



23 July 2021

Getting your grasses rooted for the long run

David McLean



RCS
Transforming Agriculture



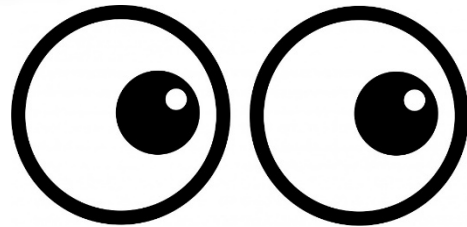
6 RCS GRAZING PRINCIPLES

1. **PEOPLE**
PLAN, MONITOR & MANAGE
2. **ECOSYSTEM**
PLANTS NEED ADEQUATE REST
3. **ECOSYSTEM**
MATCH STOCKING RATE to CARRYING CAPACITY
4. **BUSINESS \$\$**
MANAGE LIVESTOCK EFFECTIVELY
5. **ECOSYSTEM & \$\$**
MAXIMUM STOCK DENSITY for MINIMUM TIME
6. **ECOSYSTEM & \$\$**
MANAGE for BIODIVERSITY



Principle 1.

Plan, Monitor & Manage

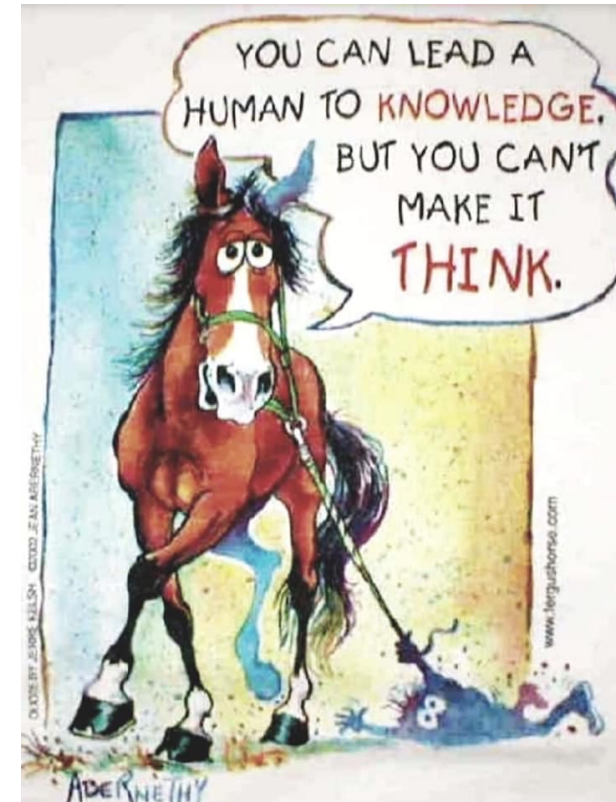




PLANNING

=

thinking
ahead





MONITORING

= look, listen, feel,
think, smell



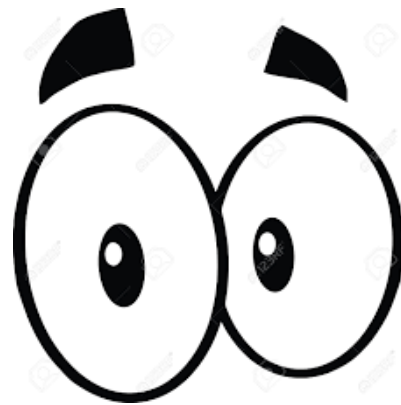
THE IMPORTANCE OF OBSERVATION





Q. What is the most important monitoring equipment/technology/device that you need?

A.





Q. What is the 2nd most important monitoring equipment/technology/device that you need?

A.





MANAGING

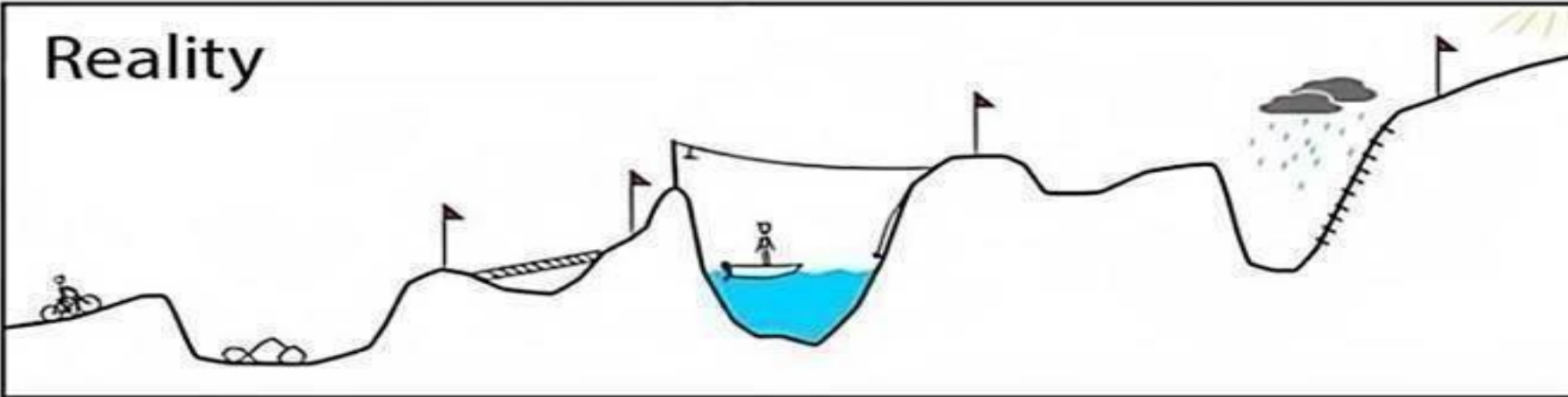
= adjusting &
acting with your
current reality

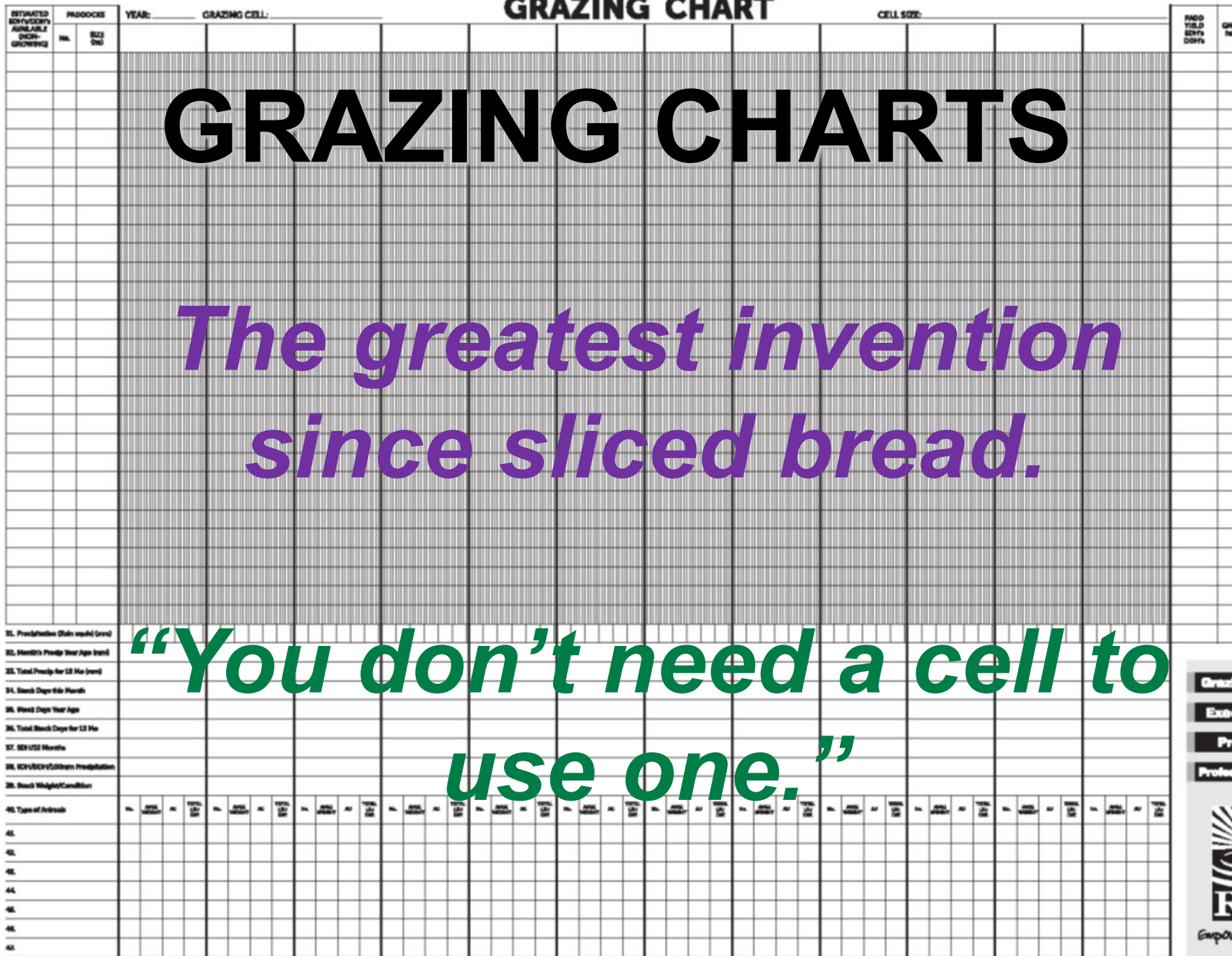


Your plan



Reality







Principle 2.

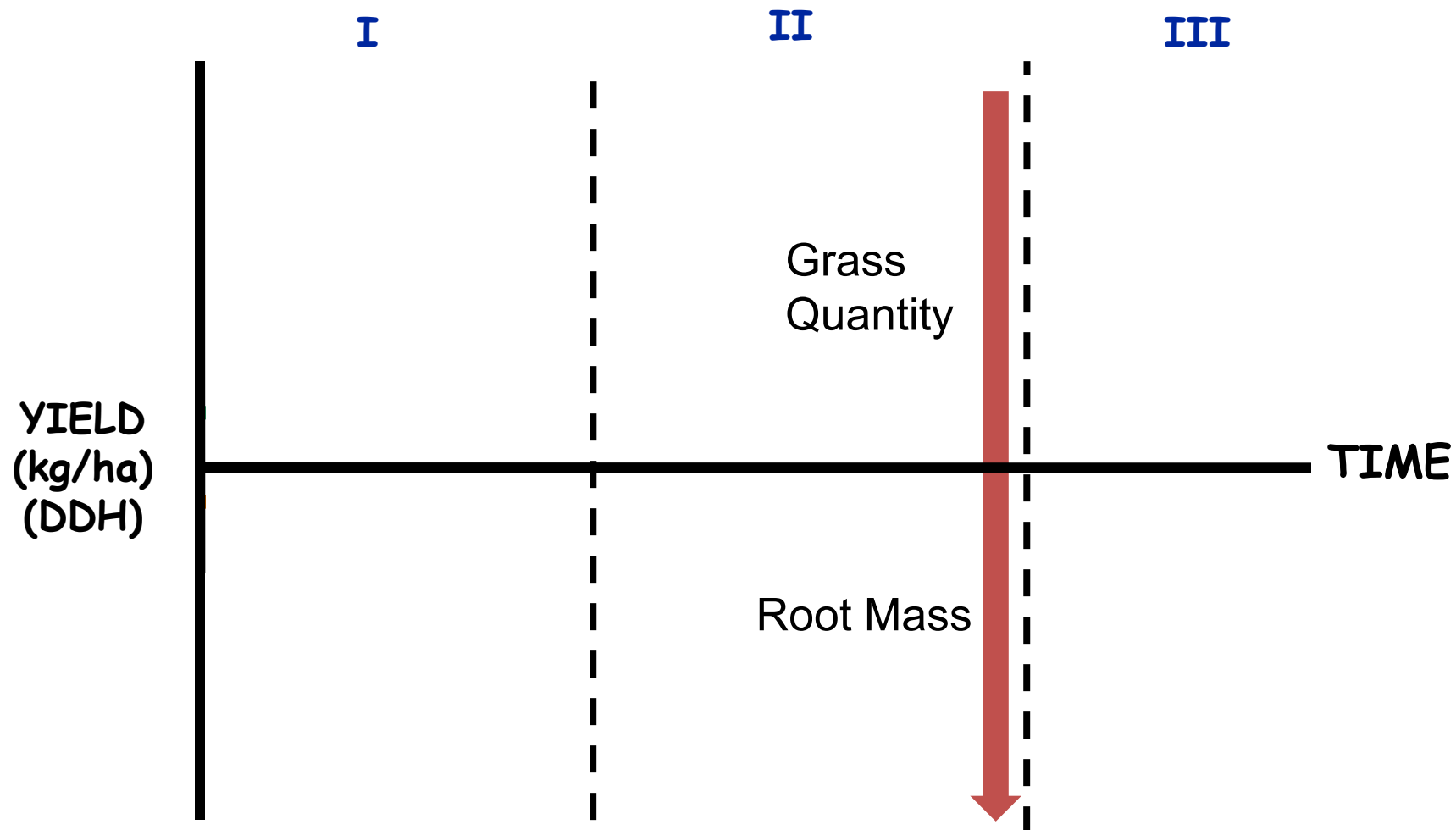
Plants Need Adequate Rest

The principle is that plants require a recovery period which:

- a) during the growth season means the time it takes to regrow to the top of Phase II. This is determined by rate of growth, and
- b) during the non-growth period is the period of physiological rest required to ensure root reserves of energy are maintained.

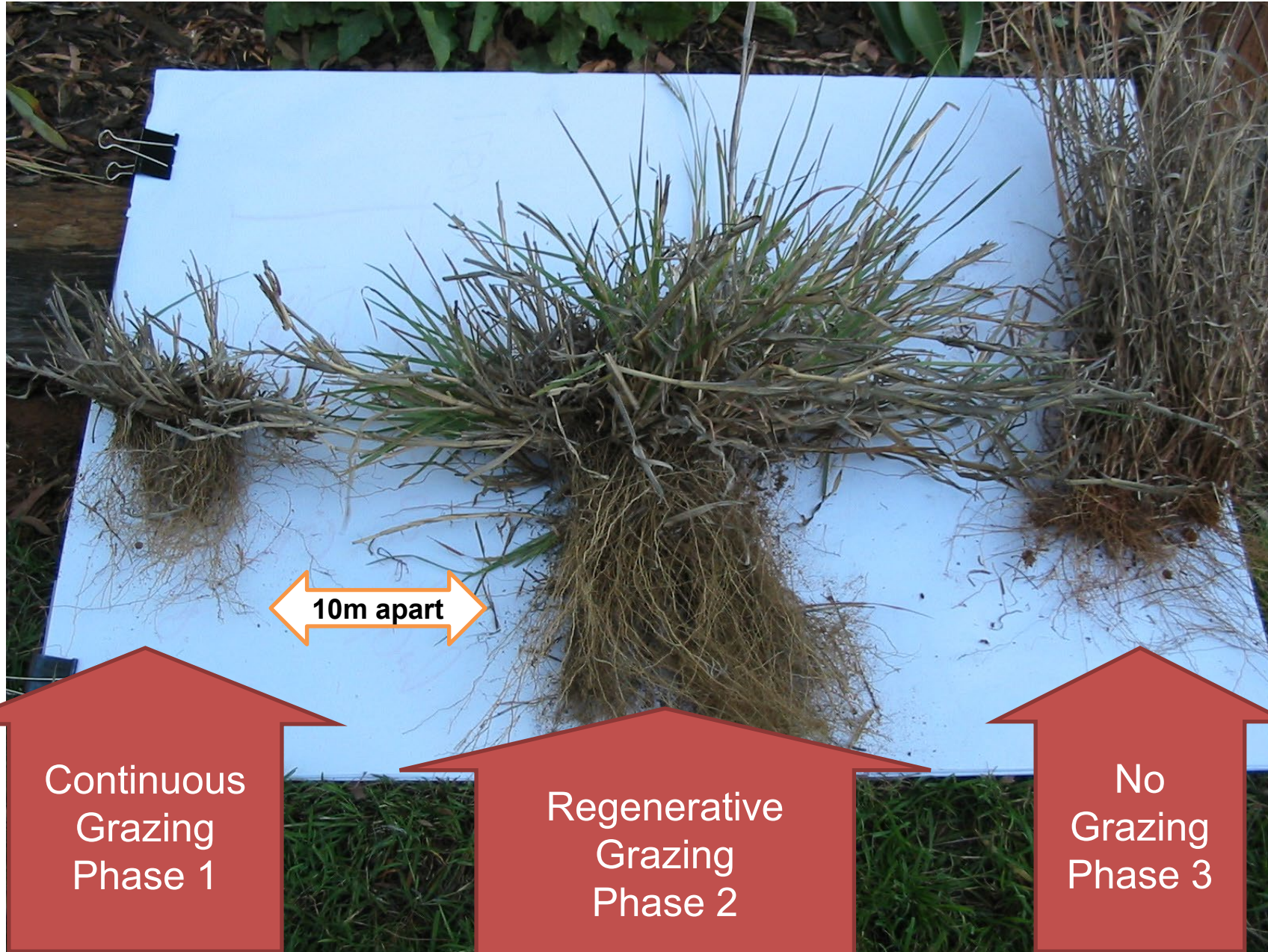


i.e. fast growth = fast moves
slow growth = slow moves



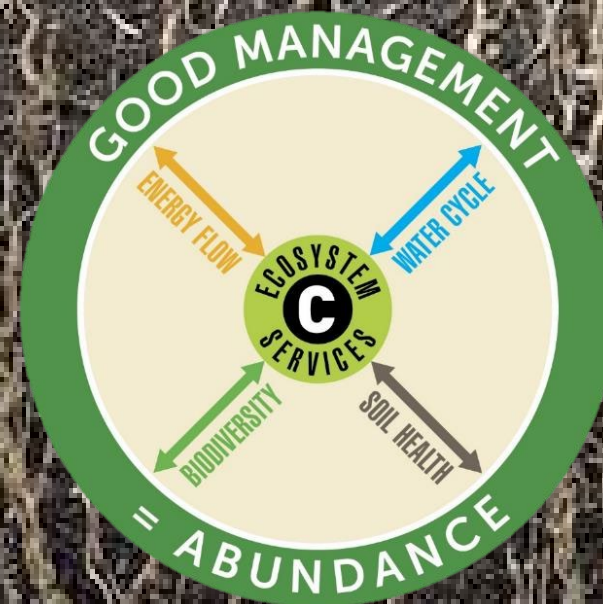


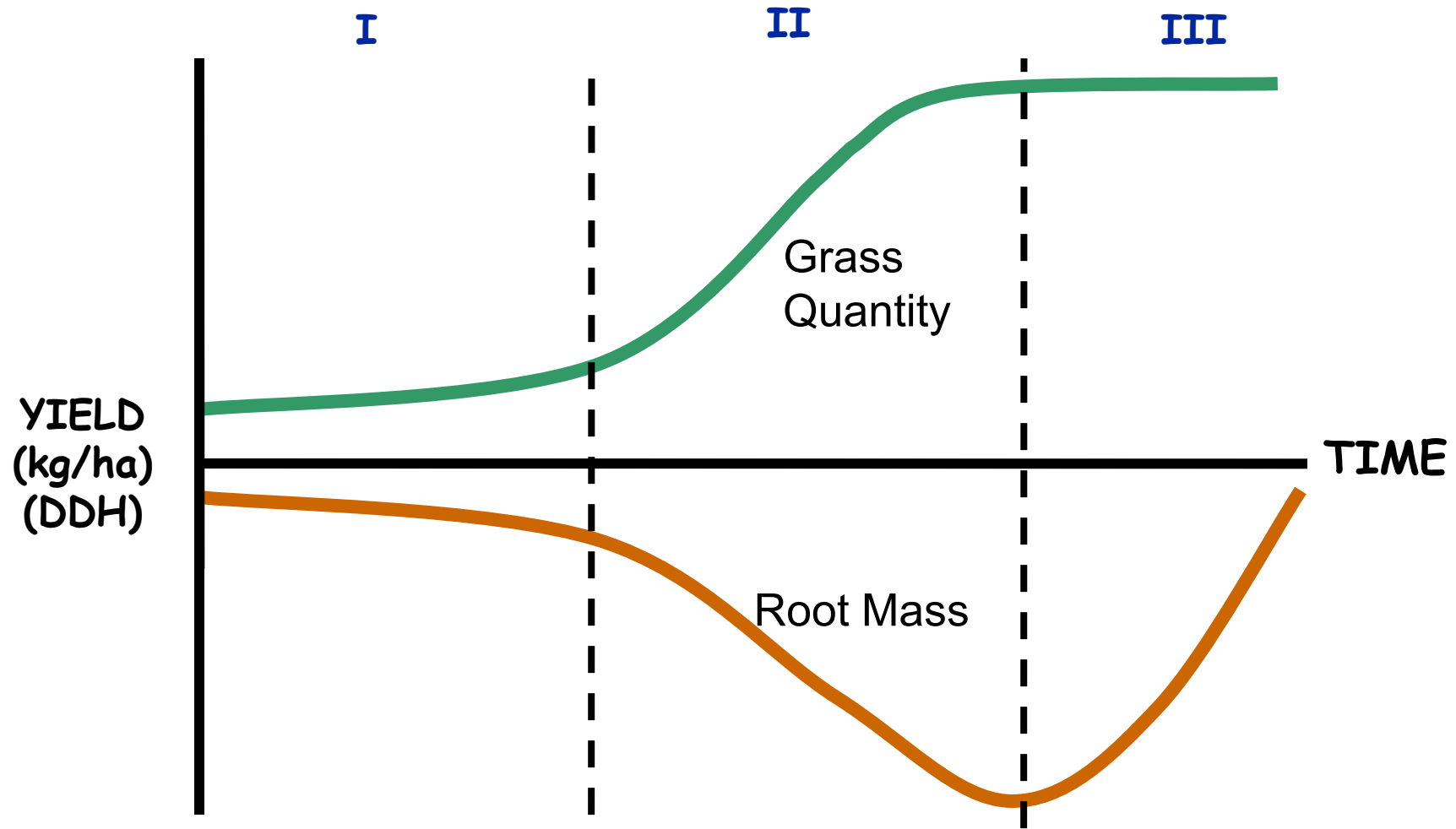
Same grass species





Root Systems







Principle 3.

Match Stocking Rate to Carrying Capacity

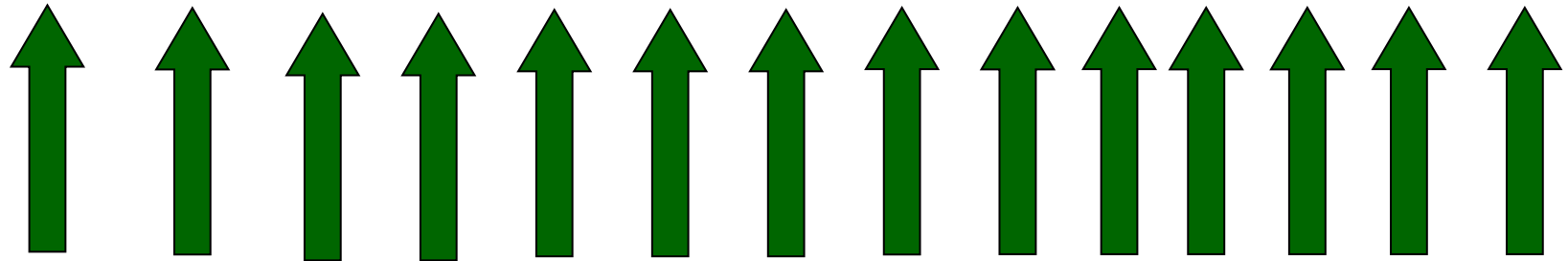




WHAT is CARRYING CAPACITY?

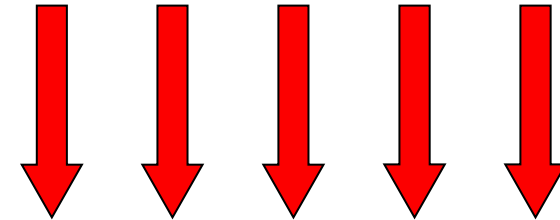
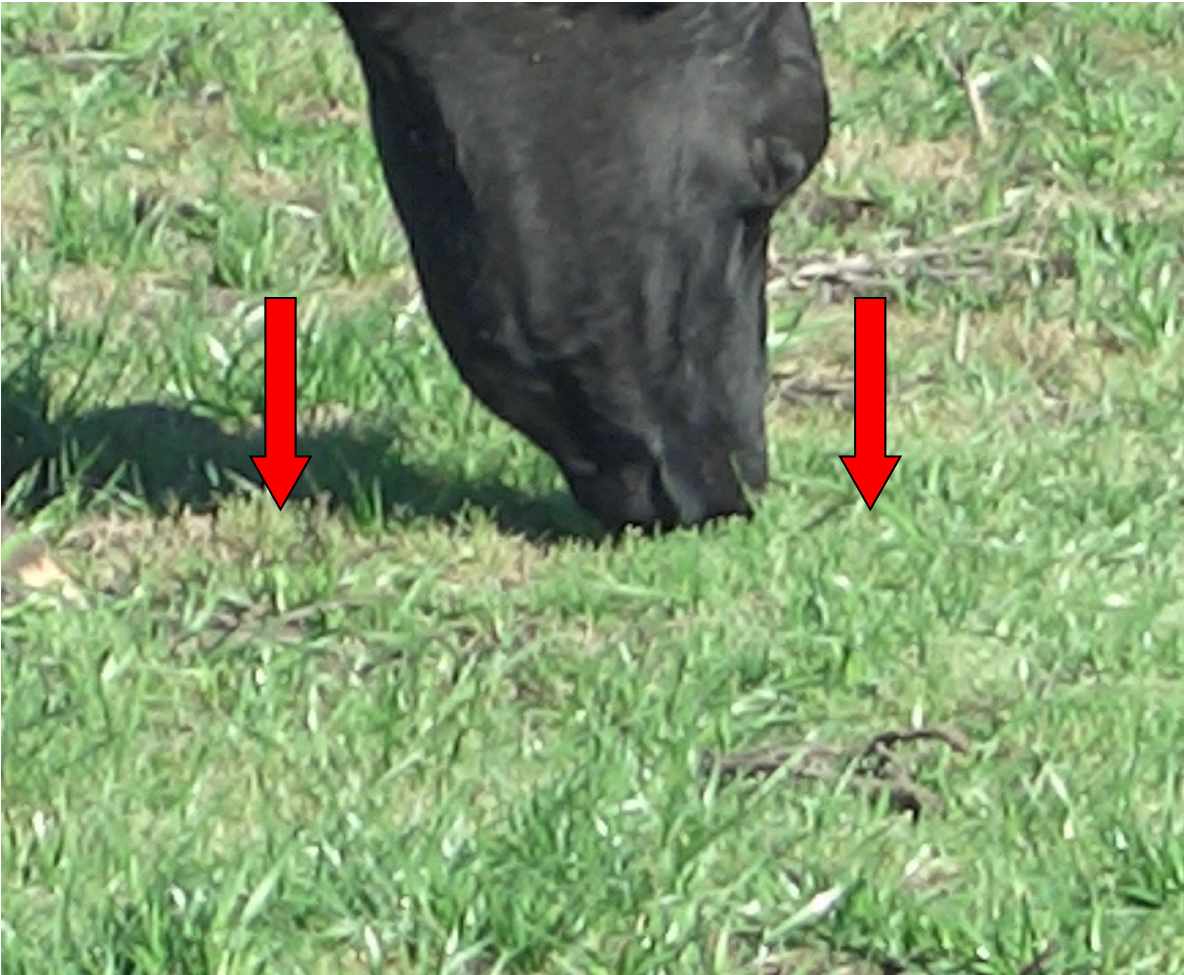
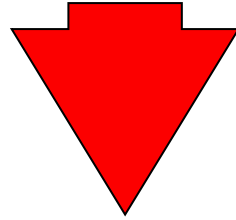


IT IS WHAT GROWS
UP FROM THE
SOIL IN RESPONSE
TO RAIN AND
TEMPERATURE





WHAT is STOCKING RATE?



IT IS WHAT COMES
DOWN FROM
ABOVE AND IS
DETERMINED BY #DSE.



Step 1 to Match SR:CC is

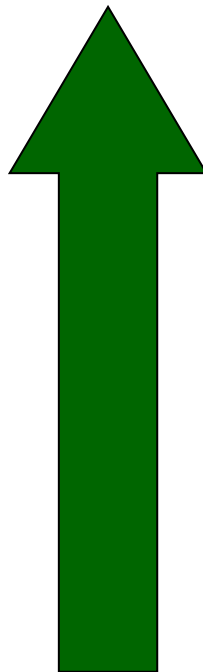
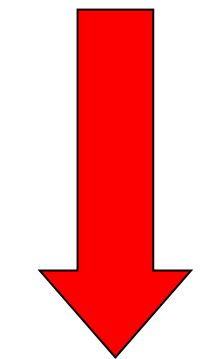
Stop riding the unicorn!



©Marvel

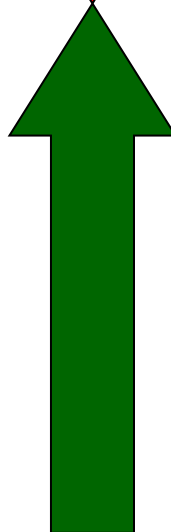
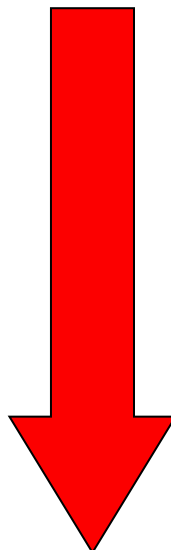


$SR < CC$

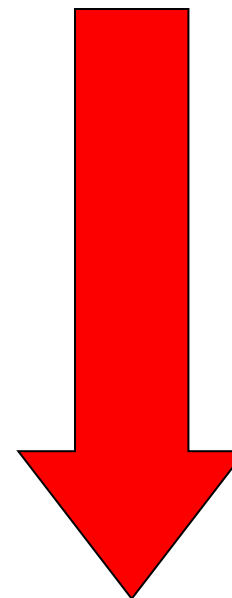


UNDERSTOCKED

$SR = CC$



$SR > CC$



OVERSTOCKED

Top three take home messages

1. Plan, monitor and manage.
2. Adjust rest period to match growth rates
3. Adjust stocking rates to match actual carrying capacity.

Tools, resources & training

- Tool/Resource: Grazing Chart/MaiaGrazing
- Resource/training: RCS
 - Global Learning Hub,
 - Farming and Grazing for Profit (Launceston Aug '22)
 - Grazing courses
 - Work with your advisor.



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Chief of Delivery

RCS Australia

1800 356 004

info@rcsaustralia.com.au www.rcsaustralia.com.au