

Throughout the program, we also periodically distributed press releases announcing individual workshops. These were distributed to regional sites only.

12. Report Summary

The goal of this project was for a small group of pasture-based livestock farmers to cooperatively recruit interns for a 15 week program involving on-farm labor and a series of seven educational workshops. Through the use of press releases, personal and professional contacts and numerous agricultural organizations, websites and list-servs, we conducted a nation-wide recruitment effort seeking interns who were serious about pursuing careers as pasture-based farmers. We had a good-sized applicant pool to choose from, and we had a successful first year, perhaps learning more from our interns than we may have taught them. Several of our interns are now planning their own grass-based livestock enterprises. In future years, our hopes are to refine our communication skills to work more effectively with our interns, to provide a farm safety and livestock handling workshop, and to organize on-farm work days involving all the host farmers and students. We hope to eventually have a few more farms join our group, and to persuade all farmers that offering a compensation package is critical to farmer-intern success.

Submitted by
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