**Northeast SARE Professional Development Grant Creates Overwhelming Response**

Norwich, N.Y.-- The Central New York Resource Conservation &Development Council and Northeast SARE, (The Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program) have seen unprecedented interest from conservation planners and agricultural educators eager to help family farms incorporate managed grazing by participating in a new 3 year professional development grant entitled “Utilizing Holistic Planned Grazing as a Regenerative Engine for Sustainable Agriculture”.

In a surprising twist and documented interest from farmers, applications from technical service providers throughout New York, Vermont and Pennsylvania for this comprehensive, practical grazing training program exceeded goal expectations by over 150%. Due to this response, the project will train over 30 grazing professionals to work with up to 3 farms, representing 24,000 acres, on which they will complete grazing plans and assist with implementation. The results of this technical assistance and switch to planned grazing will be monitored through data collection aimed at measuring positive financial, biological, and quality of life impacts.

The project team with over 70 years of cumulative grazing experience comprises of Troy Bishopp, 5th generation grass farmer, Phil Metzger, USDA –NRCS RC&D Coordinator, Nancy Glazier, Northwest NY Dairy Livestock &Filed Crops Team for Cornell Cooperative Extension, Jennifer Colby, UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture Pasture Program Outreach Coordinator, Jim Weaver, Chairman and Stacy Koch, USDA-NRCS RC&D Coordinator from Endless Mountains RC&D Council (PA), Steve Lorraine, Madison Co. SWCD and NYS Conservation District Employees Association President, Lauren Lines, CNY RC&D Office Manager and Kim Totten, USDA-NRCS RC&D Secretary.

For more information on this exciting and innovative project designed to help conservation professionals deliver practical grazing information and help farmers achieve a positive triple bottom line, contact the CNY RC&D Council at (607) 334-3231 ext. 4