



UTILIZING HOLISTIC PLANNED GRAZING AS A REGENERATIVE ENGINE FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

"Building Relationships and Meeting Farmers Where They Are"

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The Story

This experiential, "build from the bottom up" grazing learning program for Northeast agency service providers, extension educators and farmer mentors focuses on building social, intellectual capital while meeting along side farm families to create the landscape we want for regenerating agriculture, watersheds and floodplains with grasslands. Through the process of implementing their family goals and better decision-making practices, learning holistic planned grazing techniques and tools, monitoring and measuring ecological and financial health, we aspire to increase networks of highly skilled, knowledgeable grazing professionals to meet the ever-increasing demand for educational and technical assistance for farms of all shapes and sizes tapping into the potential of Northeast pastures.



Project Performance Targets:
 91 extension educators, conservation professionals, grassland advocates and/or farmer mentors from the Northeast SARE region are trained and deliver holistic and practical grazing programs to 125 farms, representing 24,000 acres, of which 72 farms or 16,400 acres develop and implement a holistic planned grazing system. We expect that 70 farms will be (1) \$1,000 increase in profitability due to increased production costs, value added products, and (2) ecological - 25% increase in ground cover, biological diversity and soil & forage health; and (3) social - major subjective improvement in family quality of life.

Accomplishments to Date

- 41 grazing professionals from NY, PA, VT and NH representing Conservation Districts, Extension Educators, USDA-NRCS, grazing consultants and other mentors have completed 1 grazing training session per state in 3 regions. 1.1 Learned how to create farm family goals with their participating farms and establishing social and financial baselines data to measure success of the grazing plan implementation. 2.1 Learned more about holistic planned grazing methods, tools and approaches. 3.1 Gained practical knowledge of biological monitoring, data collection and record the value of improving the 4 landscape processes.
- 70 project participants are working with over 70 farms to complete holistic grazing plans.
- 100% of participants indicated they have used the tools and strategies all learned during the whole body with the most powerful developing grazing plans, biological monitoring and developing farm family goals.
- 60% of farmers have completed a whole farm goal, 40% have completed a monitoring plan and 50% have completed a winter grazing plan.
- The plan of grazing and making the land owners brought together over 60 capable mentors, conservation service providers, extension educators and local farmers to join the learning experience in addition to the present participants.
- Workshops in PA, NY, the Northeast Organic Dairy Producers Alliance, Forge County, WV, OH, Iowa, Co. SD, MA, VT, and the Capital County, PA farmers resulted in over 210 hours of training about their land and keeping track of improvements on the stock and the use of pasture monitoring charts.

Over 80 grazing plans have been printed and provided to all new groups of Capital dairy farmers forming a grazing plan monitoring chart.



Integrated Nutrient and Upper Susquehanna

www.4h.org

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 Upper Susquehanna Watershed Program
 410 Chestnut Drive, Suite 101
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Wetland Restoration

- Expand the USC Wetland Team
- Protect wetlands for flood attenuation
- Establish a Wetland Trust
- Restore 66 acres of wetlands
- Use Cornell model to identify Hydrologically Sensitive Areas (HSAs)

Buffer and Create Wetlands

- Implement 440
- Install 47
- Cattle Exclusion
- Develop two (2) U
- Establish N

We estimate at 28,274 per of P and 2







2009 Genesee

ENTERING
NESEE RIVER
WATERSHED
Protect Water Quality

PADDOCKS

(200)

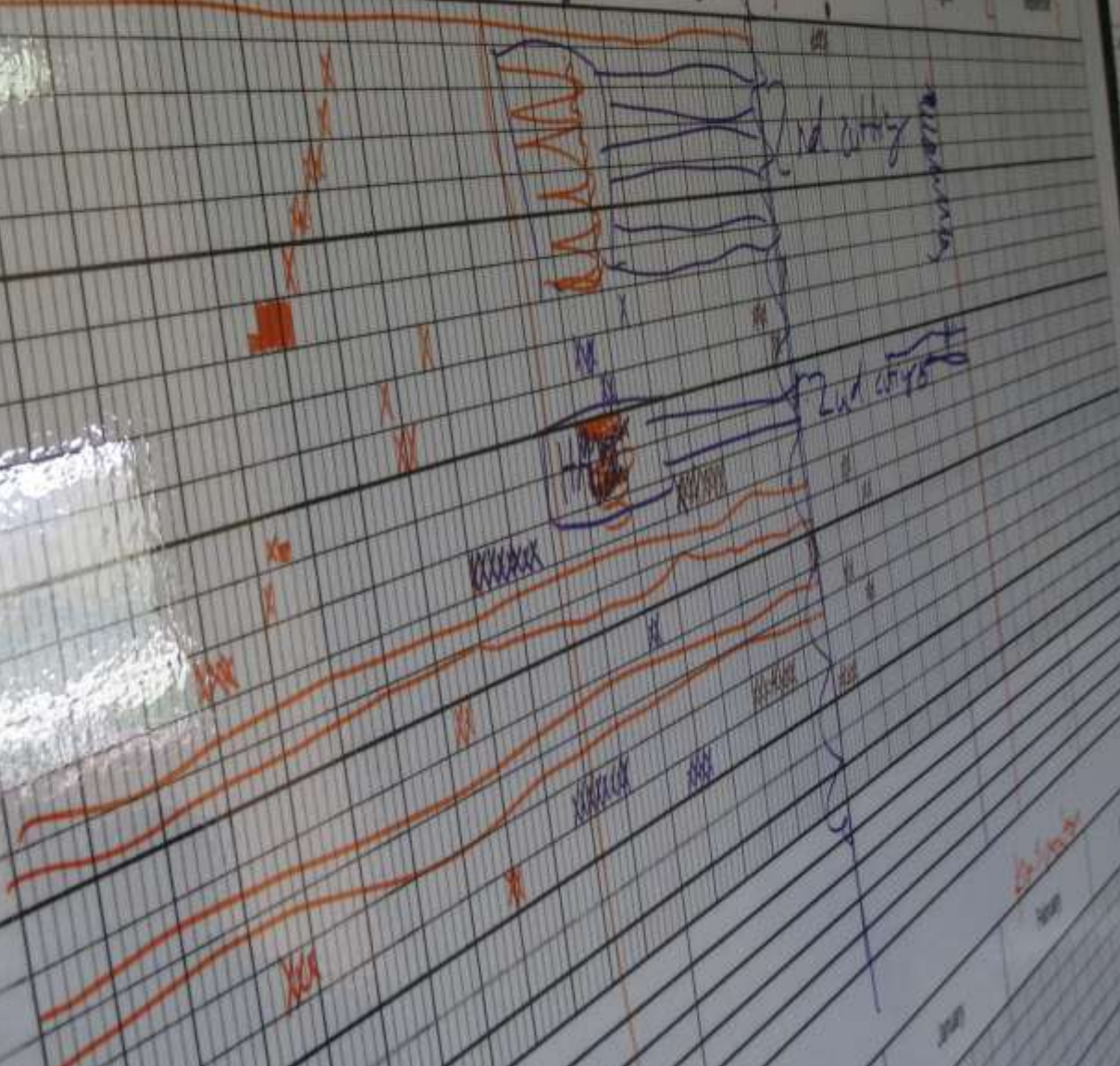
GRAZING PLAN
 Jackson EFD
 Summer 5/1/16
 10/1/16
 11/1/16

Size Number / Name

April 18 days
 26 DAYS
 May

26 DAY June 35 days

| | |
|-----|----|
| 7.8 | 1 |
| 2 | 2 |
| 2.7 | 3 |
| 4.1 | 4 |
| 4.2 | 5 |
| 3.8 | 6 |
| 8.1 | 7 |
| 5 | 8 |
| 2.9 | 9 |
| 5.3 | 10 |
| 3.3 | 11 |
| 5.2 | 12 |
| 8.5 | 13 |
| 4.3 | 14 |
| 5.3 | 15 |
| 5 | 16 |
| | 17 |



wetland









COUNTY

February

March







Welcome
Mr Ashforth
+
Mr Troy Bishopp









