JUNE EVENING PASTURE WALKS FOR VERMONT GRASS FARMERS

Burlington, VT – Summer evenings are a great time to get a look at how pastures are faring and see how other farmers are addressing soil improvement, forage quality, and other perennial needs of livestock farmers.

Join the Pasture Program of the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture and UVM Extension Agronomist Dan Hudson for three upcoming events to provide you with a look at what’s working and ideas you can take back to your own farm.

1. June 12 (Thursday): 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
   **Upland Hay and Pasture Improvement at Tamarack Vermont Sheep Farm, Corinth VT**

   - **Where**: Meet at the intersection of Brook Road and Young Road in Corinth, VT. If you arrive late and nobody as at the intersection, proceed to 485 Chelsea Road in Corinth, VT (less than two minutes away from the intersection) -- this will be our first stop. If you arrive REALLY late and nobody can be found at either location, proceed to 913 Young Road, Corinth, VT (Tamarack Tunis Sheep Farm); this will be the second and final stop.
   - **Cost**: Free through support by a VT NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant
   - **Please register** to help us account for parking, planning and snacks: [http://tamarackuplandhaypasture.eventbrite.com](http://tamarackuplandhaypasture.eventbrite.com)
   - **Details**: Ben Machin, Grace Bowmer and Sayre Palmer manage a flock of over 200 Tunis and Dorset Horn ewes on the steep slopes of Orange County, using a combination of owned and leased land for grazing and hay production. For the past four years, they have been focused on improving their hay and pasture land in order to accommodate more animal numbers with less purchased feed. UVM Extension partners Dan Hudson and Jenn Colby will join the Tamarack crew to look at the results of wood ash, biosolids, and seeding clover on leased hay land, followed by a pasture walk at the home farm to see sheep and pasture management, assess the health of the landscape, check out the farm’s planned grazing chart, and share energy, soil and biological data collected during the CIG project’s initial year. UVM Extension Livestock Specialist Joe Emenheiser will also join the discussion with lending perspectives from the animal science side.

2. June 19 (Thursday), 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
   **Pasture Reclamation, Improvement, Management, and Challenges at Spring-Rock Farm, Springfield, VT**

   - **Where**: Meet at 5:00 p.m. at 150 Lower Parker Hill Road, Springfield, VT
   - **Cost**: Free
• **Please register** to help us account for parking, planning and snacks [https://springrockpasture.eventbrite.com/](https://springrockpasture.eventbrite.com/)

• **Details**: Sheila Patinkin and the staff of Spring-Rock farm in Springfield, VT manage 120 Wagyu cows along with young stock. As the farm has grown, they have encountered challenges familiar to many New England farmers: sub-optimal land-base, wet fields, the need to reclaim/renovate fields that had fallen into agricultural disrepair, and questions about the most sustainable way to expand the business. This will be an excellent opportunity to observe and/or discuss:
  - reclaiming pasture from reforested land, frost seeding, overseeding;
  - impacts of different pasture management: rotational grazing, managing wet fields;
  - a very rare breed of cattle and the marketing niche that they are serving; and
  - creative options for expanding a livestock operation when land is limited.

3. June 26 (Thursday), 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
**Grass-Fed Holstein Beef, Pasture Management, Haylage Production, and Marketing at Snug Valley Farm**

• **Where**: Meet at 5:00 p.m. at 824 Pumpkin Lane, East Hardwick, VT

• **Cost**: Free

• **Please register** to help us account for parking, planning and snacks: [http://snugvalleyholsteins.eventbrite.com/](http://snugvalleyholsteins.eventbrite.com/)

• **Details**: On the other side of the spectrum from Wagyu cattle, Holsteins are clearly the most common breed of cattle in Vermont, and bull calves are an inevitable byproduct of the dairy industry. The Nottermans take this abundant local ‘byproduct’ and add value to it in a grass-fed system. As with many Vermont farms maintaining an adequate pasture base is a challenge, and hybrid pasture/hay program is necessary to finish 30 steers per year. In addition to grass-fed Holstein beef, Snug Valley Farm also produces pork, firewood, and pumpkins. At this event we will focus on:
  - the relationship between pasture management, productivity, diversity, and yield
  - improving pasture yield and quality
  - high-quality haylage production and how it fits into grass-finishing systems
  - characteristics of Holstein carcasses and meat relative to beef breeds

For more information:
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Individuals requesting a disability-related accommodation to participate in this program should contact Cheryl Herrick at 802-656-5459 by June 2, 2014.

Established in 1994, the UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture provides timely information to Vermont communities and the UVM campus. The Center cultivates partnerships, supports innovative research and practices, and informs policy to advance sustainable food and farming systems. Learn more at [http://www.uvm.edu/~susagctr/](http://www.uvm.edu/~susagctr/).