

*Abstract-* Small scale dairy farming is economically challenging. Innovations in management intensive grazing (MIG) have allowed many small farms to become profitable. MIG relies on soil ecosystem processes such as decomposition and nutrient cycling to maintain and improve pasture condition and forage quality. Concepts from MIG were incorporated into three season extension practices; bedded pack, out-wintering, and stockpiling. Season extension may allow farms to reduce feed and energy costs. Practices were monitored during 2009-2010 in 18 permanent pastures on nine Vermont cow dairy farms using a split-plot design (treatment/control). Composite soil and forage samples were collected May/June and October/November for soil physical, chemical, and biological analysis (nematode community structure) and forage chemical analysis. With a few exceptions, soil and forage quality were similar among treatments ( $p > 0.10$ ). Nematode community structure varied in proportion of nematode predators ( $p = 0.0011$ ), proportion richness due to predators ( $p = 0.0048$ ) and proportion richness due to bacterivores ( $p = 0.0782$ ). Soil pH varied among treatments ( $p = 0.0654$ ). Forage degradable protein ( $p = 0.0551$ ), calcium ( $p = 0.0877$ ), magnesium ( $p = 0.0149$ ), chloride ion ( $p = 0.0726$ ), and acid detergent insoluble crude protein ( $p=0.0277$ ) varied among treatments.