Livestock 360°
Southeastern New York Cooperative Extension Livestock News

Volume 4, Issue 4
Fall 2017

## In this Issue

The Pasture Management Issue (1)
Why pasture management is important
Livestock Disaster Assistance (2)
Understanding the livestock forage disaster program
Compaction (3)
Soil compaction and pasture performance
Training Cows to Eat Weeds(5)
No you didn't read that wrong...yes cows eat weeds
Multiflora Rose...A Real Thorn in Your Side (6)
Eliminating this pest from your pastures
Pasture Management Case Studies(7)
Working with nature to improve your pastures
Tools to Assess Your Pastures (9)
Grazing sticks, pasture condition score sheets, plant ID guides
Upcoming and of Note (12)
Local events
The Back Page (12)
Contacts

# The Pasture Management Issue

**All Articles by Jason Detzel, Livestock Educator Ulster County CCE unless otherwise noted**


Photo Credit: Jason Detzel

*Matching your talents and passions to the resources at your disposal is a huge advantage in any business. I find that many beginning farmers make the mistake of pursuing their dream enterprise without regard for the business and environmental advantages of their property or in themselves. If your property is mostly wooded, cutting down the trees and planting pasture may be counterproductive, so choosing a compatible enterprise will ultimately save you a lot of time, money, and frustration. Likewise, if you are working a full time job and can only farm on the weekend, a CSA with a highly productive poultry program would be take too much of your time and energy to be sustainable. On the same note, if your partner is an indoor spreadsheet loving arachnophobe, requiring them to muck out the chicken coop may lead to some discomfort and a continually dirty coop.*

*One of the best parts of my job is getting out there and visiting with other producers. Watching a business develop from a sketch on a napkin, to a business plan, all the way to actualization is an exciting process to witness. Besides figuring out what you like about farming and working with that, I find that assessment and exploitation of your unique land advantages are equally vital to this process. Because of the importance of this, we spend a lot time reviewing land resources with producers. Checking maps, and reviewing water tables, soil samples, and pasture assessments are routine aspects of these reviews, and with the changing nature of agriculture, I believe that they are vital to improving your overall*

Cornell University Cooperative Extension Ulster, Orange, Sullivan and Dutchess Counties

## Understanding the Livestock Forage Disaster Program

Did you know that the USDA has a disaster relief program for ranchers that are affected by drought? Depending on the length and severity, they will disperse payments to those that apply and provide documentation by the indicated dates. As with most government processes, the time lines are very strict so you need to be on the ball if you would like to apply. This is another reason to get to know the folks at your local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office as they are the ones who will collect, collate, and submit your paperwork. Here are some of the details of that program so that you can start planning your disaster preparedness plan for next year. We are still pretty terrible at predicting the weather, and until we get better, we are going to need all the help we can get!


Photo Credit: NRCS

The Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) offers payments to eligible livestock producers with covered livestock. The payments help with grazing losses suffered on native or improved pastureland. This can be land with permanent or planted grazing cover.

Farm Service Agency (FSA) will calculate payments equal to 1, 3, 4 or 5 times the LFP monthly payment rate. The payment rate for drought is equal to 60 percent of the lessor of the monthly feed cost. They calculate this by using the normal carrying capacity of the grazing land.

View the LFP page to get more details.

### General Program Requirements

We calculate LFP payments based on the U.S. Drought Monitor rating for your county. If you suffered losses on eligible grazing or pasture land you own or lease, you may qualify for assistance.

The eligible livestock that would normally graze your land may include:

- Alpacas, llamas
- Beef & dairy cattle, beefalo, buffalo
- Deer, elk, reindeer
- Emus, Poultry
- Equine, goats, sheep, swine

### As a livestock producer you must:

Own, cash or share lease, or be a contract grower of eligible livestock during the 60 calendar days before the beginning date of a qualifying drought or fire.

- Provide pastureland or grazing land for eligible livestock, including cash-rented land that is either:
- Physically located in an eligible county, or
- Managed by a federal agency that has prohibited you from grazing because of fire.

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## Soil Compaction and Pasture Performance

**Adam Speir – Madison County Cooperative Extension Agent – Agriculture and Natural Resources**

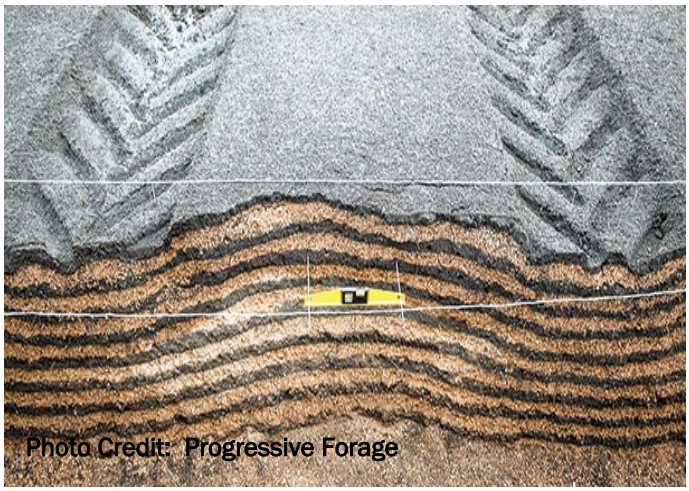
Photo Credit: Progressive Forage

A healthy soil is the basis for any agricultural production. Without a healthy and productive soil, our efforts at management will prove inefficient at best and ineffective at worst. Soil compaction is one issue that can be common to forage producers. What are the "root" causes of soil compaction, and how do we effectively manage this issue so that our forage systems are sustainably productive?

Compaction is the result of repeated movement and traffic on soils, either by equipment or animals. Typically, soil compaction becomes an issue on saturated or wet soils, but compaction can also affect dry soils. In pastures and hayfields specifically, compaction most often affects the top 3-4 inches of soil which directly impacts root movement and development of our forages. But compaction can also occur and greater depths in the soil. Often known as a tillage pan, or "hard pan", this is the result of frequent passes with tillage implements in attempts to relieve surface soil compaction. This hard pan will only allow root and water movement in areas above the hard pan, usually in the top 6-8 inches. There are also sub-surface hardpans, which are the result of downward movement of clay particles and minerals in the soil until they accumulate into a dense layer.

Compaction results in a multitude of problems that impact forage producers. Compaction affects the physical properties of soils, which reduces the pore spaces that allow for air, water, nutrient, and root movement. When these pore spaces are eliminated, it reduces water infiltration which not only reduces soil water storage capacity and resistance to drought, but also leads to increased surface erosion in rainfall events, or water ponding. With reduced porosity, plant root systems are stunted, which also reduces drought resistance, and results in poor stands and poor competitiveness against weed pressure and other stresses.

Compaction also affects the biological properties of soil. Healthy soils are a thriving ecosystem, with bacteria, earthworms, fungi, and other organisms that help break down organic materials and recycle nutrients. These organisms exist in the pore spaces within healthy soils, so soil compaction directly impacts their ability to function. With compacted soils, organic matter is reduced, as well as overall soil health.

Preventing compaction and promoting organic matter is important for many reasons. Organic matter serves as a storage system for nutrients and water. This organic material, which is a combination of decomposed roots, fungi, manure, microbes, complex organic molecules, and many other components, is high in surface area, which provides sites for nutrients to be held in place rather than leaching through the soil profile. Having material so high in surface area also allows it to act like a sponge, holding moisture and reducing drought stresses.

Determining if your soils are compacted may be as easy as making visual observations of fields or noticing plant rooting depths. If plant roots are concentrated in the top few inches, than compaction may be an issue. You can also use tools such as penetrometer, which is a metal rod with a pressure sensor on the tip that measures the amount of force required to drive through the soil. Soils that are compacted will have a higher pressure reading and will be harder to push into the ground. It should be noted that dry soils will naturally be harder, but this doesn't necessarily mean they are compacted. Wait until soils are wet or saturated before attempting to gauge soil compaction with a penetrometer.

If your soils are compacted, aeration is often seen as the solution. However, in forage and hayfield applications, research has shown that aeration is, at best, a temporary solution. Studies comparing fields with aerated vs. non

*Continued on next page*

*(Compaction Continued.)*

improvements are usually more a result in tillage or disturbance that releases nutrients from organic matter. Results from studies in the past have shown that aeration and deep tillage could alleviate compaction in severe cases, but studies have also shown that these methods do not help, or can even make things worse. With this variability in benefits, the costs of aeration may not be a worthy investment.

The best way to deal with compaction is to implement practices that prevent it from ever becoming a serious issue. These management techniques will not only help prevent compaction, but will also provide other production benefits. The keys to preventing compaction are to maintain a healthy and vigorous plant root system and prevent constant or consistent livestock/equipment traffic.

Maintaining a healthy and vigorous root system is directly related to the amount of time between grazing or cutting of grasses. Whenever grass is cut or grazed, the plants take energy out of the root system to regrow the foliage above-ground. If pastures are continuously grazed, or hayfields are cut too short or too often, grasses will be over-stressed and have very short root systems that cannot work down into the soil profile to add organic matter and contribute to healthy soil structure. Livestock producers should seriously consider grazing management that allows pastures to rest after grazing that allows root systems to maintain their condition and allows soils to add organic matter. When it comes to maintaining a healthy root system, soil fertility is also important. Soil sampling and fertility testing will help you determine if forages are receiving what they need to be productive.

Reducing livestock traffic and equipment movement will help prevent compaction issues. Livestock can exert as much force on soils over time as heavy equipment. Reducing foot traffic goes back to grazing management. When cows are pulled off and moved to another paddock rather than continuously on one pasture, soils are allowed time to preserve some of their structure and maintain pore space. Producers also have to consider soil conditions related to weather. Soils are more easily compacted in wet conditions, so keeping cows or equipment off of bottomlands or areas that would be wet will help mitigate damage.

Compaction is a real and serious concern for forage and livestock producers. Soil types can play some part in this, with heavier, clay soils more likely to suffer from compaction than sandier soils. But management plays a large role in preventing compaction from becoming a serious concern. Promoting practices that increase soil health and soil organic matter will be the best way to prevent compaction from reducing your farm's performance.

Originally Published in UGA Forage Team Newsletter December, 2015

Take a minute to check out the team's blog for more excellent information on pasture and forage topics

UGA Forage Extension Blog


# 5 Training Cows to Eat Weeds

## Yes Cows Eat Weeds


Photo Credit: On Pasture Magazine

The best The Northeast Pasture Consortium (NEPC) 2010 Annual Meeting was where I first heard Kathy Voth. She presented her research on training cows to eat weeds, her work that began in earnest in 2004. Prior to that, she had been sitting in on classes and reading Dr. Fred Provenza's work at Utah State University in animal behavior. She presented some of her work at the Northeast Grasstravaganza in Binghamton in 2008. Since then, she has continued to teach cattle this concept in the west and across the country.

Disclaimer: When I refer to livestock, I am referring to ruminant livestock. That does not include horses! The biggest hurdle with the concept of four-legged weed control is sometimes the human mindset. A weed is any plant out of its proper place. That does not denote poor nutritive value. Kathy has run forage analyses on weed specimens and they tend to be high in protein when vegetative.
So, here are the basics:

**Step 1: Know your weed**
Make sure you know what weed you are training your livestock to eat. Weeds (and plants) have toxins in them; some weeds are poisonous. Don't train your livestock to eat poisonous weeds! Begin by researching what toxin is in the weed. Cornell's Department of Animal Science has a basic web site: http://www.ansci.cornell.edu/plants/ This will provide you Latin and common names and the toxin and species affected. Other web sites are out there as well. Kathy strongly suggests getting your hands on "A Guide to Plant Poisoning of Animals in North America", by Anthony P. Knight and Richard Walter. I have this book and it provides complete descriptions of the toxins present in weeds you may target. It has a hefty price tag, but worth the price in the long run.
Focus on one weed for training purposes. Later, when out in the pasture, the cattle will be more apt to try other weeds. Cattle will pay attention to "post-ingestive feedback". They eat a weed and the brain registers how they feel. If it's not good, they won't eat what made them ill. If it makes them feel good, they will eat it again. Also, toxin levels can change throughout the growing season. This is not a failsafe system, so that's why you need to know your weed.


Cow Eating Goldenrod
Photo Credit: Carole Soule

**Step 2: Choose your trainees and training location**
Your practice pasture should include a patch of the target weed plus some others as well as their "good" pasture.
It is best to train a manageable number of young females; they are more apt to try new things since they don't know any better! Once they are trained, they can later train their offspring and herd mates. If you don't have heifers to train, work with cow-calf pairs. It's also best to work with tame cattle. They need to know you and trust you since you are the one that will be doing the training.
If your cattle are used to coming to you, training can occur in a pasture. This makes it simpler by having water and feed already there. They can also be training in a barnyard enclosure, but they will need feed and water there. One thing for sure, they need a familiar area to reduce stress; they will be more apt to try something new.

**Step 3: Make the unfamiliar seem familiar**
Now we are getting down to the details of the training. Kathy has developed a training process that occurs over 10 days, depending on if your cattle are fast or slow learners.
Begin by purchasing 8 different kinds of feed with one of those being something they are familiar with. This will not be their sole food supply, just a treat. Kathy uses 50 pounds per 25 "trainees" per feeding. Place the feed in tubs shared by the cattle. This increases competition among the cattle to clean up the feed.
Day one begins with the familiar feed fed morning and night.

*Continued on Pg. 10*

# Getting the Multiflora Rose out of your Pastures


Multiflora Rose Bush
Photo Credit: National Park Service

We all see it, and it's especially bad in the winter months when the stems of the multiflora rose rise above the rest of the pasture like giant tumbleweeds. Considered an invasive in New York State, this plant, like many other invasives, was purposely introduced to serve as a living fence. It would seem that this is the perfect pasture invader. Able to reproduce from seeds that remain viable in the soil for 10 to 20 years, by layering where the plants grow new roots when their stems make contact with the soil surface, and the fact that it needs to be defoliated from 4-6 times for consecutive seasons to effectively kill the plant, this plant can quickly become the scourge of your pasture.

Fortunately there are some tried and true methods to rid your pastures of these thorny invaders. Prevention is usually the best medicine but in this case prevention is difficult. Because it is so prolific, thrives in a range of pH, and because the seeds are often dispersed by birds, the best prevention is to keep your soil healthy through good grazing practices. But even the best management won't prevent this plant from being a thorn in your side, so let's move on to the best ways to eliminate them.

As with most things on the farm, there are a few ways to tackle the problem depending on your management and your overall goals. It is up to you to decide which treatment fits into your whole farm plan, your wallet, and your resources. Obviously, organic operations will shy away from chemical treatments and for others, the prospect of running a goat herd is not what some people would call manageable.

The first and most common treatment is mechanical control. This requires you to brushog the bushes from 4 to 6 times a season for at least two consecutive seasons. That's a lot of diesel, a lot of time, and a lot of compaction on your pasture soils, so this may not be the best option unless you are already out on the pastures with the tractor. The other mechanical method is to dig the bushes out, but because they can regrow from the roots that are left in the ground, this is not really an effective option.

Biological control, or the use of other plants or animals to feed or denude the plant, is an option for some invasive species but not in this case. Although there are some insects that prey on rose bushes, it would be difficult to sequester them in enough numbers to significantly impact the plants. Remember this is an organism that will continue to survive after being mowed to the ground six times in one season; a few leaves eaten here and there will not impact the plant sufficiently to destroy it. There is some hope in the form of a pathogenic virus that is infecting the plants in the Virginias and Pennsylvania, but has yet to reach New York State. This virus kills the plants in about two years but it is sensitive to environmental conditions and may never naturally make its way to our neck of the woods.

If you already have sheep or goats on your farm it may be possible to fence them up near the plants to defoliate and eventually kill the bushes. Like mowing, this method will require repeated treatments throughout the year to destroy the plants. The recommended stocking rates depend on the area you are utilizing and the class of animals you keep. It is always best to utilize dry animals or classes of livestock that are not at their nutritional peak when purposely limiting the variety of forage, as would be the case here. This method is both natural and effective but will require repeated defoliations by the ruminants for at least 4 consecutive seasons to be effective.

Chemical herbicide is a controversial method to some but there is a time and place for this tool and it is very effective at controlling this particular plant. Anytime you are considering utilizing chem-

*Continued on Pg. 8*

# Working with Nature to Improve your Pastures


Frost Seeded Clover
Photo Credit: NRCS

It's that time of year when you begin to look at your pastures and wonder if anything will ever grow out there again. Although there are some wisps of green poking out through the thatch, if your pastures are anything like mine they are a sad combination of mud and the lush memories of last years mixed species. First off, let me assure you that the grass will grow again, the birds will return, and that your critters are going to get out. My second point is that this is time to think about strengthening your sward and improving your pasture by adding some seeds to the mix.

Over the years I have learned that there are two ways to do things to the land. You can either work with nature or you can work against it. In the against category we have farmer Peg who has decided that she is going to plant the newest and greatest cool and warm season grass packet fresh outta the research facilities in Brazil. The studies are in and these pasture grasses, when drilled into the pasture with just the perfect amount of moisture, combined with a warmer than usual June, will provide umpteen pounds of forage per acre and develop her flerd (sheep flock combined with cow herd) into a true monster of production, allowing her to start payments on his new ATV and be the talk of the auction barns for years to come.

So Peg buys her seeds, prepares all of her pastures by tilling and getting the seed beds to the exact specifications. She drills to the prescribed depths and like everyone else she sits back and hopes the weather cooperates… but we all know it doesn't. It is a wetter than usual year and many of the drilled seeds sprout very well but are hit hard by fungal and bacterial diseases. As these newly drilled seeds begin to die, weeds start to take over the tilled soil, shading out the planted seeds and slowly taking over all of his fields. When Peg prepped and tilled her soil she also destroyed much of the native biota in the ground. This caused a top down collapse in the health of the soil and allowed those species that enter first into the succession of disturbance to thrive and begin the process anew. These flagship species are what we would normally call weeds but I have a feeling they see themselves a pioneers.

Now not all of Peg's seeds were affected and he does have some pretty nice patches of new grass growing on hier-property but without the summer heat that these species are accustomed to in their native Brazil, they quickly lose vigor come the first hint of cold in September and she is only able to graze them once this season with no capability to stockpile any of it for winter.

Now Farmer Fred has different approach. He is not a fan of sitting on his tractor all day and he decides that instead of developing a seed bed and deep drilling seeds into his pastures he is going to improve his sward by seeding native grasses and legumes on top of the soil. This is referred to as frost seeding and it is a concept that mimics natural phenomena. Plants tend to make a lot of seed at the end of the year because not much of that seed will survive to germinate and grow. Some will be eaten by voles under the winter snow, some will germinate early to be munched on by the starving deer, and some will be taken by fungal or bacterial predation.

What Fred has on his side is that he is going to mimic this natural phenomenon. Frost seeding involves broadcasting seeds over the snow or on early spring or late fall ground when the nights are still below freezing and the days are in thaw temperatures. This freeze thaw cycle draws the seeds down into the soil where they are ready to germinate when the spring warm and wet is upon us. Fred also has the advantage of broadcasting on foot and avoid making ruts or compacting the soil with his tractor. To make matters better, Fred has chosen to seed native, perennial grasses and legumes onto his pastures. These are species that are well established and proven to thrive in

*(Continued on page 8)*

this area and climate. By using native grasses that have a record of performance in his climate he has forced the most important factor in his seed establishment to be seed to soil contact. Ideally his pastures will have been eaten or mowed down at the end of the season to allow the seeds to fall through the thatch and contact the bare dirt. This is crucial to high germination rates and along with timing, the largest factors in the success of frost seeding.

So the grasses are finally growing on Fred's place and although he didn't get the germination rate that Joe did by drilling the seeds into the ground, he has much better coverage and grow out because the native grasses and legumes hold court over their usual areas where these plants were tilled under in Peg's seed bed preparation. Fred has also saved some serious money by not running his tractor over the acreage prepping the seed beds.

This has been an awful lot to get this point across but there it is. Working with nature and your particular climate can save you some serious headaches and money. There is a time and a place for all different techniques to re seed your farm, improve your perennial sward, or graze your animals, but working with nature as opposed to against it will always be advantageous to your system. This is what Fred has done. He has mimicked the natural conditions in his area to accomplish the same goals. Our perennial grasses and legumes spend the summer making seeds, which are dispersed in the fall and are drawn into the soil by the freeze and thaw cycle of winter to emerge in the summer and begin the cycle anew. I encourage you to go out and get a broadcaster and a nice legume heavy seed mix and do some frost seeding this year. Try and let some these areas go to seed and disperse their own seeds across your acreage at no further cost to you. This simple and effective technique mirrors the natural process, it allows you to walk your property and think on what areas are in need of improvement, and if you are also utilizing progressive grazing practices, you can be sure that this technique will pay off for years to come.

There are many techniques and preferences when frost seeding pastures. Many farmers utilize no till seeders to drill these seeds at shallow depths when conditions are right. But some pastures are too wet or too dry for that work. My advice is to watch the video, read the fact sheets, talk to your seed dealers and watch the weather to decide what and how is best for your particular property.

Here are some links to frost seeding guides

Excellent short video on how to frost seed with a tractor or broadcast by hand

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*Multiflora rose (Con)*

ical control you must carefully consider all of the available options. There are many different chemicals and application methods so these decisions are best made after consultation with your local extension agent and or NRCS representative. The list of types and applications is too extensive to print here but I have added a link to the various treatments at the end of the article. In my personal experience, I have had excellent results utilizing glyphosate as a foliar treatment during the growing season. Personal protective equipment, safe handling procedures, and weather conditions all factor into the decision of when and how to apply.

There are many different options and methods to knock back the multiflora roses from your pastures. I did not say eliminate because despite its nefarious existence, this plant serves a purpose in the overall pasture profile. It may be an invasive, but it has found a way to exploit certain pasture conditions in order to thrive. The best way to fight invasives is to measure, monitor, and treat as necessary. For some people, the threshold for treatment will be a single plant, for others it will involve a larger infestation, but no matter what, we are all fighting the same foe, just in a different way.

# Tools to Assess Your Pastures

## Tools to Evaluate and Identify Pasture Plants

No matter how good of a grazier you are, determining the health and composition of pastures is a difficult endeavor. To make matters worse, many of us are utilizing visual clues to make decisions about pasture management and we all know how unreliable our eyes and memories can be. Fortunately, there are some tools out there that can help to take the guess work out of the decision making process and help our deceptive eyes to take measurements and make decisions in order to improve our pasture quality.

Grass Guru Dave Roberts
Photo Credit: NRCS

The grazing stick is a tool that utilizes rough in field measurements to estimate the amount of available dry matter, average rotation rates, pasture growth rates, and when to graze and when to rest your stands. The grazing sticks are specific to each growing region of the United States and are an excellent way to understand the growth rates and recovery of your pastures. This tool is invaluable for beginning graziers and I find that it is really handy to have in the field to open up manure patties or chase hornets away. Contact your local NRCS office to inquire about getting your own. Below is a link that includes detailed instructions on how to use the pasture stick and a video of it in action.

Grazing Stick Instructions

Grazing Stick Video

The Pasture Condition Score Sheet allows producers to evaluate current pasture productivity and stability of its plant community, soil, and water resources. This score sheet will also help identify what treatments, if any, are required to improve a pasture's productivity and protect soil, water, and air quality.

While the grazing stick provides instant feedback about the amount of forage available the score sheet can be used to rate different pastures in a single growing season or monitor a single pasture over a period years. Below is a link to the score sheet and instructions for its usage.

Pasture Score Sheet

Another tool that has become indispensable to me is plant identification books. It is easy to just classify all plants in the pasture as grasses but there are several major classes of forage that make up the majority of pasture plants. There are warm season and cool season grasses, native and invasives, and almost all of them can be feed for your livestock. One really good online guide is brought to us by the Northeast Pasture Consortium (NEPC). This organization is an alliance of graziers, extension and research dedicated to improving pasture management in the northeastern United States and they have some great resources on their website including a pasture plant guide.

NEPC website

NEPC guide to pasture plant identification

Another great resource for plant identification is the University of Wisconsin books on pasture grasses and legumes. These are really handy because you can have them in your pocket and identify plants while in your fields. You'd be surprised how much easier it is to figure out what something is when it is right in front of you as opposed to when you are back at home looking at your computer screen.

*(Continued on page 10)*

Day two through 4 a new feed fed morning and night. Day 5 skip the morning feed. At night introduce a weed with the feed. You will need to harvest it from a pasture. Days 6 through 8 continue this, reducing the feed and increasing the weed. Close observation is necessary to ensure the training is working. Progress is occurring when they run to you when you call; they are waiting for you to come and they clean up their feed with the weed quicker each day.

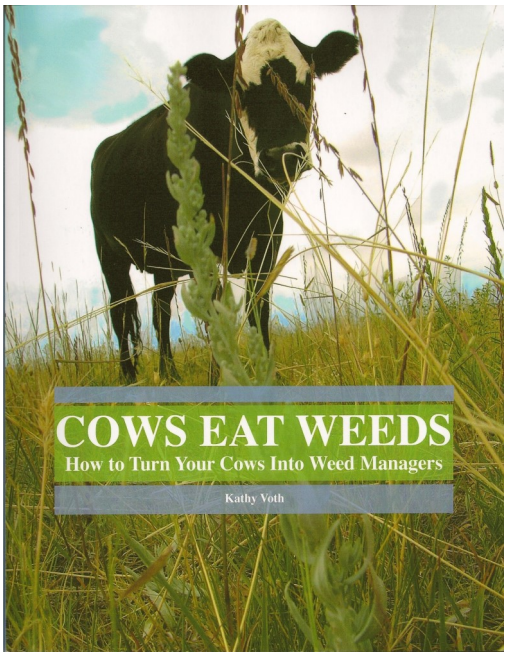
**Step 4: Practice in pasture**

Your practice pasture should include a patch of the target weed plus some others as well as their "good" pasture. Give the trainees enough pasture to last them 1-3 days. Give them additional training pastures until you feel they have mastered the training.

After that, let them join the rest of the herd and see how well they train the rest of the herd!

This is a brief overview of Kathy's process that she has developed and refined over several years. She has put her knowledge together on web site, livestock for landscapes, or in a book, "Cows Eat Weeds". The book goes into depth on the background information and has worksheets to developing your own training plan.

Nancy Glazier is a Small Farms & Livestock Specialist for the Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock and Field Crops Team of Cornell Cooperative Extension. You can reach her at 315-536-5123 or nig3@cornell.edu.




Click for link to book Cows Eat Weeds

Click on Links Below for

Specific Pasture Based Management Publications

On Pasture


*Tools for Pastures (continued)*

Identifying pasture grasses

Identifying pasture legumes

So you've got the tools, you've got the pasture, now you just need the data. Monitoring your pasture quality, composition, and forage is the first step in making improvements to your land.

# Upcoming and of Note 11

SMALL SCALE CHARCUTERIE WORKSHOP November 6th

This one day Small Scale Charcuterie Workshop is geared towards home owners, or anyone who loves meat and wants to learn how to make sausages, Pate de Campagne, Spuma, and Rillettes. Participants will learn what breeds, and cuts of meats can and should be used in the charcuterie process, as well as how to create different blends with flavors and spice

http://harvestny.cce.cornell.edu/event.php?id=20

Beginning Poultry Production Webinars November 7th through December 12th

Many new farmers get started with poultry, because it's a relatively low-investment enterprise with a fairly quick turnaround time from investment to revenue. The margins can be slim though, and farmers need to develop the necessary skillset in order to produce a product that is both safe and profitable. This course will help you get started with all the basic information to build a successful poultry enterprise

http://smallfarms.cornell.edu/online-courses/course-descriptions/poultry-production-bf-130/

Northeast Pasture Consortium Conference January 25 and 26 2018

The 2018 annual conference will be held in Latham, NY at the Century House Hotel and Conference Center on January 25 and 26 prior to the Winter Green-Up Grass-Fed Beef Conference being held on January 27 at the same location.
Your Executive Committee and other members are putting together the program for 2018 annual meeting. The December News Update will have the registration form and agenda. Look for it and the Winter Green-Up Grass-Fed Beef Conference details in that News Update.

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## Save the date for our Tenth Annual Winter Green-Up Grass-Fed Grazing Conference.

Green-up 2018 is on Saturday January 27, 2018 from 9-4pm (registration starts at 8am). It will be held at The Century House, 997 New Loudon Road, Latham, NY.

Speaker Include:

**Brian Maloney—** Is a custom grazer, grassfed beef and lamb producer, direct marketer. Brian has been exclusively grazing stock since the early 1990's in western Quebec, raising black and red Angus bee

**MacKenzie Waro** is the Livestock Processing and Marketing Specialist with the CCE Harvest New York team. MacKenzie works with processors, producers and consumers, helping identify markets and concepts for marketing of livestock products.

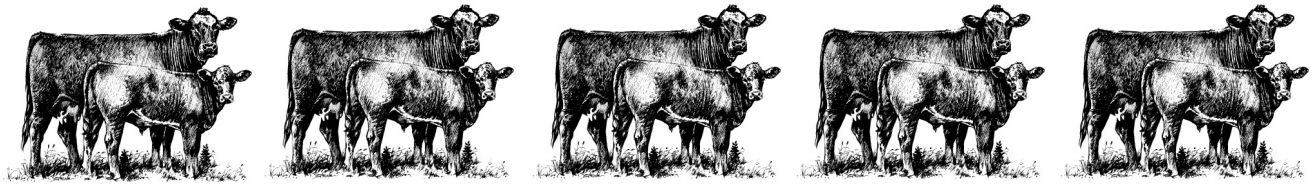
**Sandra Kay Miller** is a grass-based farmer who has been actively raising livestock for over 30 years. She is the owner and operator of Painted Hand Farm, a diversified livestock farm raising pastured poultry, sheep, goats, pigs and calves which are all direct-marketed in the mid-Atlantic region.

Click Here for Registration Information

- Certify that you have suffered a grazing loss because of qualifying drought or fire.
- File a timely acreage report for your loss claim.

**Application Process**

For grazing losses in 2016 and future calendar years, you must submit an application for payment. You must apply within 30 calendar days after the calendar year end of the loss year. Submit your application and all supporting documents to your local FSA office.



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# Contact Information

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County
2715 Route 44, Suite 1
Millbrook, NY 12545
(845) 677-8223
Jennifer Fimbel, Livestock Educator
jlf20@cornell.edu
Stephanie Radin, Agriculture Program Leader
sradin@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Orange County
18 Seward Ave.
Middletown, NY 10940
(845) 344-1234
Rachel Moody, Equine and Livestock and Dairy Educator
ram72@cornell.edu
Maire Ullrich, Agriculture Program Leader
mru2@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County
Extension Education Center
64 Ferndale-Loomis Rd.
Liberty, NY 12754
(845) 292-6180
Michelle Lipari, Livestock Educator mml249@cornell.edu
Melinda Meddaugh, Agriculture Program Leader
mm2592@cornell.edu

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County
232 Plaza Rd.
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 340-3990
Jason Detzel, Livestock Educator
Christian Malsatzki, Agriculture Program Leader
cpm78@cornell.edu


WEEKLY LIVESTOCK UPDATE

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