

GRAZING PLANNING COURSE WRAPS UP TWO-YEAR GRANT

By Cheryl Cesario, Grazing Outreach Specialist

This fall marks the end of a two-year grant for our grazing management course funded by Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NE-SARE). This project allowed us to conduct multiple 4-week courses to dive into the nuts and bolts of grazing management. The class series allowed farmers to study essential grazing principles and develop management plans for their operations. In addition, the grant project funded follow-up technical assistance to class participants as they implemented new practices.

5 COURSES
31 FARMERS
1,600
PLANNED ACRES

In addition to obtaining funding for grazing implementation, grazing planning allowed farmers to identify farm goals and develop a strategy specific to their farm. Some were looking to better utilize the acreage that they had, others were developing a plan that involved expansion. In each case, in-class planning and calculations were tested in the field, and further adapted. Participants left with tools that can evolve with their farm management.

“THE PASTURE CLASS OFFERED BY UVM EXTENSION THIS SPRING WAS A TOTAL GAME CHANGER FOR ME.” ~Becca Knouss

Becca Knouss of *The Goat Project* in Bennington, VT commented, “The class helped me to better systematically set up pastures so I was moving portable fencing in a more sensible manner. I was also able to learn how to calculate how much dry matter my goats required so I can better manage hay consumption in both the summer and winter months. I would like to add a most sincere thank you to all who were able to make this happen. I can’t stress enough how helpful those 4 meetings truly were.”



PRIMARY FARM ENTERPRISE

- BEEF
- DAIRY (COW)
- DAIRY (GOAT)
- SHEEP



LOCATIONS OF FARMS

- 1 (each) CHITTENDEN, ORANGE, NY STATE
- 2 WASHINGTON
- 4 BENNINGTON
- 6 FRANKLIN
- 7 RUTLAND
- 9 ADDISON



A few participants of the Grazing Planning Course who’ve had success applying grazing concepts to their farm business. (left to right) Kevin and Patty Plew – Plew Farm; Linda and Claire Stanley – Paul Lin Farm; Chad and Morgan Beckwith – Ice House Farm.

