

Pasture Walk

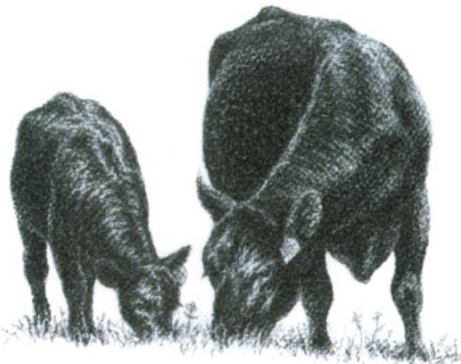
Optimizing Forage Quality and Production on Depleted Farmland to Extend the Grazing Season

In 2002, Mountain Ash Farm & Cattle Company of Frenchville received a *Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Grant (SARE)* to explore methods of improving forage quality and production on depleted farmland to extend the grazing season. By 2003, the farm had grazed 35 dry beef cows until November 23rd without feeding a single bale or compromising the body condition of the cows; in fact, body condition actually improved with late season grazing. This pasture walk will illustrate the techniques used to extend the grazing season. Please join our discussion on the economic importance of late season grazing.

Saturday, October 16th. 2004
1pm
Mountain Ash Farm & Cattle Co.
150 Church Avenue
Frenchville, ME

Learn about:

- Techniques for turning burned out crop fields into productive pasture;
- How inputs changed soil conditions over a 3-year period;
- How inputs also changed dry matter production (hay, silage, & pasture) over a 3-year period;
- The mystery of why nothing grows in some places...to seed or not to seed?
- The value and importance of extended grazing: how saving dollars in cow maintenance costs can add pennies per pound to the value of feeder calves.



Directions: We will meet at Dee and Dave Potter's house at 150 Church Ave in Frenchville. From Fort Kent, take North Perley Brook Rd (near Voisine's Exxon) about 4.5 miles to a T-intersection. Turn left and travel about another 1.5 miles. The road turns hard to the right and you'll see a fenced pasture. The house is a short distance further on the left. From Madawaska, take Rt. 1 to St. Luce Church in Frenchville. Turn left onto Church Ave and travel about 4.5 miles. Pass the Cyr Potato Corporation buildings, and the house will be a short distance further on the right.

Sponsored by the Mountain Ash Farm & Cattle Co. and the St. John Valley SWCD, with support from the Northeast Region SARE and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service EQIP Education Program.