

NRCS Field Offices

Addison County

68 Catamount Park, Ste. B
Middlebury, VT 05753
802 388-6748

Caledonia & Essex Counties

481 Summer St., Ste. 202
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
802 748-2641

Chittenden County

300 Interstate Corporate Ctr.,
Ste.200
Williston, VT 05495
802 288-8155

Orange & Washington Counties

617 Comstock Rd., Ste. 1
Berlin, VT 05602
802 828-4493

Franklin & Grand Isle Counties

50 South Main Street, Ste. B-20
St. Albans, VT 05478
802 527-1296

Lamoille County

109 Professional Drive, Ste. 2
Morrisville, VT 05661
802 888-4935

Orleans County

59 Waterfront Plaza, Ste. 12
Newport, VT 05855
802 334-6090

Rutland and Bennington Counties

170 South Main St., Ste. 4
Rutland, VT 05701
802 775-8034

Windham County

28 Vernon St., Ste 332
Brattleboro, VT 05301
802 689-3037

Windsor County

28 Farm Drive
White River Jct., VT 05001
802 295-7942

NRCS Programs Can Help

EQIP

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EQIP provides cost-sharing assistance to achieve environmental goals on the land. Farmers can receive a payment to commit their land to permanent pasture for five years under “prescribed grazing”. Other EQIP practices include fencing, animal trails and walkways, pasture and hayland planting, watering facilities, heavy use area protection, pipeline and spring development.

AMA

Agricultural Management Assistance

AMA provides cost share assistance to address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into farming operations.

CTA

Conservation Technical Assistance

CTA provides technical assistance to help people conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources. The program provides the technical capability, including direct conservation planning, design, and implementation assistance, that helps people plan and apply conservation on the land. This assistance does not provide cost sharing as an incentive.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider employer and lender

Natural Resources
Conservation Service

**Have You
Thought
About
Pasture
Management?**

**We've Got
it
Covered!**



Helping People Help the Land

Getting Started.....



Managed Grazing

Grazing is known by many names and approaches.

- ◆ rotational grazing
- ◆ grass-based farming
- ◆ management intensive grazing
- ◆ prescribed grazing

All the terms mean basically the same thing. Pasture is divided into smaller paddocks, often using portable fencing. One paddock is grazed for a specific time with a certain number of animals, while the remaining paddocks rest and recover.



Consider The Benefits

Economic Benefits:

- ◆ Lower feed costs, especially with corn prices rising
- ◆ Less machinery investment and repair
- ◆ Start up and maintenance costs are less
- ◆ Maintenance costs are reduced if you already have a confinement feeding system because you use it only in winter
- ◆ Grazing reduces the costs of equipment, fuel, chemicals and labor
- ◆ Forage yields can increase under rotational grazing systems

Time Savings:

- ◆ Moving livestock is less time consuming than cutting, hauling and feeding greenchop
- ◆ Livestock spread the manure

Environmental Benefits:

- ◆ Decreased soil erosion
- ◆ Minimal fertilizer and pesticides required
- ◆ Reduced barnyard runoff
- ◆ Reduced high soil phosphorus
- ◆ Help reverse the declining populations of grassland birds
- ◆ Pastures provide great wildlife habitat

Convinced Yet?

You know you are ready for new pasture management techniques when you are ready to experiment with new approaches to farming. Managed pastures require creativity, good management and planning. Contact a NRCS field office located at your local USDA Service Center. They can listen to your goals and get you started on a plan that will work with your particular operation.



For more information contact:

Joe Buford, State Resource Conservationist

USDA NRCS State Office
356 Mountain View Drive, Suite 105
Colchester, Vermont 05446
1-802-951-6796 X-244 Joe.Buford@vt.usda.gov

Vermont Grass Farmers' Association

Jennifer Colby, Program Coordinator
802-656-0858 jcolby@UVM.edu
Kim Hagen, Grazing Specialist
802-656-3834 kimberly.hagen@uvm.edu
Juan Alvez, Technical Coordinator
802-656-6116 jalvez@uvm.edu

Vermont Pasture Network

<http://www.uvm.edu/~pasture/>