

Introducing the Jon Rutter Memorial Fund



Jonathan Rutter of Bridport, VT was a lifelong dairy farmer and a unique spirit. Through Journey's Hope farm, Jon and his wife Beverly expressed their passions, vision and community spirit which included a tradition of sharing and encouraging learning at all levels. One of the founding members of the Vermont Grass Farmers Association in 1996, Jon long credited his financial success and quality of life to the use of management-intensive grazing his 300+ cows. Jon was always generous with his time to help young and beginning farmers establish themselves, and his land for furthering grass-based research projects. He shared his successes and failures openly and honestly with a wink and a smile. In Jon's eyes, the world was a green and growing place full of wonder, vitality and promise.

Jon's passing in March 2010 stirred a variety of emotions: sadness at the loss of one of Vermont's treasures, frustration that the best of us are sometimes taken too soon, and a powerful motivation to create a long-lasting memorial in Jon's name focused on a sustainable future for Vermont's livestock farmers through grass-based farming.

The Vermont Grass Farmers Association (VGFA) is honored to have been asked to develop, guide, grow and administer this fund in Jon's memory. To initiate an endowment, VGFA has voted to direct \$7,000 in savings be held for the fund. We are currently seeking additional contributions to the endowment, with the intention that interest earned from the fund will be used to continue the mentoring and technical assistance Jon felt so critical to the success of beginning and experienced grass farmers. Donations can be made directly to the VGFA at P.O. Box 142 Randolph Center, VT 05061 or through the conference registration form found at the back of this conference program.

Goals of the Fund:

- Increase the knowledge base of grazing farmers and encourage innovation on grazing farms
- Encourage the expansion of new and beginning grass-based livestock farmers
- Create a longer-term funding source to promote grass-based livestock farming into the future

Mentorship and Technical Assistance Funding

The Jonathan Rutter Memorial Fund provides mentorship and technical assistance grants to enable farmers at all levels to continue learning, innovating and advancing their goals for sustainable, grass-based livestock farming. Funding is available for one-on-one farmer assistance, either in the form of a technical assistance contractor or a farmer mentor.

More information about applying to the fund will be available at the VT Grazing & Livestock Conference. Applications to the fund are due February 15, with a spring decision.

Thank you for joining with us to support the establishment of this enduring gift!

Please note that applications for the annual Jamie Cherington Memorial Mini Grants will also be available at the conference, with a deadline of February 15