# Paddock size

The formula for calculating the required paddock size is:

\[
\text{Acres required per paddock} = \frac{\text{Avg wt of animals} \times \text{Dry forage eaten (\% of body weight)} \times \# \text{ of animals} \times \text{days on pasture}}{\text{Dry matter available in pasture} \times \% \text{ of forage that will be utilized}}
\]

- **Dry forage eaten** – usually between 2-3 % of body weight
- **Dry matter available in pasture**
  - alfalfa: 225 pounds/inch
  - orchardgrass: 180 pounds/inch
  - wheat: 150 pounds/inch
  - tall fescue: 210 pounds/inch
  - bermudagrass: 300 pounds/inch
- **Percent of forage utilized** – range between 30 and 70 percent
Example

You have thirty 600 pound steers that you want to graze on a tall fescue pasture that is 12 inches tall. You would like to set paddock size so that they will be moved about every 4 days. How big should each paddock be?

\[
\text{Acres required per paddock} = \frac{600 \times 0.03 \times 30 \times 4}{(12 \times 210) \times 0.60} = \frac{2160}{1512}
\]

1.4 acres per paddock