



## agriculture & rural development

Department:  
agriculture  
& rural development  
**PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

# PASTURES IN KWAZULU-NATAL

## Pasture Utilisation

### SUGGESTED PASTURE STOCKING RATES

*T M du Plessis*

## INTRODUCTION

The following is a guide to the stocking rates that could be used for the purpose of planning for different types and classes of animals on different pasture species. These norms have been established from research conducted in Natal.

It is imperative that both pasture and animal management be at a high level to attain the norms indicated below.

### KIKUYU

#### Beef animals (per hectare over the summer months)

- 5 beef cows and calves;
- 10 beef long yearlings (250 kg starting mass) with an average daily gain of 0,5 kg.

#### Sheep (per hectare over the summer months)

- 28 x 50 kg ewes.

#### Dairy animals (per hectare over the summer months)

- 4 x 550 kg Friesland dairy cows giving up to 16 litres of milk/day;
- 3 x 550 kg Friesland dairy cows giving over 16 litres of milk/day.

### IRRIGATED ITALIAN RYEGRASS/CLOVER

Note. The date at which the Italian ryegrass is grazed for the first time depends on the date of establishment. Italian ryegrass can normally be grazed six to seven weeks after planting.

#### Beef animals (per hectare over the winter months: April to end-November)

- 8 beef weaners (200 kg mass at the start of the season).

**Sheep** (per hectare over the winter months: April to end-November)

- 25 ewes and 30 lambs until lambs have been weaned (July) and then post weaning;
- 30 x 18 kg, or heavier, lambs until 40 kg mass has been reached.

**Dairy animals** (per hectare over the winter months: April to end November)

- 4 x 550 kg Friesland dairy cows giving up to 16 litres of milk/day;
- 3 x 550 kg Friesland dairy cows giving over 16 litres of milk/day.