



PARTNERS LIST 2006

Conservation Partnership for Grazing in the Chicopee Basin



Coordinated by the
New England Small Farm Institute
413-323-4531
www.smallfarm.org

A. Partners offering technical services, events, and guidance on good grazing

1. Crop Production Services (CPS) - Private consulting firm provides individual on-farm consultations and advice to landowners/ farmers; focus on productivity and profitability. Sells soil testing, fertilizer, and forage quality testing services for pasture, hay and forage production.

Contact: Cathy Shugg (413) 665-2115 or 1-800-680-0277 cathy@cpsouthdeerfield.com
www.cropproductionservices.com

2. graze_it_up - Internet "listserv" for grazers in southern New England to share information about events, and grazing techniques. Subscribe via the internet: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/graze_it_up/

Contact: Barbara Miller (413) 253-4380

3. New England Small Farm Institute (NESFI) - Non-profit with programs for small scale and new farmers. Farm planning courses. occasional pasture walks, demonstrations, phone consultations; Farmer Research Groups on pasture topics. Library with books and periodicals on grazing management. Publications: "On-Farm Strategies to Protect Water Quality"; "Farming in Wetland Resource Areas."

Contact: Sue Ellen Johnson (413) 323-4531 sejohnson@smallfarm.org www.smallfarm.org

4. Northeast Organic Farming Association, Massachusetts Chapter (NOFA/Mass) - Educates members and the general public on the benefits of local, organic agriculture through conferences, workshops and extension services. Holds annual summer (in Amherst) and winter (in Barre) conferences for hobby and commercial farmers that often include pasture and grazing workshops.

Contact: Ed Stockman (413) 634-5024 stockman@bcn.net www.nofamass.org

5. Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NESARE) Farmer Educator for Grazing - Experienced grazer/dairy farmer provides individual phone consultation, and small or large group programs as requested, free of charge. Active throughout the NE states, based locally in Colrain. NESARE also funds a competitive Farmer-Grower Grant and other research and education programs.

Contact: Larry Shearer (413) 624-3978 ll-shear@mtdata.com www.uvm.edu/~nesare

6. USDA Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) - A program of NRCS (office in Amherst). Currently coordinating a series of state-wide pasture walks/farm tours and an annual grazing conference open to the public. State-level budget to promote grazing lands management.

Contact: Barbara Miller (413) 253-4380 barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/glci

7. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Federal agency offering an array of programs for redress of NR issues. District Offices (Worcester District (Holden) and Hampshire/Hampden (Hadley) offer services and funding. Staff work one-on-one with individual farmers to improve grazing and NR management on commercial farms. Provide guidance and funding through several cost share programs to make environmental improvements (e.g. water access, fencing, wildlife habitat) according to NRCS technical standards. Develops comprehensive grazing plans for established farms.

Contact: **Holden:** Ron Thompson (508) 829-4477 ron.thompson@ma.usda.gov or Bonnie Booth (508) 829-0168 x5 bbooth@ma.nrcs.usda.gov

Contact: **Hadley:** Dwane Coffey (413) 585-1000 x101 dwane.coffey@ma.usda.gov www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov/

8. UMASS (University of Massachusetts) Extension Crops-Dairy-Livestock Team - Offers occasional educational presentations to groups about pasture and hay production throughout the state. Offers manure and nutrient management planning services to individual dairy farmers in collaboration with USDA-NRCS. Provides phone advice. Occasional newsletter. Soil test kits and laboratory.

Contact: Stephen Herbert (413) 545-0255 sherbert@pssci.umass.edu www.umass.edu/cdl/

Check for our Resource Notebook at your local library or town hall.

**Matrix of Partner Technical Grazing Services:
Conservation Partnership for Grazing in the Chicopee Basin**

	1. Crop Production Services	2. graze_it_up Internet list	3. NE Small Farm Institute	4. NE Organic Farming Assn	5. NE Sustainable Ag Grazing Educator	6. USDA GLCI	7. USDA Natural resources Conservation	8. UMASS Extension
TECHNICAL GRAZING TOPICS								
Pasture management	+	+	+		++	+	+	+
Livestock management		+	+	+	+	+		+
Feed management		+	+	+	+			+
Water systems		+			+	+	+	
Water quality management		+				++	+	+
Wildlife or habitat management		+				++	+	
Manure management	+	+	+		+	+	+	+
Composting		+	+	+			+	
Hay production	+	+		+	+			++
Fencing		+			+	+	+	
Farm management	+	+	+		+	+		
LIVESTOCK USE/PURPOSE								
Dairy	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+
Fiber	+	+		+	+	+	+	+
Meat	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Eggs		+	+	+		+	+	
Breeding stock	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Pleasure	+	+	+	+				+
TYPE OF GRAZING ANIMAL								
Sheep	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Goats	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Cattle	+	+	+	+	++	+	+	+
Poultry		+	+	+		+	+	
Horses	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Alpacas, Llamas	+	+				+	+	++
Swine		+		+		+	+	
Mixed - multiple species		+	+	+	+	+	+	

++ MAJOR EMPHASIS

+ EXPERTISE / PROGRAMS offered

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B. Partners supportive of good grazing

9. Bakewell Reproductive Center - Heritage breed (Devon and Angus) bull and semen sales, production programs and management consultation for beef selected for performance on grass.

Contact: Ridge Shinn (413) 477-6500 www.bakewellrepro.com

10. Bay State Trail Riders Association (BSTRA) - Volunteers organize and advocate for horse owners/trail users. Multiple sports events throughout the year.

Contact: Becky Kalagher bstra@charter.net www.bstra.org/ No phone calls.

11. Chicopee River Watershed Association - Citizens group concerned with the natural environments of the Chicopee River watershed and striving to improve river water quality of the Chicopee River.

Contact: Rick Dunderdale (413) 283-6041 rickd@greensuit.com No website.

12. CISA - Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture - Promotes "locally grown" agricultural products to consumers and assists farmers with marketing in the Pioneer Valley including those in the western Chicopee Basin.

Contact: Annie Cheatham (413) 665-7100/ (413) 665-7101 annie@buylocalfood.com www.buylocalfood.com

13. Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC) - Environmental advocacy organization that works for the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of the Connecticut River and its tributaries. The Chicopee River Basin is the largest sub-watershed of the Connecticut River Watershed. Non-profit membership organization founded in 1952.

Contact: Andrea Donlon, (413) 772-2020 x 205 adonlon@ctriver.org www.ctriver.org

14. Crop and Carrot - Equine tack, equipment, feed, and supplies in Spencer.

Contact: Crop and Carrot (508) 885-0255. No email or website.

15. Cross Country Veterinary Service - On-farm veterinary services for livestock and horse farms.

Contact: Bonnie Smith D.V.M. (413) 283-6610 bsmithxc@comcast.net

16. Devon Lane Farm Supply - Sells and repairs farm equipment and parts.

Contact: Will Shattuck (413) 323-6336 devonlane@charter.net www.devon-lane.com

17. First Pioneer Farm Credit - Lends money to landowners for farming or other rural enterprises. Also provides other financially related services such as record keeping, tax preparation, appraisals and consulting. Regional offices in Enfield, Connecticut; Dayville, Connecticut; and Bedford, New Hampshire.

Contact: Greg Melnik (860) 741-4380 gregory.melnik@firstpioneer.com www.firstpioneer.com

18. Hardwick Beef - Buys 100% grass-fed beef on the hoof for marketing to high-end restaurants and supermarkets. Beef must be raised according to a standard protocol and meet company's quality standards.

Contact: (413) 477-6500 michael@hardwickbeef www.hardwickbeef.com

19. Hardwick Farmers Cooperative Exchange - Sells pasture seed, fencing, livestock and horse feed, hay, and other farming supplies and equipment to cooperative members and the public.

Contact: Mike Pellegrino (413) 477-6913 No email or website.

20. Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR) - Administers the state's Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) farmland protection program. Runs the Agricultural Environmental Enhancement Program (AEEP) to provide funds to individual established commercial farms to redress environmental problems, including those related to grazing (paralleling the NRCS-EQIP program). Offers a composting program and agricultural business training.

Contacts: APR: Barbara Hopson (413) 545-0179 or Michelle Padula (617) 626-1758. AEEP: Gerard Kennedy (617) 626-1773. Composting: Bill Blanchard (617) 626-1709. Business Plans: Rick Chandler (413) 577-0459. www.mass.gov/agr/

21. Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) - State agency charged with managing use of public lands and water resources. Monitors and protects the water quality of the Quabbin Reservoir (office in Belchertown).

Contact: Lisa Gustavsen MA DCR (413) 323-7221 lisa.gustavsen@state.ma.us www.mass.gov/dcr/

22. Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Watershed Planning - Creates standards and assesses watersheds for water quality. Developing a pathogen reduction program to reduce bacterial counts in streams/ponds. Fact sheets on horse manure management. The DEP Wetlands Program backstops Conservation Commissions as they enforce protection of wetlands, surface water and natural habitats associated with grazing.

Contact: Alice Rojko (508) 849-4001 alice.rojko@state.ma.us www.mass.gov/dep/brp/wm/wmhome.htm
www.mass.gov/dep/brp/wm/tmdls.htm

23. Massachusetts Federation of Sheep Associations - Organizes annual sheep and wool festival. Monthly meetings.

Contact: Tom Colyer (978) 928-5175 tcolyer@aol.com

24. Massachusetts 4-H Program - Conducts statewide programs, seasonal camps and clinics, and coordinates local clubs to train youth (ages 5-18 years) in animal science. Training in basic care and husbandry, record keeping, showing, and heritage breeds. Participants do not need to have pastures or live on farms.

Contact: Carrie Chickering-Sears UMASS Extension (413) 549-3257 ccsears@umext.umass.edu www.mass4H.org

25. USDA Resource Conservation & Development Councils - USDA program that helps local groups identify issues and find the resources to improve the environment, conserve natural resources, and develop economic opportunities.

Patriot RC&D covers towns in central and eastern Chicopee Basin. **Berkshire Pioneer** covers towns in the western basin.

Contact: Stephanie Wilsen (978) 692-1904 x 4 stephanie.wilsen@ma.usda.gov www.patriotrcd.org

Berkshire-Pioneer RC&D covers towns in the western and central Chicopee Basin

Contact: Darlene Monds (413-256-1607) darlene.monds@ma.usda.gov <http://members.aol.com/berkpiorcd/>

26. Quaboag Valley Community Development Corporation (QV CDC) - Provides business loans to unbankable entities, including farmers. Offers business planning courses, seminars and peer group trainings. Provides a full curriculum of computer courses with an on-site training option. Programs include tourism development, financial literacy, brownfields study, and commercial development.

Contact: Susan Rutherford (413) 283-3003 susan@qvcdc.com

27. USDA Farm Service Agency - FSA - Makes direct and guaranteed farm ownership and operational loans to commercial family-sized farmers who cannot obtain commercial credit from a commercial lender. FSA loans may be used to purchase land, livestock used in the production of food or fiber, equipment, feed, seed and supplies, construct buildings or make farm improvements. Loans are filed in the county where the farm is located.

Contact: Paul Fischer Outreach Coordinator (413) 253-4500 paul.fischer@ma.usda.gov

28. USDA Rural Development - Funds and conducts projects for rural development.

Contact: David Tuttle (413) 253-4302 david.tuttle@state.ma.us www.rurdev.usda.gov/

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