

# CONSERVATION *Showcase*

## Beef Farmer Reaps Benefits from Grazing

Crawford County, PA

George and William Long are fourth-generation farmers for Long Farms in northeastern Crawford County, Pennsylvania. In 1998, they converted from dairy to raise Simmental-cross beef cows.

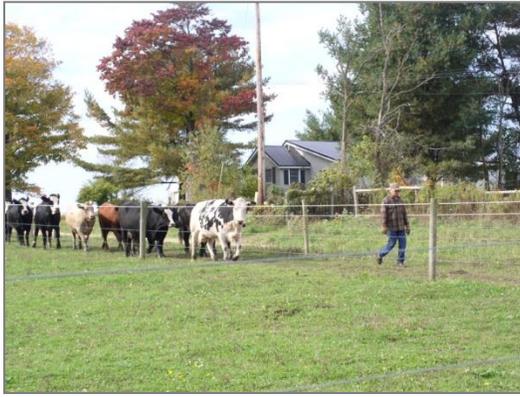
With over 250 acres of crop land, the Longs contacted NRCS in 2008 for a grazing plan to help them start managing their pastures and address some resource concerns on the farm.

They applied for and participated in both EQIP and CREP. Through CREP, they were able to install fencing to keep the cattle out of a wet area in one of the pastures, creating wildlife habitat. Through EQIP, fencing was installed, creating multiple 15-acre paddocks. Animal trails and walkways were stabilized, eliminating erosion problems. A stream was fenced out and a stabilized crossing was installed, eliminating cattle access to the riparian area. Water troughs and hydrants were placed in all paddock areas, and a concrete heavy use area was installed to allow for winter feeding, keeping the cattle off of the pasture throughout the winter and eliminating brown areas.

Since implementing their grazing plan and completing their EQIP contract, the Long brothers have noticed many additional benefits with their operation. Having water in all the pastures raised the weaning weights on the calves. Higher weights can mean a higher profit. The cows are calmer and more easily managed since they have been on a grazing rotation. But installing the concrete heavy use area made George Long the happiest. "I want to do cartwheels every time I go out there," said George. "It's the hub of my operation and has made everything so much easier to do." He noted that the cows stay cleaner and keep their condition better through the winter. Following a grazing plan has made the farm more efficient, saving the Longs time and money, and they couldn't be happier!



*During winter feeding, cattle use this concrete heavy use area, installed with help from NRCS. By keeping the cattle off the pastures, brown areas are eliminated, and pasture conditions are improved.*



*Animal trails and walkways help eliminate erosion.*