

Just Think About It!

Is Managed Grazing an option for my operation?

Consider grazing as an option whether you are a dairy, beef, stocker or replacement cattle grower, a small animal operator or any other type of livestock producer.

How do I make Managed Grazing work for me?

Creativeness, management and planning will go a long way in helping you succeed as a grazer. Technical help and peer advice are always good sources of information to begin with.



Is there any help available to get started on grazing?

There are many sources of assistance available for beginning and experienced graziers. Federal and State government assistance and technical help is available for graziers, as well as a strong network between farmers, agencies and businesses that work together to help grazing grow in Wisconsin.

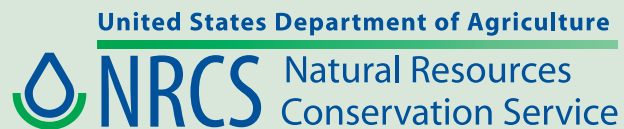
Is Managed Grazing profitable?

Put together your scenario. Imagine taking some of those crops off the ground and committing your land to pasture.

- Now:**
- ✓ You can reduce your costs in seed, fertilizer, fuel, machinery and TIME; and let go of your stress in losing crops to wetness, drought, frost and other factors.
 - ✓ You can improve your overall herd health and reduce your veterinarian bills, while extending the production life of your animals.

With grazing, fewer inputs and more management mean

PROFITS.



**Give us a CALL!
We are here to help!**

For a list of local
USDA-NRCS offices visit:

www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov

or contact your area Grazing Lands Specialist:

NORTHWEST

Richard Zirk – Altoona

715-832-6547, ext. 112



NORTHEAST

Larry Brúmmúnd – Appleton

920-733-1575, ext. 127



SOUTHWEST

Jean Stramel – Richland Center

608-647-8874, ext. 110



SOUTHEAST

Brian Pillsbury – Baraboo

608-355-4470

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Have you thought about **MANAGED GRAZING?**



**USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service (NRCS)**

Offering technical and financial assistance for managed grazing

**WI Department of Agriculture, Trade,
and Consumer Protection**

*Offering grants and technical assistance through the
Grow Wisconsin Dairy Team*

Together, these programs can work for you!

MANAGED GRAZING assistance

Available from Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Grow Wisconsin Dairy Team Grants

Grants from the DATCP of up to \$7,500 may be awarded for professional services to develop financial or management plans for new or existing dairy farmers transitioning to grazing, or enhancing organic or intensively managed grazing operations. Examples of projects include: engineering and design of water drinking systems, professional costs for grazing system layout and design, costs of establishing different types of grasses, consulting costs for grazing management practices, assistance with non-covered conservation practice costs such as fences, lanes, and watering facilities.

To download grant applications, visit: www.GrowWisconsinDairy.org

All types of innovative projects are welcome. Present your project outline to:

Jim Cisler, DATCP
P.O. Box 8911, Madison, WI 53708-8911
Phone 608-224-5137
Email: james.cisler@datcp.state.wi.us



Available from USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EQIP provides cost-sharing assistance for a variety of practices intended to help farmers to achieve environmental goals on their land. EQIP was authorized for funding through 2007 as part of the 2002 Federal Farm Bill.

Generally, the ranking period and application cut-off dates for this program take place in spring. After this period, applicants are notified about the status of their application, and if funded, a Conservation Plan and contract would be developed for their sign-up items.

Some eligible practices for Graziers under EQIP :

528A Prescribed Grazing (Cropland or Pasture)

With this practice, farmers receive a flat rate payment to commit their land to permanent pasture for 10 years. This practice includes developing a prescribed grazing plan that considers the resources on the farm, such as soils, water for livestock, stocking rates for pastures, paddock layout and hay harvesting schedules. Payment for cropland in FY 2004 was \$105/ac (over three years); while the rate for pasture acres in that same year was \$60.

Other EQIP practices that could help:

- 382- Fencing
- 575- Animal Trails/Walkways
- 512- Pasture/Hay Land Planting
- 614- Watering Facility

GRP - Grassland Reserve Program

A program for working lands, GRP offers great opportunity for the landowner with an existing managed grazing system. It offers a rental rate payment per acre for a minimum area of 40 contiguous acres (10, 15, 20 and 30 year agreements). Besides this, GRP offers permanent easement options in which the owner receives a payment based on fair market appraisal of the land, while maintaining ownership and private access. A prescribed grazing plan for GRP is required and developed after contract approval. GRP is also a competitive program, on a statewide basis.

CSP - Conservation Security Program

The Conservation Security Program is available in selected watersheds throughout the state. This program rewards good stewards by awarding incentive payments on practices that have been established and maintained as a part of a conservation plan in previous years.

Conservation Technical Assistance

This assistance does not provide cost sharing for practices, but it does give the farmer a great tool for successful grazing. The NRCS provides technical personnel trained to develop grazing plans and give suggestions and help producers with their questions about grazing. Grazing land specialists are available upon request to the Field Office (FO), while FO personnel are available to visit and discuss any questions about NRCS programs and/or grazing assistance that you may have. Assistance includes stocking rate calculations, seeding recommendations, fencing and watering system designs, dry matter intake assessment and others. For technical assistance, just call, email, or visit any NRCS office!

"Intensive Grazing is an unbelievably easy way to feed your livestock. While it's true that I'm a dairy farmer, in reality I'm a grass farmer. I market grass. I sell it in the form of milk, but my raw material is grass. My cows are my employees. Instead of working for my cows, my cows have to work for me. And if they don't do the job efficiently, they get fired over the barbecue as burgers."

--- Jim Brown
Yuba, WI

