

Tennessee Grazing Coalition (TGC) Progress and Activities Report

2009 Fiscal Year



Statistics-

- ❑ Tennessee's top agriculture commodity is Beef cattle.
- ❑ Tennessee's top value crop commodity is hay produced
- ❑ Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation ranks Grazing Riparian Areas as No. 1 concern
- ❑ Tennessee ranks second in the Southeast concerning number of beef cows
- ❑ Tennessee ranks 9th in the nation concerning number of beef cows
- ❑ Tennessee ranks 2nd in the nation concerning number of goats
- ❑ Tennessee ranks 2nd in the nation concerning number of horses.

Coalition- The "Tennessee Grazing Coalition" (TGC) has a budget from Tennessee Department of Agriculture. NRCS also supports the TGC.

Staffing- Tennessee has one State Grazing Land Specialist, and is proud to announce that Gene Robinson, Field Grazing Specialist was hired through Clinch Powell RC&D in 2009 and plans and funding are in place to hire an additional Field Grazing Specialist in 2010. In addition approximately 75 NRCS employees dedicate over 50% of their time to provide technical assistance on grazing lands.

Training-

- A.) NRCS Employees-** Eighty (100) or more NRCS employees received grazing lands training on inventory of resources, forage management, forage animal balance, paddock layout, watering system design, heavy use area management and other supporting practices. Training was facilitated through Area Meetings, Net Meetings, Hydrologic Unit Area Training and one on one training.

Greg Judy spoke on Holistic High Density Grazing



B.) Grazing land owners/managers- Approximately 1,000 producers attended various demonstration projects, grazing conference, grazing schools, pasture walks, some individuals also received individual assistance of 1 day or more in length.

Holistic Management Workshop - RP Cook DVM- Gordon Hazard DVM- Terry Gompert Holistic Trainer



C.) Cooperating agencies/organization employees- Approximately 100 employees from other agencies or organizations attended these various events held across the state throughout the year. Cooperating agencies include: Tennessee Department of Agriculture, The University of Tennessee, Tennessee Technological University, Red River Watershed Association, University of Kentucky, Tennessee Centers for Research and Education, Tennessee Association of Conservation Districts, Tennessee State University, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, World Wildlife Funds, The Nature Conservancy, and others.



Demonstration Projects- Thirty grazing lands demonstration projects on 30 different operations are located across the state with farm tours held on these farms. These projects demonstrate the interaction of management, environment, and inputs. Unique topics covered at some of these venues include: Mixed Species Grazing, Invasive plant control with goats, sheep or other species, Animal Behavior, Low Stress Livestock Handling Techniques, Proper Grazing Management, Watering Facility options, Forage options, Nutrient and pest management options, etc. The focus of these demonstrations is creep grazing, cost effectiveness of irrigation, stream grazing management, total system management, goat forage system, sheep forage system, multi-species mgmt, and horse heavy use mgmt with vegetation. Benefits of diverse vegetation.

Public Education/Awareness:

**“No Hay Ray” DVD, reprint made in 2009
Documentary of Raymond Coopers Operation**



**“Fencing For Serious Grazers”
Publication on Various Fencing Techniques**



- A.) Presentations-** Thirty or more workshops were conducted across the state. Presentations were given to the following groups: Tennessee Grazing Conference, Tennessee Master Meat Goat Workshops, Master Cattleman Workshops, District Banquets, Pasture walks, University field days, Farm Tours, Watershed Groups, Tennessee Farmers Co-op and others
- B.) Participants-** Approximately 1,000 participants attended the presentations listed above.
- C.) Products-** Ten products were developed for promoting wise grazing lands management. These products include: Critical Feed Use, NWSG information, Fact Sheets, Technical Notes, Job Sheets, Video “No Hay Ray”, Computer Programs, Display for booth, and Cattle and Goat Cooperative Grazing Management Planner (calendar) with the University of Tennessee and Tennessee State University, Farm Bureau, The Nature Conservancy, Livestock Associations, Tennessee Farmers Coop and others. In addition Management intensive Grazing, The Grassroots of Grass Farming by Jim Gerrish and “Comeback Farms” by Greg Judy was purchased for serious grazers. A Fence publication was printed for serious grazers as well.

Mass Media- 150 or more newspaper and magazine articles were developed for local papers and magazines. Five local television and radio programs were developed. Approximately 225,000 people are impacted by newspaper and magazine articles, an additional 50,000 people are impacted by television and radio programs.

**Tennessee Grazing Display
Set up Various Locations Across the State**

