

GRAZING PLANNING: WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS?



**INSANITY: DO THE SAME THING EVERY YEAR AND EXPECT A
DIFFERENT RESULT**

“ THAT’S THE WAY WE’VE ALWAYS DONE IT”

“THAT WON’T WORK HERE”



CAN WE CHANGE OUR MINDSET?



Holistic Corn
Chopping Day
(couch sitting)

Holistic Nutrient
Mgmt. Day

Holistic Tile
Drainage @
Gianforte

Holistic Concrete
Manure Storage

Holistic
Whatever they
tell me to do

Holistically
reading the
instrument for Mike

Holistic
Sun tanning Day

Simple grazing
paddock layout @ Taylors

Too many planning questions

How much land?

How many animals?

What is the stocking rate?

How is the fertility?

How much barn feeding?

Do you need a min. 30%DM?

What to do in a drought?

**Can I extend the grazing
season?**

**Do you plan for residency
periods or rest?**

**Maximum production or
profit per acre?**

What does the family think?

~~Energy/grass~~

how to deliver it
timing of delivery

~~Multi-species grazing~~

~~H₂O → fuel~~

~~mineral feeder plants~~

~~Plowing in pasture??~~

~~Mineralize via animals
or soil →~~

~~Stocking rate in pasture - How~~

~~Recovery/graze trample ratio/transition~~

~~Breed? Cattle type~~

~~trample/graze quality~~

~~Calving w/in mob/preference grazing~~

(12) Age / breeding

(13) Soil/land assessment for grazing

(14) pH as indicator of....

(15) stored energy dynamics in plant

(16) ↑ legume % - how?

(17) Dynamics of calving cycle

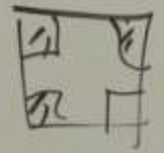
(18) Seasonal/year round dynamics of supply

(19) Land renovation strategy? fact next step

(20) H₂O + H₂O development

(21) time to finish

(22) free choice smorgas bord





Can we graze this farm?



Horse Boarding & Riding lesson Operation

17 Animals
-12 Adult Horses
-5 Ponies

25 Acres of hay available for mechanical harvesting at another site

Currently feeding nine 45lb bales a day

Currently about 2-3 acres are "grazed"

Less than 10% of animal forage requirements are met by grazing at this time

10 Acres of land available for grazing, with the possibility of a maximum of 2 more acres available on site.

All animals are housed at barn and sacrifice area during winter months.

Will need water source to paddocks

** The #1 priority for the district at this site is water quality improvements**

Legend

- MC Parcels
- Streams
- Grazing Land Available



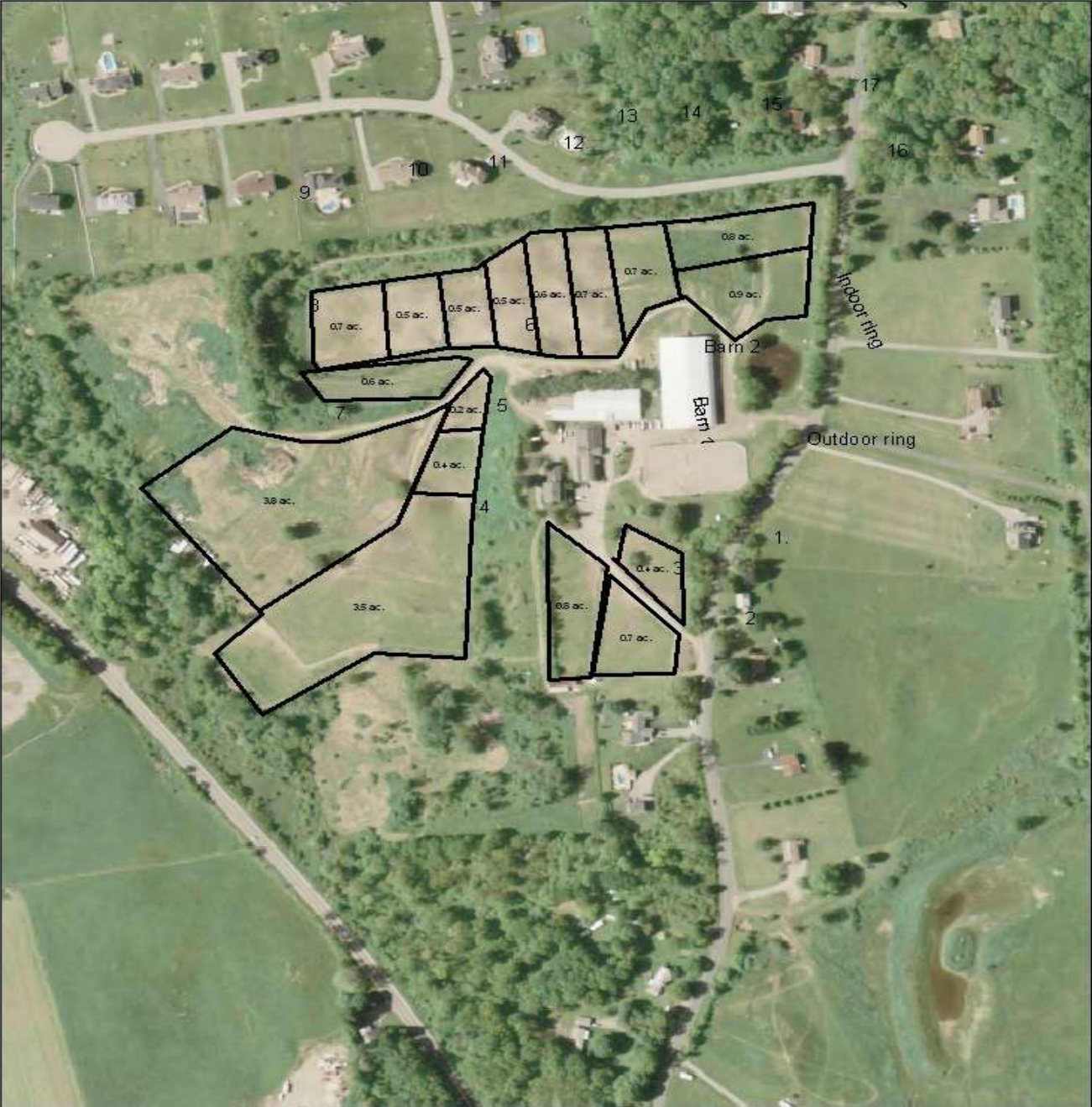
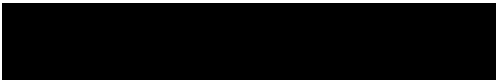
210

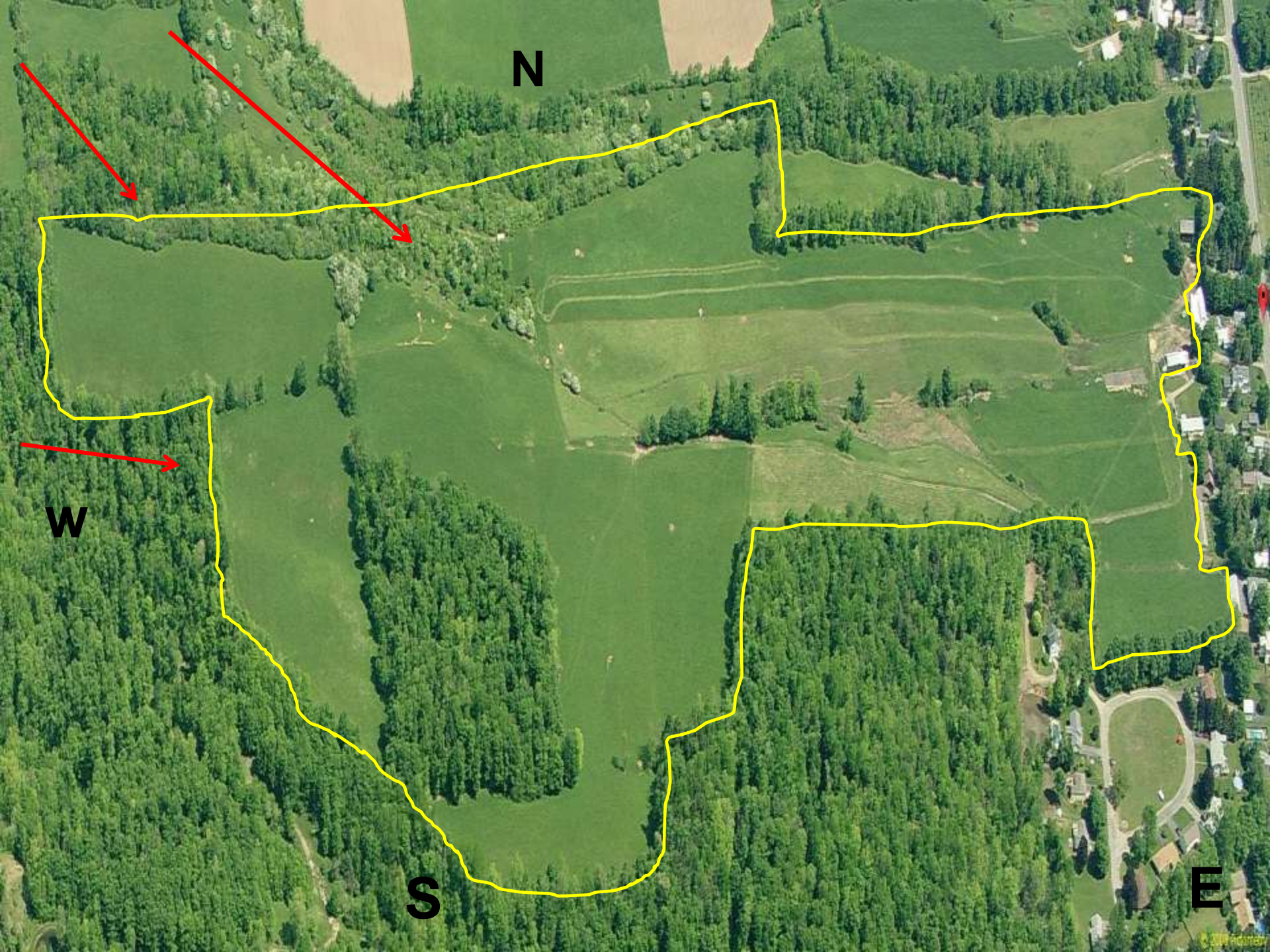
Feet

H-Home Farm
38.5 acres

R-Rented
43.5 acres





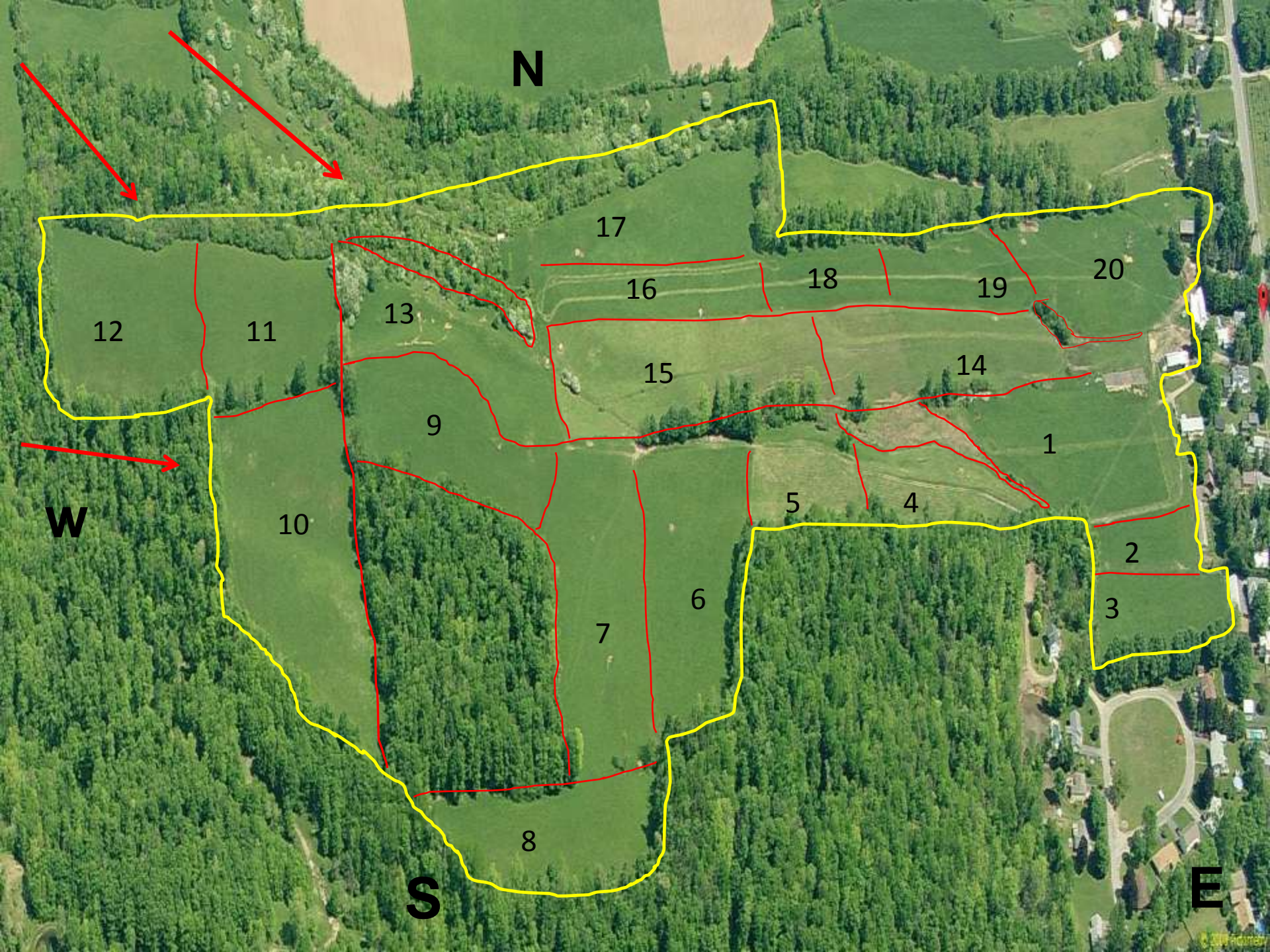


N

S

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W



N

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16

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14

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1

W

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2

3

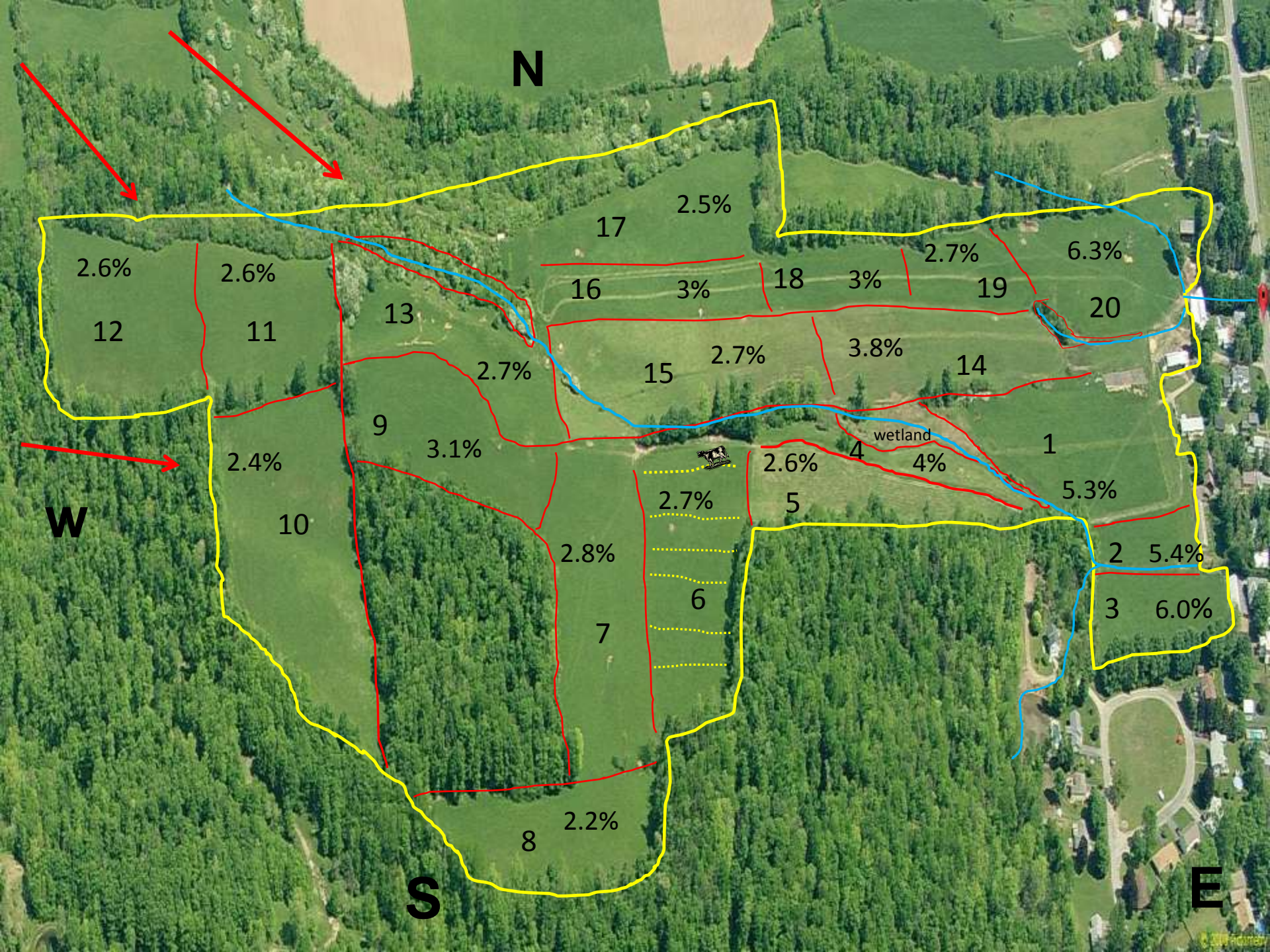
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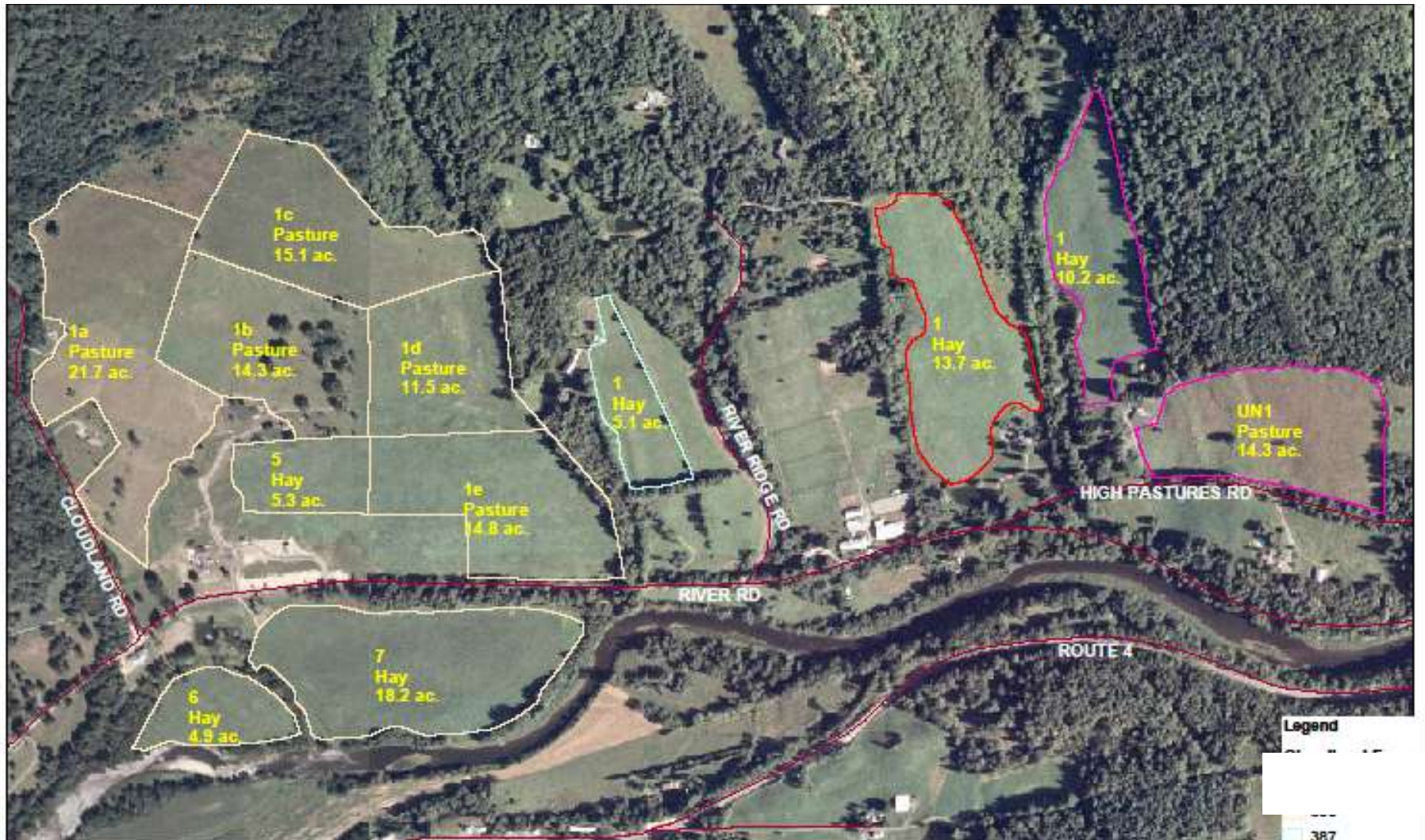
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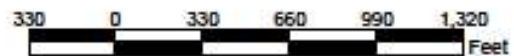
W

wetland





Scale 1:7,920 (1" = 660' or 1 sq. in. = 10 ac.)



Legend	
---	387
—	1525
—	1526
---	E911 Roads

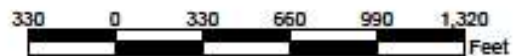
- 19D (Vershire-Dummerston complex, well drained)
- 20C/D (Glover-Vershire complex, well-somewhat excessively drained)
- 21C/D (Shelburne fine sandy loam, well drained)
- 24 (Podunk fine sandy loam, moderately well drained)
- 25B/C (Buckland loam, moderately well drained)
- 26E (Buckland loam, very stony, moderately well drained)
- 33 (Rumney fine sandy loam, poorly drained)
- 5B (Windsor loamy fine sand, excessively drained)



- Legend**
- Soil Symbol**
- 19D
 - 20C
 - 20D
 - 21C
 - 21D
 - 24
 - 25B
 - 25C
 - 26E
 - 33
 - 5B



Scale 1:7,920 (1" = 660' or 1 sq. in. = 10 ac.)

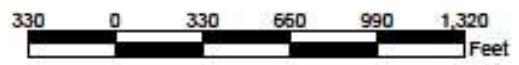


- 1525
- 1526



- Legend
- TRACT Number
 - 386
 - 387
 - 152B
 - 152B
 - 25' Buffer
 - THE Species & Nat. Community
 - Surface Water VHD
 - Wellhead Protection Area
 - Wetlands
 - Deer Wintering Area

Scale 1:7,920 (1" = 660' or 1 sq. in. = 10 ac.)





Legend

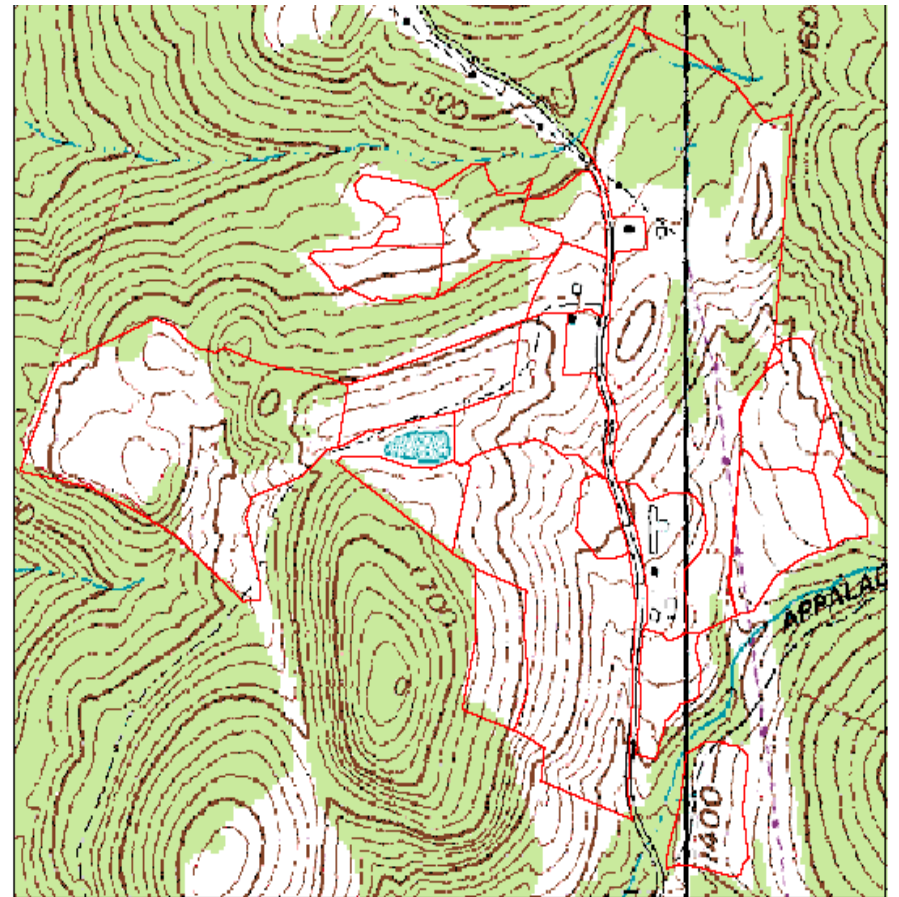
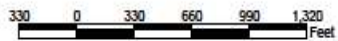
Tract number

1013

E911 Roads



Scale 1:7,920 (1" = 660' or 1 sq. in. = 10 ac.)



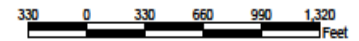
Legend

Tract Number

1013



Scale 1:7,920 (1" = 660' or 1 sq. in. = 10 ac.)





?





SPRING TIME CAUTION: OVERGRAZING DANGER!

- **Overgrazing is not just grazing a plant severely!**
- **Overgrazing happens when a plant that is growing from carbohydrate reserves is grazed. “Grazing the roots.”**
- **Overgrazing happens when we stay too long, come back too soon and.....**
- ***Graze too soon after dormancy.***





Is this overgrazing?









30 % grazed, 60 % trampled, 10 % standing





Animal impact



After animal impact





Over rest?





Dry Matter per head per day per acre (1000 lb. cow eats 3% BW = 30lbsDM/day)

Standard Animal Unit "SAU" 1000 pounds

Animal Day per Acre "ADA" how much she will eat in a day

Cow Day per Acre "CDA" 30 lbs DM

DRAFT PLAN adapted and modified from *NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE*
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK

PRESCRIBED GRAZING MANAGEMENT PLANNING WORKSHEET

LANDOWNERS NAME _____ DATE _____

STEP 1a. Estimate the Forage Demand:

The forage demand is the amount of forage dry matter (DM) required to feed a group of livestock for one day. It is calculated based on the rule of thumb that grazing animals require an amount of forage DM equal to about 2.5 to 3.0% of their body weight per day. For lactating animals and growing stock use 3.0% of body weight. For all other classes of livestock use 2.5%.

$$1 \frac{\text{Average Weight/Animal}}{\text{Lbs DM/Head/Day}} \times .025 \text{ or } .03 = \frac{\text{Lbs DM/Head/Day}}{\text{Lbs DM/Head/Day}} \times \frac{\text{\# of Animals}}{\text{\# of Animals}} = \frac{\text{Forage Demand}}{\text{Forage Demand}}$$

$$2 \frac{\text{Average Weight/Animal}}{\text{Lbs DM/Head/Day}} \times .025 \text{ or } .03 = \frac{\text{Lbs DM/Head/Day}}{\text{Lbs DM/Head/Day}} \times \frac{\text{\# of Animals}}{\text{\# of Animals}} = \frac{\text{Forage Demand}}{\text{Forage Demand}}$$

Unadjusted Daily Forage Demand _____
Lbs/Dm/Day

Step 1b. Adjust Daily Forage Demand as a result of supplemental feed use by deducting the pounds of supplemental feeds from the daily forage demand.

If supplemental forages are provided, they are substituted on a pound for pound basis. If supplemental grain is fed, the substitution rate is one pound of grain equals .5 pounds of forage.

$$\text{Unadjusted Daily Forage Demand} \frac{\text{Lbs/Dm/Day}}{\text{Lbs/Dm/Day}} - \text{Lbs of supplemental feed} \frac{\text{Lbs/Dm/Day}}{\text{Lbs/Dm/Day}} =$$

Adjusted Daily Forage Demand _____
Lbs/Dm/Day

STEP 2. Estimate the Forage Supply:

This is the amount of forage dry matter that is estimated to be available for grazing after a 20-day growth period in the spring and a 30-day growth period in the summer and fall.

****NOTE**** *These values are for planning purposes only. They reflect average growing conditions, pastures that are in good condition, soil fertility maintained to soil test recommendations and pH not less than 5.8. Unless actual measured yields are available, use estimated yields from NRCS data, New York Agricultural Land Classification data or the Cornell University Forage Species Selection Tool located on the website www.forages.org. Use the following table to convert hay yields in Tons/DM/Acre/Year to Forage Availability in Lbs/DM/Acre/rotation.*

Forage Availability Estimates

Hay Yield Tons/DM/Acre/Year	5.5	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	2.5	2.0
Forage Availability Lbs/DM/Acre/Rotation	2200	2000	1800	1600	1400	1200	1000	800

Soil Map Symbol 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

Number of Acres 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

Forage Supply
Lbs/DM/Acre/Rotation 1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____ 4 _____

* Depending on pasture conditions and forage density:

100-150lbs/DM/inch of forage (fair)

200-250lbs/DM/inch of forage (av.)

250-300lbs/DM/inch of forage (good)

300-400lbs/DM/inch of forage (Ex)

Step 3. Select Residency Period:

Residency Period _____
Days

Note** One half to 1-day residency periods are recommended for lactating dairy cows. Residency periods of 2 to 7 days may be used for all other livestock. To maximize harvest efficiency, use shorter residency periods.

Step 4. Determine Paddock Size by Major Soil Type:

Paddock size is based on meeting the forage demand of the livestock for the designated residency period.

$$\begin{array}{l}
 1 \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Forage Demand}} \div \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Forage Supply}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Acres Required/Day}} \times \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Residency Period}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Paddock Size (Ac)}} \\
 2 \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Forage Demand}} \div \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Forage Supply}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Acres Required/Day}} \times \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Residency Period}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Paddock Size (Ac)}} \\
 3 \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Forage Demand}} \div \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Forage Supply}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Acres Required/Day}} \times \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Residency Period}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Paddock Size (Ac)}} \\
 4 \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Forage Demand}} \div \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Forage Supply}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Acres Required/Day}} \times \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Residency Period}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Paddock Size (Ac)}}
 \end{array}$$

Step 5. Determine the Number of Paddocks

$$\begin{array}{l}
 20 \text{ days rest} \div \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Residency Period}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{_____}} + 1 = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Number of Paddocks}} \\
 30 \text{ days rest} \div \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Residency Period}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{_____}} + 1 = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Number of Paddocks}} \\
 45 \text{ days rest} \div \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Residency Period}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{_____}} + 1 = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Number of Paddocks}} \\
 60 \text{ days rest} \div \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Residency Period}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{_____}} + 1 = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Number of Paddocks}} \\
 90 \text{ days rest} \div \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Residency Period}} = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{_____}} + 1 = \frac{\text{_____}}{\text{Number of Paddocks}}
 \end{array}$$

Step 7. Determine the Number of Actual Acres Planned:

	<u>Pad Size/</u>	<u>Ac. Needed/day</u>	<u>=</u>	<u># Days available</u>
1	_____ ÷ _____		=	_____
2	_____ ÷ _____		=	_____
3	_____ ÷ _____		=	_____
4	_____ ÷ _____		=	_____
5	_____ ÷ _____		=	_____
6	_____ ÷ _____		=	_____
7	_____ ÷ _____		=	_____
8	_____ ÷ _____		=	_____
9	_____ ÷ _____		=	_____
10	_____ ÷ _____		=	_____

11	_____ ÷ _____	=	_____
12	_____ ÷ _____	=	_____
13	_____ ÷ _____	=	_____
14	_____ ÷ _____	=	_____
15	_____ ÷ _____	=	_____
16	_____ ÷ _____	=	_____
17	_____ ÷ _____	=	_____
18	_____ ÷ _____	=	_____
19	_____ ÷ _____	=	_____
20	_____ ÷ _____	=	_____

Total actual Acres _____ Total # days rest _____

At Dart Entry Point				6" Circle Around Point										Describe Nearest Perennial												Monitored By:																	
What Dart Hit: Must Check One				Soil Surface: Must Check One				Evidence of: "Yes"				Check if		What It Is? Must check One				Soil Habitat			Plant Age			Plant Condition			Plant Species if Known	Troy Bishopp															
Throw #	Bare Soil	Litter 1	Litter 2	Rock	Plant	Canopy (shading by tall plants)	Mature Capping	Immature Capping	Recent Capping	Broken Surface	Covered Surface	earthworm activity	Insect(spider,beetle,etc)	Animals (hoof action)	Manure within 3'	Manure within 6'	Annuals Present	Erosion(splash points, rills)	Grass	Legume	Broadleaf (forb)	Sedge or Reed	MOSS	woody plant	Dry	Middle	Wet	Seedling	Young	Mature	Decadent	Resprout	Normal	Over-grazed	Over-rested	Dying/Dead	Plant Species if Known	Other pasture plants/conditions noted					
1					1					1	1				1					1						1												red clover					
2			1							1	1				1					1							1												OG				
3		1								1	1			1	1					1									1										bluegrass				
4					1					1	1										1									1									plantain				
5		1								1	1			1	1					1										1									ryegrass				
6		1								1	1					1															1								OG				
7		1								1	1					1																								red clover			
8					1					1	1			1	1					1											1								wh. Clover				
9					1					1	1			1	1					1																			OG				
10		1								1	1			1	1					1																			ryegrass				
11		1								1	1		1	1	1					1																			ryegrass				
12			1							1	1		1							1																				wh. Clover			
13					1					1	1					1				1										1										red clover			
14		1								1	1		1							1																				ryegrass			
15					1					1	1										1																			dandelion			
16					1					1	1			1	1						1																			wide plantain			
17		1								1	1			1						1																				OG			
18		1								1	1			1							1																			bedstraw			
19					1					1	1		1		1						1									1										bishopp's weed			
20			1							1	1		1							1																				OG			
21	1								1		1		1		1						1																			pricky pear			
22		1								1	1									1				1																old ryegrass			
23		1								1	1									1																				red clover			
24					1					1	1				1						1																			wide plantain			
25		1								1	1				1						1																			young bedstraw			
Totals																																											
1	12	3	0	9			0	0	0	1	24	24	6	8	14	0	0	0	11	6	8	0	0	0	0	25	0	0	9	13	3	0	22	0	2	1							
Percent	4%	48%	12%	0%	36%	0%	0%	0%	0%	4%	96%	96%	24%	32%	56%	0%	0%	0%	44%	24%	32%	0%	0%	0%	0%	##	0%	0%	36%	52%	12%	0%	88%	0%	8%	4%							

PRESS RELEASE

The “Conversations in Grazing” series welcomes Nebraskan Grazer and Strongman, Kevin Fulton to CNY

The Madison County Grazer’s Group invites interested farmers and consumers to Ingallside Meadows Farm, 3111 Ingalls Corners Rd. Canastota, N.Y on Tuesday, February 3rd, 2009 from 11am to 3pm to hear about grass-fed beef production, marketing and practical grazing management.

After coming off a standing ovation at Grasstravaganza 2008, the strength, power-lifting coach, turned grass farmer, Kevin Fulton now returns to snow country for an encore of passion, inspiration and information on producing high quality, humanely raised, organic beef on his 2800 acre farm, of which 2300 acres are native grassland prairie. He custom grazes 800 head of cattle for many prominent grass-fed beef companies as well as growing his own herd of Galloway cattle. “Grass management is the cornerstone of our family’s operation and a great way to farm for the next generation”, he emphasized.

A light homemade lunch featuring local products will be provided.

Admission to this program will be \$10.00/person. Space IS limited and on a first come first serve basis. Please call Troy Bishopp, Madison Co. SWCD @ (315) 824-9849 to reserve your spot.



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Don't forget a catchy title or soundbite

Good Pastures, Happy Cows, Family Farms and Homemade Ice Cream ~ Oh My!!

How You Help COUNTRY FOLKS • Section A - Page 2

by Troy Bishopp, Madison Co. SWCD Grazing Specialist

These were the highlights of the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District's and the GRAZE-NY Program's Twilight Grazing Management August pasture walks.

The view of Oneida Lake was a fitting backdrop for why rotational grazing is an important component in the operations of the two host dairy farm families and the entire watershed. The Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program recognizes that sedimentation is the number one concern of the Oneida Lake Watershed and that well managed pastures significantly reduce soil erosion and improve water quality.

This was the basis for learning more about the challenges and opportunities of pasturing animals, improving the economics of a grazing farm and having dialogue between fellow farmers.

On August 2nd, folks came by car, bicycle and buggy to Sunrise Dairy Farm in Canastota, NY. Chad Ronk and his family operate a 40-cow dairy farm that established a rotational grazing system this spring to aid in herd health, cut util-

ity and feed costs and improve labor savings. Using a series of five big pastures predominately made up of orchardgrass and clovers and further subdividing into smaller daily pasture moves every 12 hours, Ronk has seen a savings of \$1300 a month on grain and has only used 11 bales of baleage, down from 150 used last year at this time.

The group of 30 farmers were joined by Dr. Ann Clark, Associate Professor from the University of Guelph, Ontario who made everyone a consultant for the night. "Plant diversity mirrors grazing height and stocking rate" she said.

Clipping height of pastures was also discussed and should be clipped down to the height you want them to graze. Watering issues were brought to the "consultants" attention. It was reiterated that the closer the water, the better the performance of the animal, along with keeping the manure in the growing forage and feeding the soil life. The wildlife around the farm looked appreciative of the latter, as the cowbirds and turkeys were happily enjoying a smorgasbord of insects. Ronk is also reclaiming fallow land that, "Was all pastured some 60 years ago ac-



Keep in mind Incentives sell