

GLOSSARY

Nomenclature and definitions in grazing studies (after Hodgson, 1979).

The sward

- 1 SWARD a population of herbaceous plants, characterised by a relatively short habit of growth and relatively continuous ground cover, including both above and below-ground parts.
- 2 SWARD CANOPY the above-ground parts of a population of herbaceous plants, including connotations of the distribution and arrangement of the constituent plants and their parts.
- 3 HERBAGE the above-ground parts of a population of herbaceous plants, viewed as an accumulation of plant material with characteristics of mass and nutritive value, but no connotations of organisation or structure.
- 4 PASTURE a population of herbaceous plants, usually bounded by a fence, considered as a functional unit for grazing.
- 5 HERBAGE MASS the total mass of herbage per unit area of ground, usually above ground level but otherwise above a definite reference level which must be stated.
- 6 HERBAGE GROWTH the development and increase in size and weight of new leaf and stem tissue.
- 7 HERBAGE ACCUMULATION the change in herbage mass between successive instantaneous measurements, summed over time as appropriate.
- 8 HERBAGE CONSUMED the mass of herbage removed per unit area by animals at a single grazing or series of grazings.
- 9 HERBAGE HARVESTED the mass of herbage removed per unit area by mechanical means at a single harvest or series of harvests.
- 16 SELECTION the removal of some components of a sward or a sample of herbage rather than others, a function of preference modified by the opportunity for selection.
- 17 SELECTION RATIO the proportion of a component in the diet divided by the proportion of the same component in the sward canopy.
- 18 EASE OF PREHENSION a qualitative term describing the ease with which a particular component within the sward canopy can be approached and grasped in the mouth during grazing.
- 19 DEGREE OF DEFOLIATION (or utilisation) the ratio of the amount of herbage consumed to the original herbage mass.
- 20 RESIDUAL HERBAGE the herbage remaining after defoliation.
- 21 RATE OF DEFOLIATION herbage consumed (see 8) per unit of time during a period of defoliation.
- 22 FREQUENCY OF DEFOLIATION the number of defoliations per unit time of an area of sward or of individual plant units.
- 23 DEFOLIATION INTERVAL the time interval between successive defoliations of an area of sward or of individual plant units.
- 24 UNIFORMITY OF DEFOLIATION a qualitative term describing the distribution of the mass of residual herbage between adjacent areas of sward or individual plant units.
- 25 EFFICIENCY OF GRAZING herbage consumed (see 8), expressed as a proportion of the herbage accumulated (see 7) since the previous defoliation, summed if necessary over a series of defoliations.

The grazing process

- 10 DEFOLIATION (or harvesting) the complete or partial removal of the above-ground plant parts, living or dead, by grazing animals or cutting machines.
- 11 GRAZING the defoliation by animals of the above-ground parts of rooted plants in the ground layer of vegetation.
- 12 BROWSING the defoliation by animals of the above-ground parts of shrubs and trees.
- 13 PALATABLE pleasant to taste.
- 14 PREFERENCE a general term describing the discrimination exerted by animals between areas of sward or the components of a sward canopy, and between or within samples of cut herbage.
- 15 PREFERENCE RANKING the ranking of a series of swards, herbage samples or morphological units, based if possible on the relative intakes determined in free-choice trials.
- 26 GROSS EFFICIENCY OF CONVERSION (of ingested herbage to animal product) the ratio of animal product to herbage consumed.
- 27 EFFICIENCY OF UTILISATION (of herbage for animal production) the ratio of animal product to herbage accumulated per unit area of land (= efficiency of grazing x efficiency of conversion).

The balance between animal and sward

- 28 GRAZING PRESSURE the number of animals of a specified class per unit weight of herbage (dry or ash-free) at a point in time.
- 29 HERBAGE ALLOWANCE the weight of herbage (dry or ash-free) per unit of animal live weight at a point in time.
- 30 DAILY HERBAGE ALLOWANCE the weight of herbage allocated per unit of animal live weight per day in a rotational grazing system involving individual grazing periods (see 39) of only one or two days.

Animal production from grazing systems

- 11 STOCKING RATE the number of grazing animals of a specified class per unit area of land used to support them over a specified period of time.
- 12 STOCKING DENSITY the number of animals of a specified class per unit area of land actually being grazed at a point in time.

Grazing management

- 13 FORAGE FEEDING the practice of cutting herbage from a sward (or foliage from other forage crops) for feeding fresh to animals.
- 14 CONTINUOUS STOCKING the practice of allowing animals unrestricted access to an area of land for the whole or a substantial part of a grazing season.
- 15 SET STOCKING the practice of allowing a fixed number of animals unrestricted access to a fixed area of land for a substantial part of a grazing season.
- 16 ROTATIONAL GRAZING the practice of imposing a regular sequence of grazing and rest from grazing upon a series of grazing areas.

- 37 CREEP GRAZING the practice of allowing young animals (lambs or calves) to graze an area which their dams cannot reach.
- 38 MIXED GRAZING the use of cattle and sheep in a common grazing system, whether or not the two species graze the same area of land at the same time.
- 39 GRAZING PERIOD (or grazing duration) the length of time for which a particular area of land is grazed.
- 40 REST PERIOD (or spelling period) the length of time between the end of one grazing and the start of the next on a particular area.
- 41 GRAZING CYCLE the length of time between the beginning of one grazing and the beginning of the next (= grazing period + rest period).

REFERENCE

Hodgson, J. 1979. Nomenclature and definitions in grazing studies. *Grass and Forage Science* 34: 11-18.