

CHARTING A PROFITABLE GRAZING PATH

According to UK's Grassland Specialist, Nigel Young: "A novice grazier plans their grazing a week ahead, an experienced grazier plans a month ahead and a well-seasoned grazier plans a year ahead." Where might you be on the learning curve of grazing management?

Since last year's grazing season was indeed difficult and with 2012's forecast of significantly higher energy and input costs, The Upper Susquehanna Coalition's Grazing Team of John Wickham, Jonathan Barter and Troy Bishopp with a combined grazing experience of 75 years is spearheading a grazing planning management meeting to be held at the Civil Defense Building Route 54 in Bath, N.Y. on Thursday, February 23rd, 2012 from 10 am to 3 pm with a light local lunch.

This grazing management interactive conversation will be based around using two sample farm examples to prepare a 12 month grazing monitoring chart, determine dry matter needs, stocking rates and recovery periods and discussing broad-based grazing strategies, decisions and goals to implement a grazing system that is more resilient and profitable. According to one dairyman who has adopted this forward-thinking mentoring program; *"There is no question in my mind----these charts along with deeper thinking about land management are a real winner. I can see this becoming a huge management tool that we will implement more and more on our grass farm."*

There will be a satisfying local lunch and a 12 month grazing chart sponsored by the Upper Susquehanna Coalition for every participant but you need to register for this in-depth program by calling John Wickham at the Schuyler Co. SWCD (607) 535-6878 or Jonathan Barter at the Steuben Co. SWCD (607) 776-7398



