

Measures for the Balance of Fodder and Livestock

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Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture of the People's Republic of China
(No. 48)

Adopted at the 2nd executive meeting of the Ministry of Agriculture on January 7, 2005, the Measures for the Balance of Fodder and Livestock are hereby promulgated and shall come into force as of March 1, 2005.

Du Qinglin, Minister
January 19, 2005

Measures for the Balance of Fodder and Livestock

Article 1 These Measures are formulated in accordance with the Grassland Law of the People's Republic of China for the purpose of protecting, developing and rationally utilizing grassland resources, safeguarding and improving the ecological environment and promoting the sustainable development of the stock raising industry.

Article 2 Any entity or individual who engages in stock raising by utilizing grassland resources in the territory of the People's Republic of China shall comply with these Measures.

Article 3 The state shall apply a fodder-livestock balance system to grassland resources.

In these Measures, "fodder-livestock balance" means keeping a dynamic balance between the total amount of the usable fodder available to a grassland user or contracting operator of the grassland or through any other channel and the amount of fodder required for the livestock raised by such user or operator.

Article 4 The following principles shall be adhered to in the fodder-livestock balancing work:

- (1) strengthening protection and promoting development;
- (2) determining the number of livestock to be raised according to the volume of fodder and increasing the number of livestock only when the volume of fodder increases;
- (3) acting in light of local conditions and conducting classified supervision; and
- (4) proceeding in an orderly and gradual way.

Article 5 The Ministry of Agriculture shall take charge of the supervision and administration of the fodder-livestock balancing work throughout the country.

The administrative departments of grassland resources of the people's governments at and above the county level shall take charge of the supervision and administrative of the fodder-livestock balancing work in their respective administrative regions.

The grassland supervision and administration body set up in an administrative department of grassland resources of the people's government at or above the county level shall be responsible for the specific fodder-livestock balancing work.

Article 6 The administrative departments of grassland resources of the people's governments at and above the county level shall strengthen the publicity and training of fodder-livestock balancing, popularize knowledge related to fodder-livestock balancing, spread fodder-livestock balancing technologies and realize a sustainable utilization of grassland resources.

Article 7 The administrative departments of grassland resources of the people's governments at and above the county level shall strengthen the protection and development of grassland resources, stabilize and enhance the production capacity of the grassland, support, encourage and guide farmers and herdsman in conducting artificial grass cultivation, laying up fodder, improving the breeds of livestock, raising livestock in animals' houses or pens, shortening the turnover time of livestock herds and decreasing the grazing intensity of natural grassland.

Article 8 The Ministry of Agriculture shall formulate and publish standards for livestock carrying capacity of grassland in light of the grassland types and production capacities, the proportion between the livestock that can be slaughtered and the total amount of livestock, and other basic information throughout the country.

Article 9 The administrative departments of grassland resources at the provincial or prefecture (city) level shall, in accordance with the standards for livestock carrying capacity of grassland as formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture and in light of their respective local conditions, formulate and publish local standards for livestock carrying capacity of different types of grassland and submit them to the Ministry of Agriculture for archival purposes.

Article 10 The administrative departments of grassland resources of the people's governments at the county level shall, in accordance with the standards for livestock carrying capacity of grassland as formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture or the standards for livestock carrying capacity of different types of grassland as formulated by the relevant administrative department of grassland resources at the provincial or prefecture (city) level and in light of the production capacity in the past five years of the natural grassland, artificial grassplots and fodder bases as used by the users or contracting operators thereof, appraise and fix the livestock carrying capacity of grassland and specify the number of livestock that may be raised for each relevant grassland user or contracting operator.

The appraisal of the fodder-livestock balancing work shall be conducted at least once every five years.

Any grassland user or contracting operator who refuses to accept the livestock carrying capacity of grassland as fixed after appraisal may, within 30 days from receipt of notice of such fixed capacity, apply for review to the administrative department of grassland resources of the local people's government at the county level, which shall make a decision of review within 30 days.

Article 11 When appraising and fixing the livestock carrying capacity of grassland, the administrative departments of grassland resources of the people's governments at and above the county level shall properly solicit the opinions of the grassland users and contracting operators, organize experts to make assessment and ensure that the standards for and decisions on the livestock carrying capacity of grassland are set and decided scientifically and rationally.

Article 12 The administrative departments of grassland resources of the people's governments at and above the county level shall keep archives of the fodder-livestock balancing work.

The administrative departments of grassland resources of the people's governments at the county level shall have each grassland user or contracting operator sign a fodder-livestock balancing responsibility agreement, which shall contain:

- (1) the status of the grassland, including the four boundaries, area, grade, and area and extent of degeneration of the grassland;
- (2) the breeds and number of existing livestock;
- (3) the fixed livestock carrying capacity of the grassland;
- (4) major measures for realizing the fodder-livestock balancing;
- (5) responsibilities of the grassland user or contracting operator;
- (6) term of the responsibility agreement; and
- (7) other relevant matters.

The format of the fodder-livestock balancing responsibility agreement shall be uniformly formulated by the administrative department of grassland resources of the local people's government at the provincial level and submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture for archival purposes.

Article 13 In case the number of livestock raised exceeds the livestock carrying capacity as is fixed, the grassland user or contracting operator shall take the following measures to realize the fodder-livestock balance:

- (1) to strengthen the construction of artificial fodder bases;
- (2) to purchase fodder so as to increase the supply of fodder;
- (3) to raise livestock in animals' houses or pens so as to decrease the grazing intensity of the natural grassland;
- (4) to have the livestock delivered to the slaughterhouse more quickly and optimize the structure of the livestock herds;
- (5) to increase the area of the contracted grassland through circulation of the grassland contracting and operating right; and
- (6) other measures that may be helpful for the realization of fodder-livestock balance.

Article 14 The administrative departments of grassland resources of the people's governments at and above the county level shall strengthen the dynamic monitoring of grassland and, based on the output from grassland as assessed for the last year and the estimate of fodder of other sources, analyze and predict the livestock carrying capacity of grassland in their respective administrative regions for the current year and give guidance in the fodder-livestock balancing work.

Article 15 The administrative departments of grassland resources of the people's governments at and above the county level shall organize selective inspections of fodder-livestock balancing work on an annual basis.

The selective inspection shall contain:

- (1) the assessment and evaluation of the status of the utilization of natural grassland;
- (2) the calculation of the total amount of fodder, i.e. the sum of the fodder available from natural grassland, artificial grassplots and fodder bases in the current year; and
- (3) the verification of the number of livestock.

Article 16 In case the volume of fodder increases, the grassland user or contracting operator may increase its livestock breeding quantity accordingly on the basis of the livestock carrying capacity as fixed originally.

Article 17 Anyone who violates the provisions concerning fodder-livestock balance shall be ordered to make rectifications or be punished in accordance with the provisions of the people's congress or its standing committee of the relevant province, autonomous region or municipality directly under the Central Government.

Article 18 These Measures shall come into force as of March 1, 2005.

