



PRESS RELEASE

from The Capital Resource Conservation & Development Council

For Immediate Release

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Pasture Walks Highlight Cover Crop Grazing

(Carlisle, PA) – Planting cover crops for livestock grazing can result in multiple benefits for soil health and livestock nutrition when implemented as part of regular crop rotation or during pasture establishment. Key elements needed for successful cover crop grazing on a livestock farm, include infrastructure such as fencing (either temporary or permanent) watering systems, cover crop selection, and selection of appropriate livestock breeds. These elements and an overview of onsite research will be the focus of two pasture walks hosted by Capital RC&D in South Central Pennsylvania on September 29, 2020 in Adams County and October 20, 2020 in Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

Sept. 29, 2020, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Josh Ramsburg, owner of Rock Creek Farms in Adams County, uses permanent pasture to graze his beef herd. He saw the potential benefit of cover crop grazing and installed perimeter fencing and water lines to incorporate that practice as part of his existing field crop rotation. The Sept. 29th event will feature the current cover crop mix, discuss infrastructure options, and address the impacts of weather-related issues during installation and cover crop seeding.

Oct. 20, 2020, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM: Ben Peckman, owner of Slate Ridge Dairy Farm in Franklin County, has used cover crops and no-till techniques in his fields for many years but recently incorporated a small beef herd into the rotation on a portion of his acreage. The Oct. 20th pasture walk will focus on infrastructure and paddock design, issues experienced adopting a new practice and with incorporating a new herd, as well as rotation and cover crop species selection.

Technical advisors will be onsite during each event to help address specific questions. Registration is requested to meet appropriate physical distancing requirements and can be made online at www.capitalrcd.org, by emailing info@capitalrcd.org, or by calling 717-241-4361- please leave a message for extension 15.

These and two additional farms in Adams and Franklin Counties are participating in Capital RC&D's *Promoting Grazing and Cover Cropping by Developing Better Practice Information, Outreach and Cost-sharing* project, a collaboration between researchers from Penn State University, grazing specialists from USDA-NRCS, grazing advisors from Capital RC&D, and researchers from USDA-ARS, that is funded through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed grant.

For more information contact Cheryl Burns at Capital RC&D at 717-241-4361 or via email at cburns@capitalrcd.org.

Capital RC&D is a locally led non-profit organization operating in South Central Pennsylvania with a mission to network people, resources and projects to promote responsible use and conservation of our region's natural, community and economic resources. Capital RC&D serves Adams, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, and York counties.

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