

## NRCS Field Offices

### Addison County

68 Catamount Park, Middlebury  
802 388-6748

### Bennington County

310 Main St., P.O. Box 505, Bennington  
802 442-2275

### Caledonia & Essex Counties

481 Summer St., St. Johns bury  
802 748-2641 or 800 862-1121

### Chittenden County

1193 South Brownell Rd., Williston  
802 865-7895 or 800 910-2035

### Orange & Washington Counties

617 Comstock Rd., Berlin  
802 828-4493

### Franklin & Grand Isle Counties

27 Fisher Pond Rd., St. Albans  
802 527-1296 or 800 717-8637

### Lamoille County

109 Professional Drive, Morrisville  
802 888-4935

### Orleans County

59 Waterfront Plaza, Newport  
802 334-6090 or 866 241-2190

### Rutland County

170 South Main St., Rutland  
800 300-6927

### Windham County

28 Vernon St., Brattleboro  
802 254-9766

### Windsor County

28 Farm Drive, White River Jct.  
802 295-7942 or 800 789-6713

### **EQIP**

#### Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EQIP provides cost-sharing assistance to achieve environmental goals on the land. Farmers can receive a payment to commit their land to permanent pasture for five years under “prescribed grazing”. Other EQIP practices include fencing, animal trails and walkways, pasture and hayland planting, watering facilities, heavy use area protection, pipeline and spring development.

### **AMA**

#### Agricultural Management Assistance

AMA provides cost share assistance to address issues such as water management, water quality, and erosion control by incorporating conservation into farming operations.

### **CTA**

#### Conservation Technical Assistance

CTA provides technical assistance to help people conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources. The program provides the technical capability, including direct conservation planning, design, and implementation assistance, that helps people plan and apply conservation on the land. This assistance does not provide cost sharing as an incentive.

### **WHIP**

#### Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program

WHIP is a voluntary program for people who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat primarily on private land. Through both technical assistance and up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to restore and manage fish and wildlife habitat. WHIP agreements between NRCS and the participant generally last from 5 to 10 years from the date the agreement is signed. Some practices include riparian forest buffers, fencing, pipelines and watering facilities.

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Natural Resources  
Conservation Service

## Have You Thought Pasture Management?

### We've Got it Covered!



Helping People Help the Land

March 2007

# Getting Started. . . . .



## Managed Grazing

Grazing is known by many names and approaches.

- ◆ rotational grazing
- ◆ grass-based farming
- ◆ management intensive grazing
- ◆ prescribed grazing

All the terms mean basically the same thing. Pasture is divided into smaller paddocks, often using portable fencing. One paddock is grazed for a specific time with a certain number of animals, while the remaining paddocks rest and recover.



## Consider The Benefits

### Economic Benefits:

- ◆ Lower feed costs, especially with corn prices rising
- ◆ Less machinery investment and repair
- ◆ Start up and maintenance costs are less
- ◆ Maintenance costs are reduced if you already have a confinement feeding system because you use it only in winter
- ◆ Grazing reduces the costs of equipment, fuel, chemicals and labor
- ◆ Forage yields can increase under rotational grazing systems

### Time Savings:

- ◆ Moving livestock is less time consuming than cutting, hauling and feeding greenchop
- ◆ Livestock spread the manure

### Environmental Benefits:

- ◆ Decreased soil erosion
- ◆ Minimal fertilizer and pesticides required
- ◆ Reduced barnyard runoff
- ◆ Reduced high soil phosphorus
- ◆ Help reverse the declining populations of grassland birds
- ◆ Pastures provide great wildlife habitat

## Convinced Yet?

You know you are ready for new pasture management techniques when you are ready to experiment with new approaches to farming. Managed pastures require creativity, good management and planning. Contact a NRCS field office located at your local USDA Service Center. They can listen to your goals and get you started on a plan that will work with your particular operation.



## For more information contact:

### **Kevin Kaija, Grazing Land Specialist**

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White River Junction, VT 05001

800 789-6713 x23 Kevin.Kaija@vt.usda.gov

<http://www.vt.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/>

### **Vermont Grass Farmers' Association**

Jennifer Colby, Outreach Coordinator

802 656 0858

[jcolby@UVM.edu](mailto:jcolby@UVM.edu)

Rachel Gilker; Pasture Technical Coordinator

[Rachel.gilker@uvm.edu](mailto:Rachel.gilker@uvm.edu)

### **Vermont Pasture Network**

<http://www.uvm.edu/~pasture/>