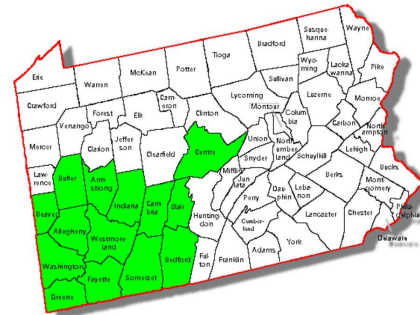


# What is Southwest Project Grass?

A cooperative effort by local Farmers, County Conservation Districts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other Industry Partners with assistance from various agencies to improve pasture and rotational grazing systems in Southwest Pennsylvania.



## 14 Participating County Conservation Districts



Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Bedford, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Centre, Fayette, Greene, Indiana, Somerset, Washington, and Westmoreland.

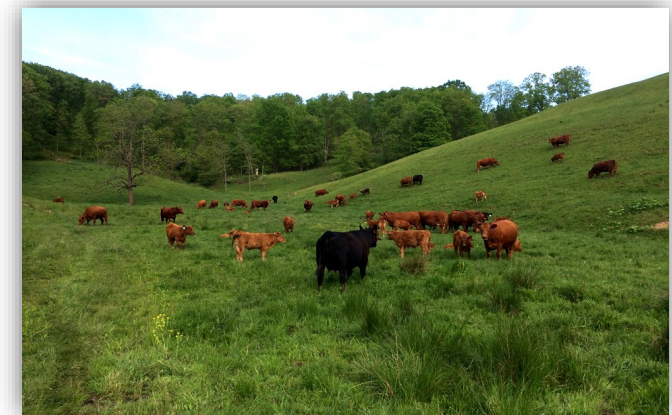
## Cooperating Agencies

Penn's Corner Conservancy Charitable Trust Inc.  
Natural Resources Conservation Service of PA  
USDA-Agriculture Research Service of PA  
PA State Conservation Commission  
PA Department of Agriculture  
PA Department of Environmental Protection  
Headwaters RC&D  
Ag Progress Days, Penn State Cooperative Extension



Save –Time, Money, Soil.

Improve – Profits, Forage Production,  
Animal & Soil Health.



## SWPG Hosted Events:

- Field Days
- Pasture Walks
- Grazing Bus Tours
- Grassland Evaluation Contest
- Grazing Conference

## SWPG Objectives

- Improve economic position of farmers, particularly those working on smaller operations
- Enhance Pennsylvania through better utilization of grasslands
- Increase the amount of livestock production in the Commonwealth to increase efficiency and develop improved marketing capabilities for hay and livestock
- Achieve better utilization of land and water resources for improved environmental quality

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## Economics of Grazing

### Direct Savings:

- Fuel
- Commercial Fertilizer
- Feed
- Labor

“Double your pasture yield,  
plant a fence post.”

J.B. Harrold,  
NRCS Grazing Specialist

### Indirect Savings:

- Lower veterinarian bills
- Less equipment wear and tear
- Increased forage yield
- Improved productivity
- More grazing days per year
- Reduce need for feed storage
- Reduce need for manure storage

## Environmental Benefits

- Farmers save on average 1.4 tons of soil per acre, per year by converting highly erodible cropland to a grass based rotational grazing system
- Rotational grazing is a best management practice for nutrient management and is a low input method of farming
- Installing stream bank fencing as part of a rotational grazing plan helps:
  1. Prevent accelerated erosion from livestock
  2. Improve drinking water quality for livestock
  3. Increase aquatic species
  4. Increase wildlife on the farm



## Tips for getting started

- Talk to others who are involved in grazing
- Develop a grazing plan
- A good fence is essential
- A water source is important
- Monitor forage production on existing pastures
- Plan alleyways for movement and maintenance
- Place all livestock gates in corners of paddocks
- Multi-species forage makes better pasture
- Plan a winter feeding program
- Size paddocks for 1-7 days of grazing—shorter occupation times increase pasture yield and recovery
- Graze more acres in fall than in the spring

## Stocking Rates

**Stocking rate:** Number of animals one acre of pasture can support

**Numbers depend on:** soil type, forage type, climate, type of animal, and management

