

Grazing Plan Implementation in Huntingdon County

Growing Greener Project # C990000659

Sponsor: Huntingdon County Conservation District

Project Description: The project sought to eliminate excess erosion and nutrient inputs to Old Womans Run from the Edgin farm by implementing a prescribed grazing plan and controlling roof runoff from the barn. This project fit within the larger goal of reducing nutrient and sediment runoff to improve both local water quality and the Chesapeake Bay.

Goals: To reduce nutrient and sediment inputs into the Old Womans Run by installing fencing and watering systems for a prescribed grazing system and by installing roof runoff controls on buildings within the barnyard.

Results: Prior to this project, the pastures at the Edgin farm were unevenly grazed and livestock had unrestricted access to the stream, contributing to excess erosion to Old Womans Run. To implement a prescribed grazing plan, interior fencing, temporary fencing, and water lines with troughs were installed. Gravel pads were installed at the new watering facilities to limit erosion from these areas where livestock will congregate. By implementing the grazing plan, the pastures are more evenly grazed also become more productive over time. Livestock is rotated frequently so that one particular paddock or area of the pasture does not get overgrazed and so that other paddocks get adequate rest for regrowth. This rotational grazing system helps to keep even vegetation coverage on the pastures and evenly distributes nutrients too. This results in less erosion, better soil health and infiltration, and better nutrient uptake by the vegetation. Another problem on the farm was the roof water from the barn flowing through an animal heavy use area and carrying excess nutrients and sediment to the nearby stream. By installing gutters, downspouts, and underground outlets, the roof water was kept clean and no longer contributes excess pollution to Old Womans Run.

Costs: \$24,090.73 in Growing Greener funds, with an additional \$5,818.77 in documented matching funds from the farmer.

Partners: The USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection provided funding for this project through the Growing Greener grant program.

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