

# **SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE**

TOPIC: RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

CLASS: SS2

WEEK: 10

TERM: THIRD TERM

Meaning of rangeland

Rangeland can be defined as a large area of land where natural forages (grasses and legumes) or mixture of both and other herbage plants are allowed to grow for grazing animals such as sheep, goats, cattle ,donkeys and horses etc.

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD RANGELAND**

1. It can withstand trampling by farm animals.
2. Only shadow plant is present and no much weed
3. It contains high quality grasses, legumes and other herbages
4. There is high ability of the grasses, legumes and herbage to regenerate
5. Under proper management, it produces high quality grasses and legumes.

## **IMPORTANCE OF RANGELAND**

1. It provides food for lives stocks especially ruminants.
2. Grasses and legumes in the rangeland can be cut in their vegetative stage to be preserved as hay
3. It allows the animals the opportunity to have balanced diet.
4. There is enough space for exercise by the animals.
5. It increases infiltration and percolation of water, thereby reducing run-off and soil erosion
6. The decay of dead plants increases soil nutrients in a rangeland.

## **FACTORS AFFECTING THE LEVEL OF PRODUCTION OF HERBAGE**

Several factors help in the production of herbage. Some of the factors that affect the level of herbage production are:

1. Forage species
2. System of farming
3. Topography
4. Pest and disease
5. Soil condition
6. Climatic factor

## **METHODS OF RANGELAND IMPROVEMENT**

1. Controlled bush burning
2. Legumes /grass mixture
3. Avoid overgrazing
4. Reseeding
5. Application of fertilizer
6. Paddocking
7. Pest control
8. Weed control
9. irrigation