

Farm Business Plan – Rotational Grazing Livestock

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Location: North Carolina

Executive Summary

I am a first-generation farmer seeking land access in North Carolina to build a small, sustainable livestock operation focused on rotational grazing and long-term land stewardship. My goal is to care for the land responsibly while producing healthy, ethically raised meat for local communities. I am open to partnership opportunities where resources and knowledge can be shared, as well as learning-focused lease arrangements built on trust, communication, and long-term care of the property.

Mission, Values, and Vision

My mission is to steward land responsibly, raise livestock ethically, and serve the community with integrity. My work is guided by faith in God, service, honesty, and respect for people, animals, and the land. I believe farming is both a livelihood and a responsibility to leave the land healthier than it was found. My long-term vision is a small, well-managed farm that supports local food needs, maintains soil health, and honors the legacy of the land and those who have cared for it before.

Background and Experience

My professional background is in finance and business. I am a CPA with experience in accounting, operations, and financial management, and I currently own and operate a business. This background supports strong planning, budgeting, recordkeeping, and disciplined decision-making. I have also completed three farm internships totaling approximately six months, gaining hands-on exposure to livestock care, pasture management, and daily farm operations. I continue learning through independent study, reading, workshops, and courses focused on regenerative agriculture, rotational grazing, and sustainable livestock systems.

Farm Model and Practices

The farm model is based on rotational grazing and low-stress livestock management. Livestock will be raised primarily on pasture, with careful attention to stocking rates, rest periods, and soil health. Practices will align with organic and regenerative principles, even if formal certification is not pursued initially. Livestock goals include cattle, sheep (lamb), and poultry, introduced gradually to ensure animal welfare, pasture health, and operational stability.

Livestock Sourcing and Genetics

Livestock will be sourced carefully from reputable producers, with an emphasis on animals that are well adapted to the local environment and efficient on pasture-based systems. Priority will be given to genetics that support parasite resistance, fertility, longevity, and overall herd and flock health. The long-term goal is to develop resilient

herds and flocks that thrive under rotational grazing and produce high-quality meat, rather than focusing on rapid expansion or short-term gains.

Land Use and Partnership Model

I am seeking land suitable for pasture-based livestock systems. I am open to partnership opportunities where resources and knowledge can be shared, as well as learning-focused lease arrangements built on trust, transparency, and long-term care of the land. My approach prioritizes clean, well-managed pastures, maintained fencing and water systems, and consistent communication with the landowner.

Operations Plan

The initial phase will focus on learning, observation, and small-scale livestock integration. Infrastructure will be minimal and appropriate to the land, such as temporary fencing, basic water access, and simple shelter as needed. The operation will be owner-managed with no hired labor initially. Daily operations will emphasize animal care, pasture rotation, recordkeeping, and steady improvement of land conditions.

Market Approach and Community Connection

Meat will be sold through a combination of direct-to-consumer channels and, over time, select local distributors aligned with ethical and sustainable practices. Early efforts will focus on building relationships, consistency, and trust rather than volume. A core part of the mission is to help reconnect people to their food by providing transparency and confidence in how animals are raised and cared for.

Financial Approach

The financial approach is conservative and disciplined. Growth will be paced according to land capacity, cash flow, and operational readiness. Major capital investments will be avoided early unless clearly justified. Profitability and long-term viability are important, alongside sustainability, land stewardship, and relationship-building. My CPA background supports strong financial controls, transparent records, and realistic budgeting.

Risk Management and Learning

As a first-generation farmer, I recognize the importance of managing risk through small scale, mentorship, and continuous learning. Decisions will be made thoughtfully, with flexibility to adapt as experience grows.

Three-Year Outlook

Years one and two will focus on learning, stabilizing operations, improving herd and flock quality, and building trust with landowners and the local community. By year three, the goal is a steady, well-managed livestock system producing consistent, high-quality meat while maintaining healthy land and a strong, long-term relationship with the landowner.