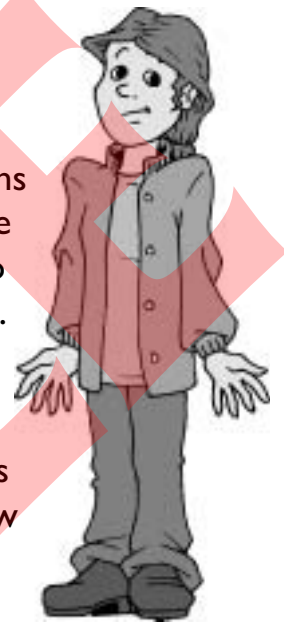


The Grazing Game

How do I keep the grass in my pastures at least three inches tall?

If you look around your pastures, you'll probably find that there are sections where the grass has been grazed really short and other sections where the grass is really tall. That's because horses are very picky eaters—they like to eat the short grass because it is sweet and more tender than the tall grass.

If you let horses out onto a pasture to graze, they will often eat the short, tender grass all the way down to the ground and as soon as it re-grows, they will go back and eat it again. So, what's the problem with this? As grass farmers we know that grass needs those bottom three inches to make new food (and energy) for itself. If it doesn't have those bottom three inches, it can't make its own food and instead takes food from its reserves – the roots. If a horse keeps grazing the really short stuff, eventually grass will run out of the stored reserves in its roots. Then the roots will be gone and the grass will die.



Grass Grower

Rotational Grazing

To solve this problem, you can use rotational grazing—don't worry, it sounds complicated, but it's not. Rotational grazing just means that you take a pasture and **divide it into sections** (maybe even just in half). Once most of the grass in the first section has been grazed down to about three inches, you move your horse onto a new section of pasture.



Moving your horse onto a new section of pasture gives the grass in the first section time to re-grow, collect energy, and store food in its roots. Think of rotational grazing as **giving your grass a rest period**. It's kind of like giving your grass a chance to go to the grocery store and put more food in the freezer!