can become mentors
- Reach out to provincial OFCAF partner to see how



# Grazing Plans

Producers seeking additional assistance in developing an advanced rotational grazing management plan may do so with the guidance of a grazing mentor, P.Ag, or CCA.

Applications are reviewed and ranked according to their grazing plan. Program is not first come first served.



# 2024 On-Farm Implementation

- Grazing plans
- Fencing
- Watering systems
- Improving pastures



# Eligible Fencing Expenses

- New fencing materials for the purpose of cross fencing can include wildlife-friendly fencing and temporary fencing
- Fencers/energizers and all associated electric fencing supplies (ground rods, insulators, etc.)
- In-kind labour and equipment use (tractor and post pounder) are eligible and costs should come from your local/provincial published rate guide (custom and rental rate guides)



# Eligible Water Systems Expenses

- Livestock waterers and remote watering systems are eligible project costs as part of an advanced rotational grazing plan
- Remote watering systems that use renewable energy (solar and wind) are eligible
- Wet wells, pipelines and trenching of waterlines
- Winterized remote systems that serve the purpose of watering during the summer grazing season can be eligible





# Eligible Pasture Improvement Expenses

- Pastures with less than 25% legume content are eligible.
- Seed and seeding costs covered through the program
- Seed tags verifying Certified or Common #1 seed
- In-kind seeding costs should be based on local/provincial published rate guides (custom and rental rate guides)

# Applications 2022-2024

1,338 farms applied for \$30.1M in implementation funding

Province	Farms	Dollar Value
BC	211	4.4M
Alberta	329	6.1M
Saskatchewan	378	10.6M
Quebec	420	9.0M

464 farms approved for \$12.6M in implementation funding

Province	Farms	Dollar Value
BC	86	2.1M
Alberta	109	3.0M
Saskatchewan	113	4.1M
Quebec	156	3.4M



# Animal Number Breakdown

- Goats- highest numbers in Ab
- Sheep- highest in Sask
- Dairy- highest in Quebec
- Cow Calf pairs- split between Ab/Sask
- Stockers- highest in Sask
- Bison- highest number in Alberta
- Horses- small numbers across all
- Other- pigs/ chickens/ alpacas



# Future Expansion

- Brown Soil Zone
- Small ruminants
- Dairy
- Women
- Youth/ New Farmers

# Program Questions?

# Rotational Grazing



# What is rotational grazing?



- Matching pasture production to animal need
- Providing rest to grazed plants
- Keeping pastures productive



# Advantages



- Less selective grazing
- Improved plant and soil health
- Improved nutrient cycling
- Parasite control



# Rotational Grazing Concepts

## Principles

**G – Graze Period**

**R – Rest Period**

**A – Animal Impact**

**S – Stock Density**

**S – Soil Armour**



# Is rotational grazing for you?



Rotational grazing may help producers by :

- Building pasture resilience
- Preparing for drought
- Extending the grazing season
- Increasing pasture yields
- Reducing weed pressure
- Building soil health
- Nutrient cycling
- Improving economics



# Considerations

What are the economic impacts:

- Time commitment
- Infrastructure requirements

What is the feasibility of the changes:

- Time frame
- Expectations
- Improvement





# What other reasons may you want a plan?



- Each operation is unique and may have its own reasons for putting together a plan.

# Cheryl Thiel

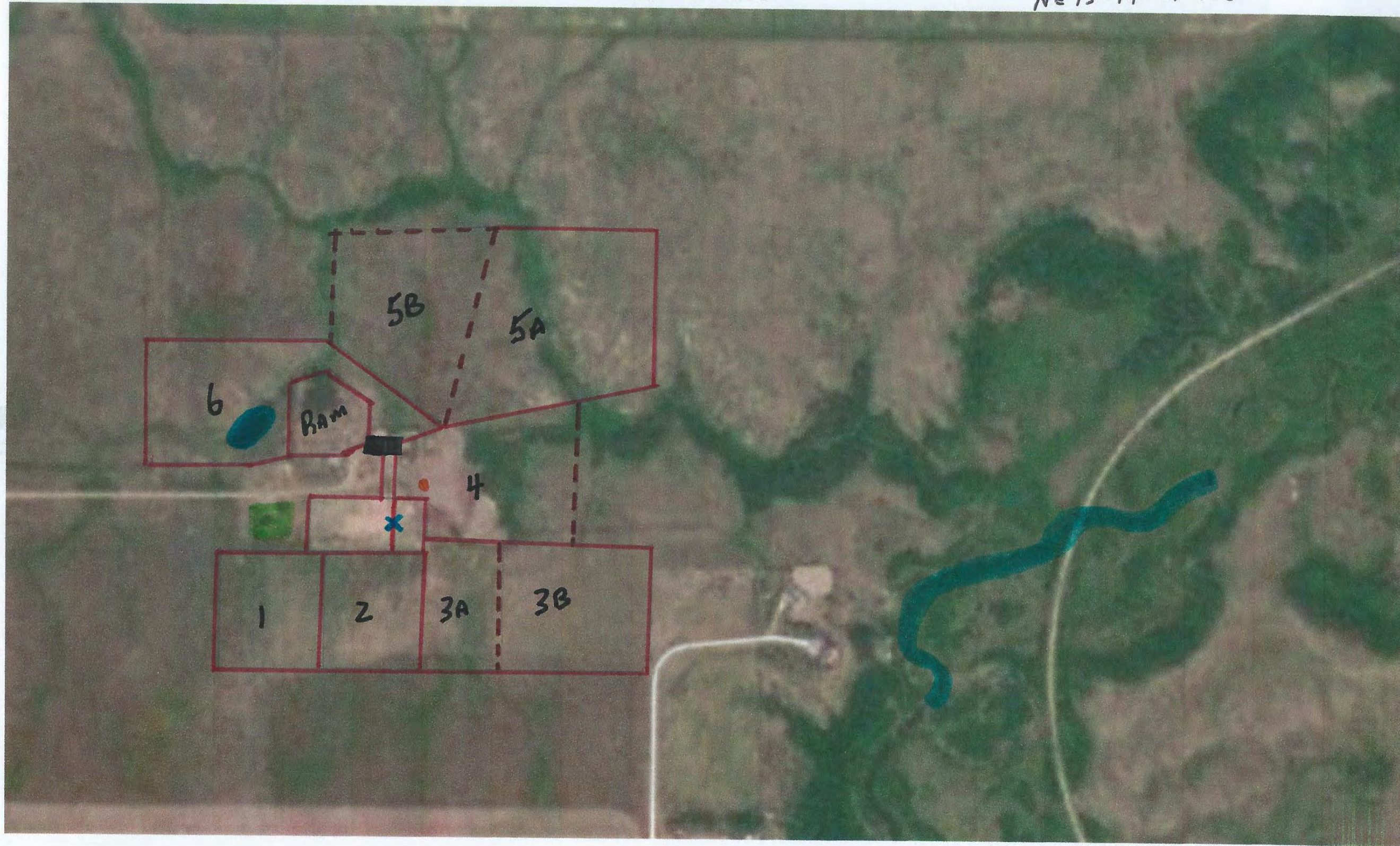
CURRENT PLAN

THIEL

NW-15-19-21-W2

NORTH ↑

NE 15-19-21-W2



- 2 Wire High Tensile/Page Wire
- - - Temp Poly Hot Wire
- - BARN AREA
- - DUGOUT
- ✕ - WATER BOWL
- ~ - CREEK
- - HYDRANT
- - HOUSE

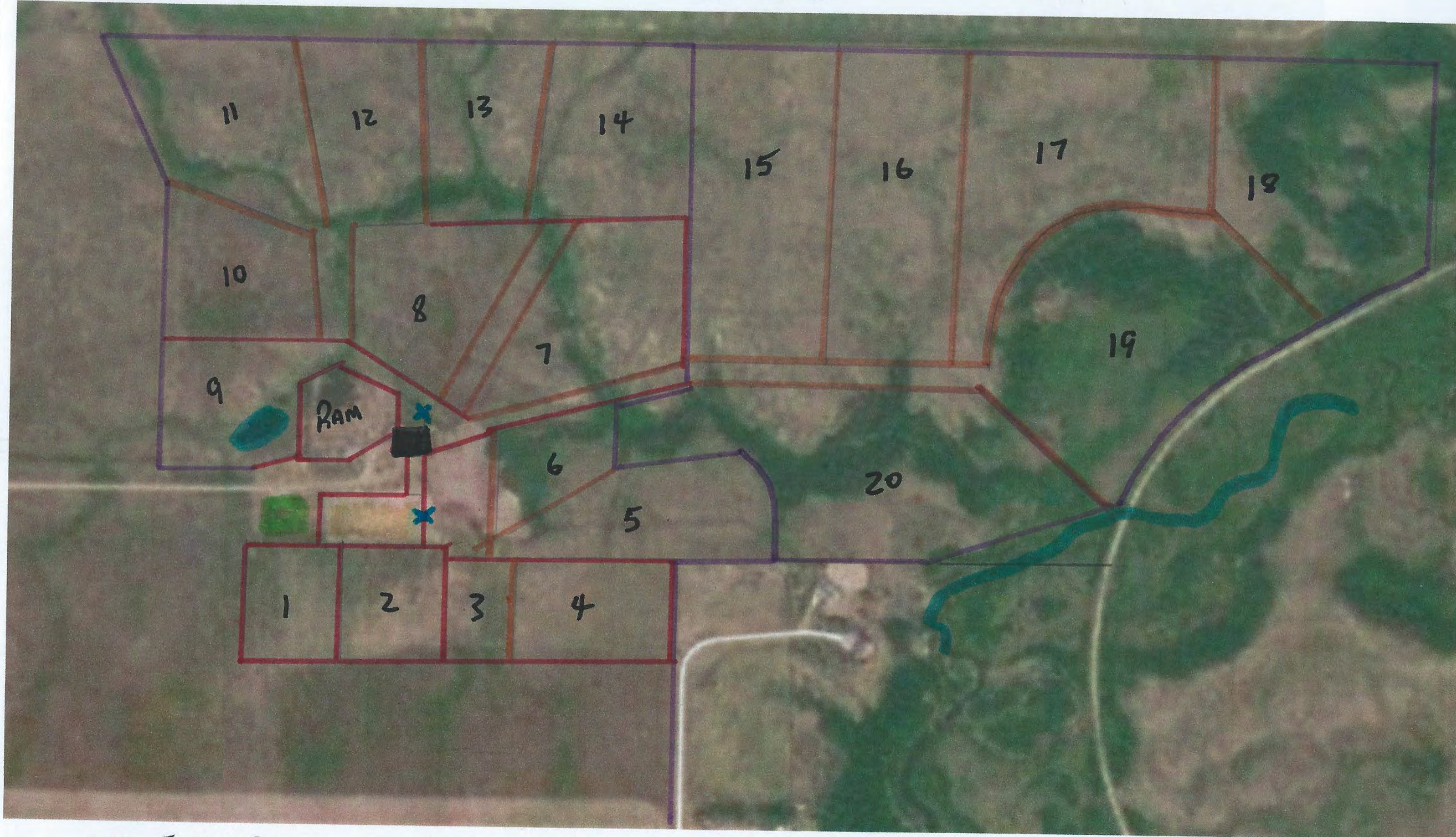
THIEL

CURRENT PROPOSED PLAN

NW-15-19-21-W2

NORTH ↑

NE-15-19-21-W2



- EXISTING FENCE
- PROPOSED EXTERIOR 4 BARBS
- PROPOSED INTERIOR 2 HIGH TENSILE
- X WATER BOWL

- ~ CREEK
- BUGOUT

- BARN AREA
- HOUSE

- 1-20 PADDOCKS
- LAMBING AREA

June 15, 2018



April 2018  
Neighbor's, no grazing around property,





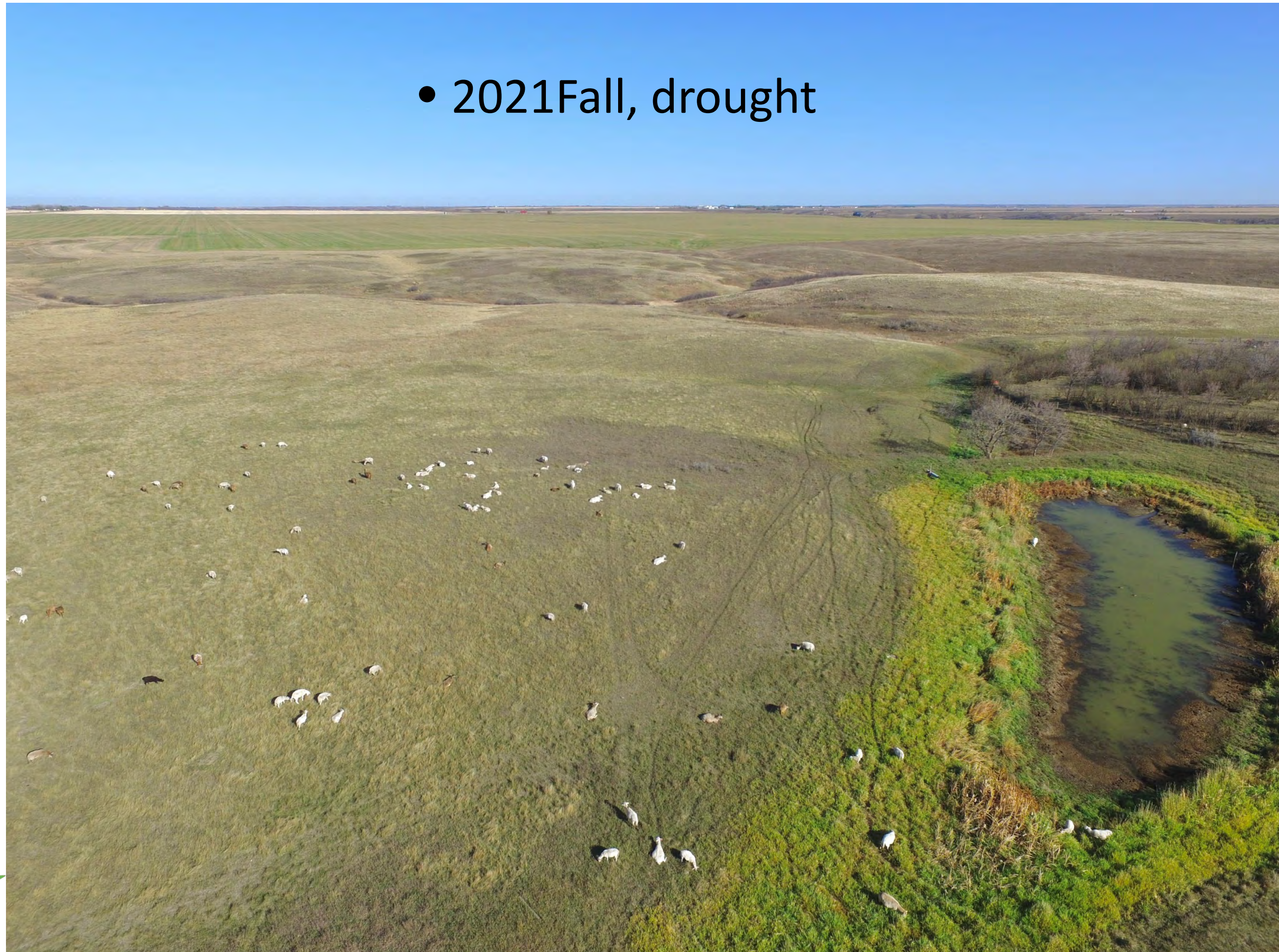
September 1, 2020  
Under utilized crested wheat grass



August 16, 2020  
Former Bale site



- 2021 Fall, drought



2019





Sept 2022

CFGA-OFCAF Rotational Grazing Program

June 29, 2023

## Grazing hill side



## Temporary fencing



July 27, 2024

