

Utilizing Holistic Planned Grazing as a Regenerative Engine for Sustainable Agriculture – funded by Northeast Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education (SARE) Program

Curriculum:

Session 1 – A New Perspective in Teaching Grazing Planning: Shifting the Paradigm for Teaching – Assisting Farmers to Create their own Grazing Plans vs. Preparing Grazing Plans for Farmers; Goal Setting; Asking the Right Questions; Meeting Farmers Where They Are

Session 2 – Holistic Grazing Planning: Creating the Grazing Plan – Charting a Year Round Feed Plan through Grazing, Extended Grazing Season, Stockpiling, and Stored Feed

Session 3 - Grazing Infrastructure (fence building, water systems, laneway design, cost share opportunities, others) – Designing Infrastructure and Planning Out the Job; Improving Training & Powerful Communication with Farmers (Pasture Walks, Workshops, Using Local Foods)

Session 4 – Reading the Land: Biological Monitoring and the Four Ecosystem Processes (Water Cycle, Mineral Cycle, Energy Flow, Community Dynamics) – Creating a Biological Baseline & Monitoring for Success; Understanding the Tools Available for Improving Land & Profits (Grazing, Rest, Animal Impact, Living Organisms, Technology, Human Creativity, Money & Labor)

Session 5 – Grass Management from the Farm Perspective and the Economics of Grazing - Utilizing Case Studies; Assessing Forage Volume; Carrying Capacity; Paddock Productivity & Quality

Session 6 – Animal Behavior as it Relates to Grazing & How Different Species Graze and Other Considerations (buffers, riparian areas, bird & wildlife habitat, fallow land, other local issues)