

# Grazing Land Management

## How NRCS Can Help

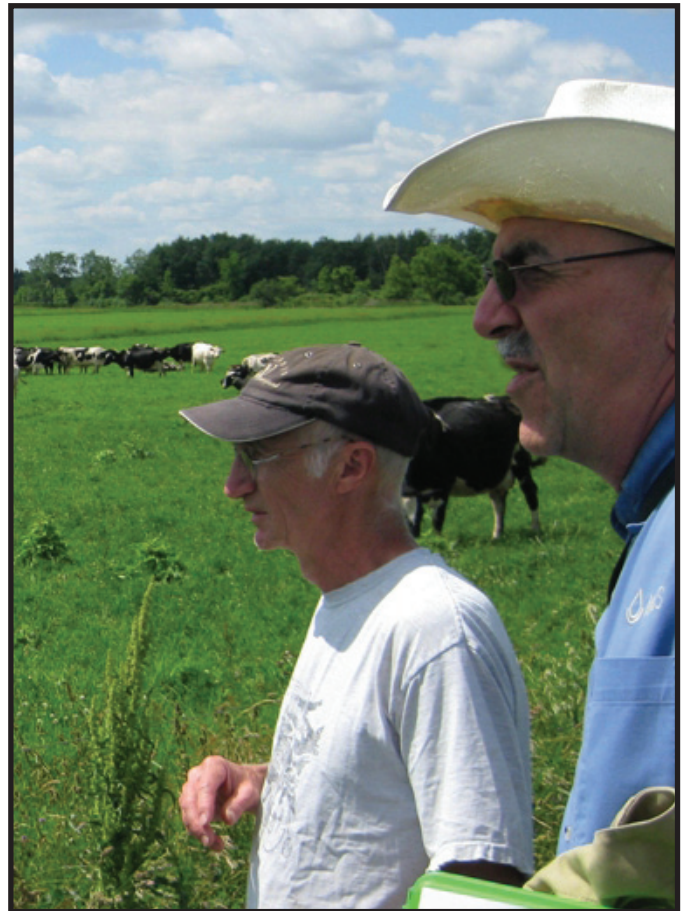
### What is Grazing Land Management?

In Wisconsin, grazing land includes permanent pasture with introduced forage species, rotated cropland planted to grass and legume species, native prairies, and grazed oak savannas. NRCS Grazing Lands Specialists can help you develop and implement a “Managed Grazing” Plan to maintain or improve your grazing lands.

### How to evaluate factors that affect your grazing land

The first step is for you and the grazing lands specialist to discuss and observe together, in the field, factors that affect grazing land management.

- Identify major plants that grow on your land.
- Discuss how these plants grow, how they respond to grazing, and how grazing can be managed to enhance the most productive plants.
- Observe various plants to understand why some plants are grazed and why others remain un-grazed.
- A grazing lands specialist will provide you with a description of each soil type on your farm and the potential forage productivity and management needs.
- Evaluate the condition of each pasture unit. This will give you an idea of how much forage is being produced in relation to how much forage the site is capable of producing.
- Discuss the possible alternatives for improving the production potential of each pasture unit.
- Calculate an annual carrying capacity based on the present condition of the pasture.
- Delineate pasture units and facilities such as lanes, watering troughs, and pipelines.
- Observe and monitor grazing land and animal changes over time and make recommendations for additional land and livestock practices.



*NRCS grazing lands specialists provide on-farm assistance and training to all interested graziers..*

### Putting Together Your Plan

You develop your managed grazing plan. You make all the decisions. The NRCS grazing lands specialist helps you understand your grazing land and provides alternatives and recommendations based on your situation.

For more information contact your local NRCS office or visit [www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov)