



*Grazing dairy cattle in Ohio.*



*Pasture fertilization research in South Dakota.*



*Using livestock for biological control of leafy spurge in Wyoming.*



*Sandhill Cranes enjoy Florida's grazing land.*

The Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) provides technical, educational, and related assistance to those who own and manage private grazing land. Healthy and productive grazing land is a substantial component of the agricultural economy and is the largest of all agricultural land uses, with over 575 million acres being grazed in the United States.

Technical assistance supports and encourages better grazing management, improved livestock production, protection of the soil from wind and water erosion, reduction of drought impacts, control of invasive weeds, and the use of energy-efficient production techniques. It also provides opportunities for water conservation, wildlife habitat development, streambank protection, and water quality improvement. Technical assistance ensures that the resources remain healthy and productive.

### **Technical Assistance**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has helped farmers and ranchers develop more than 30,600 grazing land conservation plans covering more than 30 million acres in FY 2006. The “prescribed grazing” conservation practice was applied to nearly 9 million acres by farmers and ranchers, resulting in environmental and economic benefits for the producers and the public.

### **Grazing Land Projects**

Over 750 grazing land demonstration projects, involving 880 farms and ranches, were carried out nationwide to exhibit grazing land technologies and management in FY 2006.

### **Public Education and Awareness**

In 2006, over 1,800 education and awareness activities (grazing land workshops, field days, and tours) were conducted with over 105,000 individuals participating in the events. Over 1,700 articles were published in newspapers and magazines that were circulated to more than 9 million households. Moreover, it is estimated that 16 million people were reached with 400 radio and television spots and programs on grazing.

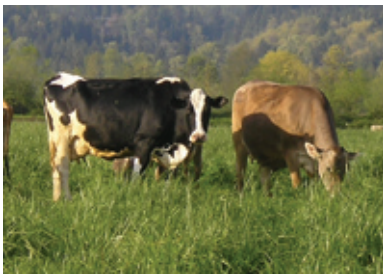




Conducting a "prescribed burn" on range-land in Oklahoma.

### Staffing and Training

Over 1,100 NRCS employees allocated the majority of their time to providing technical assistance to private landowners and activities related to grazing during FY 2006. Many of these employees are range conservationists, forage agronomists, and grazing land specialists. More than 30,000 individuals, including NRCS staff, personnel from other agencies, private grazing landowners, and managers received training in grazing land science and technology.



Dairy cows grazing a reseeded pasture in Washington.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> National Conference on Grazing Land



Nearly 1,000 ranchers, farmers, and others interested in grazing participated in the "3<sup>rd</sup> National Conference on Grazing Lands," organized by the National Steering Committee of GLCI and the Society for Range Management in St. Louis, Missouri, December 10-13, 2006. The event, which was designed to heighten awareness of the technical, economic, and environment aspects of grazing, featured more than 180 presenters, numerous exhibits, and a poster session. NRCS Chief Arlen Lancaster gave the keynote address and USDA Deputy Under Secretary Merlyn Carlson shared his vision of agriculture and grazing in the closing plenary session. NRCS was a sponsor of the event.



Endangered Nene on private grazing land in Hawaii.

### Invasive Species

USDA Under Secretary (NRE) Mark Rey announced grants totaling \$4.1 million to help farmers and ranchers manage and control invasive species affecting grazing land on July 28, 2006. Funding for the grants was provided from the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Conservation Technical Assistance Program through the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative.



Grazing Lands Coalition tour in North Dakota.

Twenty-six grants, ranging from \$50,000 to \$382,353, funded projects to control noxious weeds in: Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

*Helping People Help the Land*

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