



GRAZING IN LINCOLN

Frequently Asked Questions

**Responses provided by
Star Creek Land Stewards, Inc.
(a contractor of the City of
Lincoln)*

Q: Why does the city have grazing services?

A: The City of Lincoln manages vegetation growth within many of the City's preserves and open space areas through the use of grazing animals (goats or sheep). Grazing is a cost-effective and environmentally-friendly method to manage vegetation. It prevents the accumulation of dead plant matter (thatch) that can adversely impact the habitat function, increase the risk of fire, and promote the growth of non-native, invasive plant species.

Q: Who provides grazing services?

A: The City of Lincoln contracts out this service with Star Creek Land Stewards, Inc.

Q: When does grazing occur?

A: Grazing occurs each year between January 1st and June 30th.

Q: What areas around the city receive these grazing services?

A: Grazing sites include many of the preserves and open space areas including McBean Preserve, Foskett, Lincoln Airpark, Joiner Park, Rodeo Grounds, Brookview Estates, Twelve Bridges, Sterling Point, and 3D South.

Q: Where do the livestock come from?

A: The livestock are based in Los Baños, California where they spend the fall, winter, and early spring months grazing on alfalfa fields and native grasses in the foothills of the San Joaquin Valley.

Q: How are the livestock cared for?

A: The livestock have their offspring in the San Joaquin Valley and are cared for by their specific herders. Often they have up to 30 young animals that are bottle-fed twice per day in order to not overstress the mothers who may have multiple offspring to care for.



Q: Where do the herders come from?

A: The herders are employed by Star Creek Land Stewards, Inc. and come from Peru. They are committed and highly skilled in managing herds. They take great pride in the health of their animals. As livestock owners and ranchers, healthy herds are extremely important to Star Creek Land Stewards, Inc.

Q: How are the animals transported?

A: The animals are transported in large livestock trailers. The animals are trained to load and unload as they do so frequently and easily. The young lambs and kids who may be experiencing their first loading or unloading tend to be more challenging until they learn the routines from the mature animals. Palm fronds, wooden prods, and plastic paddles with noisemakers are used in order to move the animals along the chutes while loading and unloading. Electric or "shock" tools are never used.

Q: Are medications used on the livestock?

A: While unnecessary medications are avoided, the herders watch for and provide for animals that need treatment. Animals that become ill and unresponsive to treatment onsite are returned to the Los Baños area for a more intense recovery.

Q: How are the livestock contained? Is there a fence?

A: There is a fence, but it is not as visible as in previous years. It is a three-wire fence instead of a white-lattice one. Often the grass is high enough to cover the fence until sufficient grazing has commenced.



Additional Questions?

Should you have any additional questions related to grazing services in the City of Lincoln, please contact the Public Works Department at (916) 434-2450.

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