NRCS Grazing Staff Report
2nd Quarter; December - April

Statewide Activities:

- PSU Equine Team and NRCS have developed an Equine Train the Trainer program through a Contributory Agreement (Truax, Parry, Foulk, Kenny, Swinker)
- Delaware Valley University- Contributory Agreement to develop Equine/Soil Health Demonstration through students Internships (Truax, Parry)
- Pa Equine Expo – fencing (Truax)
- Appalachian Grazing Conference, 300 people attended (Elder, Harrold)
- NW PA Grazing Conference, 300 people attended (Elder, Harrold, Parry, Ludwig)
- Conservation "Boot Camp" Training for NRCS, Conservation District and other field staff (Martin, Parry)
- Ag Progress Days – Planning for a new tour, High Density Grazing & Soil Health (Parry, Elder, Martin, Harrold, Ludwig)
- Pasture Condition Scoring – part of a national team to look at the protocols/indicators for potential update/adaptation for the East region (Ogles, Parry)
- NE Pasture Consortium- Serving on Executive Committee and Participated in 2017 Strategic Planning Meeting and Conference in Hagerstown MD (Parry, Hawbaker)
- Conservation Stewardship Program- Reviewed/updated pasture-related technical guidance (Parry)

Regional Reports:

Planning/Technical Assistance:

SE Region- Dan Ludwig

- Completed 3 grazing plans for beef operations- 2 Dauphin Co, 1 Perry Co.
- Completed 1 grazing plan for dairy operation- Lebanon Co.
- Made 2 site visits for Grazing I&E on beef operations- 1 Lebanon Co., 1 Montgomery Co.
- Made 1 site visit for grazing/storm water I&E on equine operation- Lebanon Co.

SC Region- Suzette Truax

- 3 EQIP grazing plans for Lancaster
- 3 EQIP grazing plans for Adams
- 1 EQIP grazing plan for Franklin
- Reviewed 3 Water Facility design for contract
- Designed large water facility to enhance job approval authority

NW Region- Tim Elder

- Oct-Mar 29-grazing plans, in 10-counties approx. 600+ acres of pasture for beef, dairy, sheep, horses & goats
- Follow-up with 5-producers for EQIP

SW Region- JB Harrold

- 35 grazing plans written on 1,213 acres in eleven counties
- 20 requests to write plans, 3 request for water system designs
- CSP Pasture Condition Score training for numerous farmers

Date submitted: 4/4/17

ACES Grazing Specialist - Titus Martin

- Several Farm visits for Cap RC&D in
  Adams, Franklin, Cumberland, Huntington, Dauphin, Perry and Lebanon Counties
- Surveyed for pipeline and walkway- 2
- Designed pipelines- 5
- Designed walkways- 3
- Install & cert walkway -2
- Install pipeline -3
- Designed fence -3
- Install & cert fence - 2

Meetings/Trainings (please include meeting name, participant type and number of attendees):

SE Region- Dan Ludwig

- Lebanon County Grazing Network Winter Conference- Co-organizer and speaker on Soil Health- approx. 33 producers and 3 agency representatives
- Co-Led Pasture walk at Lebanon Co. beef operation approx. 10 producers and 3 agency reps.

SC Region- Suzette Truax

- Franklin County Grazer MTG (soil health workshop)
- Pasture Soil Health workshop (Lancaster)
- Adams County Soil Quality Conference

NW Region- Tim Elder

- *10/13/2016 PSU Soil Health; Kane/Port Allegheny; 24 attending*
- *1/11/2017 Pasture Walk; West Sunbury; 18 attending*
- *2/8/2017 NW PG; Sandy Lake; 16 attending*
- *3/10/2017 Appalachian Grazing Conference; Morgantown WV; 50 attending*
- *3/16/2017 NW PA Conference; Clarion; 325 attending*
- *3/17/2017 NWPA Soil Health; Prospect; 86 attending*

SW Region- JB Harrold

- Fulton County Ag Day- 60 people
- SW PG water System Training- 18 people
- Soil Health for sixth graders- 45 kids
- NW PA Water system Training for employees- 23 people

ACES Grazing Specialist - Titus Martin

- Engineering Training SE Region - Lebanon
- Engineering Training SE Team 1

Additional activities/highlights:

SE region- Dan Ludwig

- Represented PA NRCS Grazing & Feed Management at PA Dairy Summit, Lancaster
- Provided input on grazing and soil health at Lancaster Co. Soil Health Grazing Field Day
- Assisted field staff with watering system design- Berks Co.

NW Region- Tim Elder

- 2017 NW PA Grazing Conference

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- Preplanning summer 2017 field days w/ partners

ACES Grazing Specialist - Titus Martin

- Planned Winter Grazing Conference with Franklin County Graziers
- January-Winter Grazing Meeting Franklin County Graziers
- January-Winter Grazing Meeting Lebanon County Grazers
- Developed Grazing Plans: Franklin 4, Adams 2, Perry 1, Huntington 1
- Taught Prescribed Grazing and Record Keeping to contracts and for Dickinson College
- Participated with Pasture Walks Franklin and Lebanon Counties
- Participated with Field days in Franklin, Cumberland, Bradford and Forrest Counties

NRCS East Region Grazing Specialist Report (Kevin Ogles):

- Some state GLCs have been getting grants in the last few months either from CIG through NGLC or some other groups.
- 2 state GLCs have renewed their groups in the past year or so finding new purpose and are doing exciting things. These are New Hampshire and South Carolina GLCs. They both were able to meet with the NGLC Chair and or other NGLC members in getting information to find new purposes.
- Unfortunately, two states have also ceased having a state GLC and an AFGC state affiliation in the past year. These are Alabama and Georgia. Lack of support and purpose were two of the factors that lead to those decisions, according to former members of both organizations. Lack of support was not necessarily limited to just financial support or just recognition or support of their cause by government partners like NRCS they stated.
- The need for livestock producers to network and share pursuing common goals has never been greater during my career. Consumer demand for pasture raised livestock is ever increasing.

Date submitted: 4/4/17