

Chapter 4

Perfect Pastures



If you want pastures full of lush green grass, think like a grass farmer!

To be a successful grass farmer, you need to first understand how grass grows. Like all plants, grass plants need their leaves (also called blades) to gather energy from the sun. Blades of grass gather energy from the sun so the grass plant can make food and grow. When horses eat grass all the way to the ground, none of the blade is left to collect energy. This is called **overgrazing**.



Follow the Golden Rule of Grazing

The Golden Rule of Grazing is to always keep the grass in your pastures at **least three inches tall**. You can think of the bottom three inches of the grass blade as the energy collector.

When horses graze grass blades shorter than three inches, the grass plant isn't able to make its own food. In order to survive, the grass plants take food from their roots. If a grass plant keeps taking food from its roots, the roots will get shorter and shorter. Eventually the roots will be gone and the plant will die.



You can tell if a grass plant is healthy by looking at its roots. A healthy grass plant will have lots of long roots. Unhealthy grass plants will have very short roots.

