

ABOUT NRCS: HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is a USDA agency that works with landowners through conservation planning and assistance to benefit the soil, water, air, plants, and animals for productive lands and healthy ecosystems. Working in nearly every county in the Nation, NRCS employees understand local resource concerns and challenges to assist with conservation solutions that last. Land stewardship by private landowners is critical to the health of our Nation's environment. Science and technology are critical to good conservation. NRCS experts from many disciplines come together to help landowners conserve natural resources in efficient, smart and sustainable ways. NRCS succeeds through partnerships, working closely with individual farmers and ranchers, landowners, local conservation districts, government agencies, Tribes, Earth Team volunteers and many other people and groups that care about the quality of America's natural resources. More information about the NRCS is at www.nrcs.usda.gov.

 **United States Department of Agriculture**
Natural Resources Conservation Service

ABOUT ARS: LEADING AMERICA TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE THROUGH AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND INFORMATION

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's chief scientific research agency. ARS conducts research to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and provide information access and dissemination to:

- Ensure high-quality, safe food, and other agricultural products
- Assess the nutritional needs of Americans
- Sustain a competitive agricultural economy
- Enhance the natural resource base and the environment, and
- Provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole.

More information about the ARS is at www.ars.usda.gov.

 **United States Department of Agriculture**
Agricultural Research Service

ABOUT AFGC: LEADERSHIP FOR THE FORAGE AND GRASSLAND INDUSTRY

The American Forage and Grassland Council (AFGC) is an international organization made up of 22 affiliate councils in the United States and Canada with a total individual membership of about 2,500. Its primary objective is to advance the use of forage as a prime resource for feed and for natural resource conservation. Its members represent the academic community, producers, private industry, institutes and foundations. Together, they unite in a common cause to develop the forage industry and promote the profitable production and sustainable utilization of quality forage and grasslands. More information about AFGC is at www.afgc.org.



C. JERRY NELSON

Conservation Outcomes from Pastureland and Hayland Practices Assessment, Recommendations, and Knowledge Gaps

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Assessment, Recommendations, and Knowledge Gaps

 **United States Department of Agriculture**
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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On the cover: Beef stockers grazing a mixed species pasture in a scenic area of Vermont. Photo is courtesy of NRCS.

Nelson, C.J. (ed.) 2012. *Conservation Outcomes from Pastureland and Hayland Practices: Assessment, Recommendations, and Knowledge Gaps*. Allen Press, Lawrence, Kansas.

Printed by
Allen Press, Inc.
810 E. 10th Street
Lawrence, KS 66044

Funding was provided by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, with cooperation from the USDA Agricultural Research Service, through a partnership with the American Forage and Grassland Council in support of the Conservation Effects Assessment Project.



The expressed goal of this synthesis is to inform deliberations of managers and policymakers regarding the current effectiveness and potential improvements to pastureland and hayland conservation programs. As such, this synthesis represents a scientific assessment that was reached independently of the current position or policy of the US Department of Agriculture or the United States government.

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ISBN 978-0-9849499-2-2

Print Date: December 2012

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