

2012 SARE Dairies Utilizing Mob Grazing in the Northeast

Questionnaire

Statement:

The following questions are to help describe your farm as a "Case Study" for other farmers and professionals to learn about mob grazing as it pertains to dairy production. You will be asked a series of questions about the farm, its production, and how Mob Grazing relates to the environment and the community. You can refuse to answer any of the questions asked by the interviewer at any time.

The information collected in this interview will be used to create "Case Studies" (stories about how the farms use Mob Grazing). These case studies will be developed in a variety of educational formats (i.e., print publication, web site, etc.). Before they are published, the study team will share the draft copies of these case studies before they are published. You can withdraw from this project at any time.

Your individual responses will be kept confidential.

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this project.

Mena Hautau, Extension Educator

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Farm Information:

Total acres owned: _____ Total acres rented: _____

Total acres in permanent pasture: _____

Approximate number of:

- Milking Cows _____
- Dry Cows _____
- Replacement Heifers _____
- Calves (<8 weeks) _____

Describe what breed(s) of cattle you have. _____

- How long have you been a grazier and why do you graze cows? _____

- How long have you been using mob grazing? _____
- What motivated you to use mob grazing? _____

Production

Please describe the production performance of the dairy cattle when using mob grazing?

- Milk yield _____
- Milk components _____
- Other _____

Pasture Management

Stocking Density:

- What was the stocking density when you were using managed grazing? _____
- What is the stocking density when you are mob grazing? _____
- During a typical day, how long are your cows on pasture? _____
- Does the length of grazing time change with the season? _____
- What time of day do they typically graze? _____
- How often are the cows rotated to a new pasture?
 Daily Twice daily Every 2 days Every 3 days Other _____
- What is the approximate distance from the barn to the pasture? _____

Pasture Allotment:

- Approximately how much pasture is available per day/cow? _____
- Describe how you decide the acreage of pasture to allot daily. _____
- Describe how you determine when to graze a paddock. _____

- Describe how large you make a paddock. _____
- How do you measure forage intake? _____

- What percentage of forage is left behind in the paddock? _____

Supplemental Feeding and Housing

- What is your supplemental feeding program? (see below)

Types of stored forages fed during the grazing season:

- Corn silage Hay crop silage (legume) Hay crop silage (grass)
- Legume hay Grass hay Other _____

Typical purchased feed ingredients:

- Small grains Roasted soybeans Shelled corn Soybean meal
- Byproducts (please list) _____ Others (please list) _____

- How do you manage cattle in the winter months? _____

- Do you mob graze all winter or do the cattle get stored feed and are housed? _____

Economics

- Can you share your cost of production? Yes No

- What is your break-even cost/CWT of milk? _____

- OR, profit/CWT of milk? _____

- What specific **economic benefits** (reduced costs, increased income, etc.), either measured or perceived, have you realized as a result of adopting Mob Grazing as a practice on your farm?

- What specific **economic costs** (increased costs, reduced income, etc.), either measured or perceived, have you realized as a result of adopting Mob Grazing as a practice on your farm?

Environmental

- What soil type(s) do you have on your farm? _____

- Are there any management limitations to your soils? _____

- Do you regularly soil test your paddocks? Yes No
If yes, can you share the historical info regarding the soil test results? _____

- Do you soil test for organic matter? Yes No
If so, can you share the historical info regarding the results with us? _____

Community

If possible, please describe the following questions as they pertain to your farm.

- Have you found additional markets for your milk since grazing? _____
Since mob grazing? _____
- Has your “Quality of Life” improved since grazing? _____
Since mob grazing? _____
- Any other connections to your community since you stated grazing? _____
Since mob grazing? _____

If you have any questions, please contact Mena Hautau, Extension Educator, Penn State Extension-Berks County, 1238 County Welfare Road, Suite 110, Leesport, PA 19533; phone 610-378-1327; fax 610-378-7961; email mmh10@psu.edu

ALL INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL

