

**11th Annual Meeting of the Northeast Pasture Consortium**  
**Days Inn, State College, Pennsylvania**  
**February 1-2, 2007**

THURSDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 1

7:00am-8:00am Buffet Breakfast (Private-Sector in Willow and Public-Sector in Linden)

8:00am-8:15am (Sylvan Center)

**Welcome** - Richard Swartzentruber, dairy producer, Greenwood, DE, and Ray Bryant, USDA-ARS, University Park, PA; Consortium Private-Sector and Public-Sector Co-Chairs, respectively

Self-Introductions

8:15am-9:00am

**SESSION 1: The Northeast Pasture Consortium - What It Is. What Was Accomplished the Last Five Years. What the Challenges and Opportunities Are Ahead.**

Speakers: Ed Rayburn, Larry Lohr, and Lawrason R. Sayre

Discussion

9:00am-12:00noon

**SESSION 2: Response of USDA-ARS and University Scientists to the Priority Needs of Northeast Graziers - Research Results**

Moderator: Ray Bryant

Participants:

Howard Skinner, ARS, University Park, PA - Drought-stress and carbon sequestration  
Sarah Goslee, ARS, University Park, PA - Plant diversity/landscape/pasture management  
Carey Williams, Rutgers University – Equine pasture management

**BREAK**

Kathy Soder, ARS, University Park, PA – Dairy grazing

Fay Benson, Cornell Extension – Health benefits for grazing heifers

Bob Parsons, UVM Extension – Cost of production

Al Rotz, ARS, University Park, PA – Whole farm evaluation of production systems

Discussion

12:00noon-1:00pm Lunch (Linden Grove)

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 1

1:00pm-3:00pm (Sylvan Center)

**SESSION 3: How USDA-NRCS-Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) Specialists, Cooperative Extension Educators, and Others in the Public Sector Can Partner to Provide Technical Assistance for Northeast Graziers**

Moderator: Kevin Ogles

Participants: Regional, State and Local NRCS and Grazing Organization Representatives

Discussion

BREAK

3:30pm-5:00pm

**SESSION 4: What Northeast Graziers Want and Need in the Next Farm Bill**

Moderator: Angus Johnson

Participants:

Meghan Stasz-Environmental Defense

Allen Hance-Northeast-Midwest Institute

Martha Noble-Coalition for Sustainable Agriculture

Jimmy Daukas -American Farmland Trust

Bill Tucker-American Forage and Grassland Council.

Discussion

General Discussion

THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 1

5:30pm-9:00pm Working Dinner with Concurrent Private-Sector and Public-Sector Breakout Discussions (Private-Sector in Willow and Public-Sector in Linden)

Private-Sector Session Moderator: Richard Swartzentruber

Public-Sector Session Moderator: Ray Bryant

9:00pm RECESS

FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 2

7:00am-7:30am Buffet Breakfast (Linden Grove)

**SESSION 5: Reports and Business Meeting** (Sylvan Center)

Moderators: Gary Bergmann, Equine Breeder, Glen Gardner, NJ, and Fay Benson, Cornell University, Cortland, NY; Consortium Private-Sector and Public-Sector Co-Chairs-Elect, respectively

7:45am-8:00am Report on private-sector breakout session

Discussion

8:00am-8:15am Report on public-sector breakout session -  
Discussion

8:15am-8:45am Activity Reports

Upper Northeast Pasture Center proposal – Stephen Herbert

UNH Organic Dairy – Kevin Brussell

Alfred State University Grazing Dairy – Matthew Harbur

Coshocton, OH – Jim Bonta

Discussion

8:45am-9:30am Business meeting

a. Action items for the Consortium to address in CY2007 - Fay Benson

b. New Executive Committee representatives - Gary Bergmann

c. Other business

9:30am ADJOURN

OPTIONAL: Pennsylvania Association for Sustainable Ag (PASA) Conference











10:00am PASA Keynote Address - James Kunstler

12:00-1:00pm Lunch

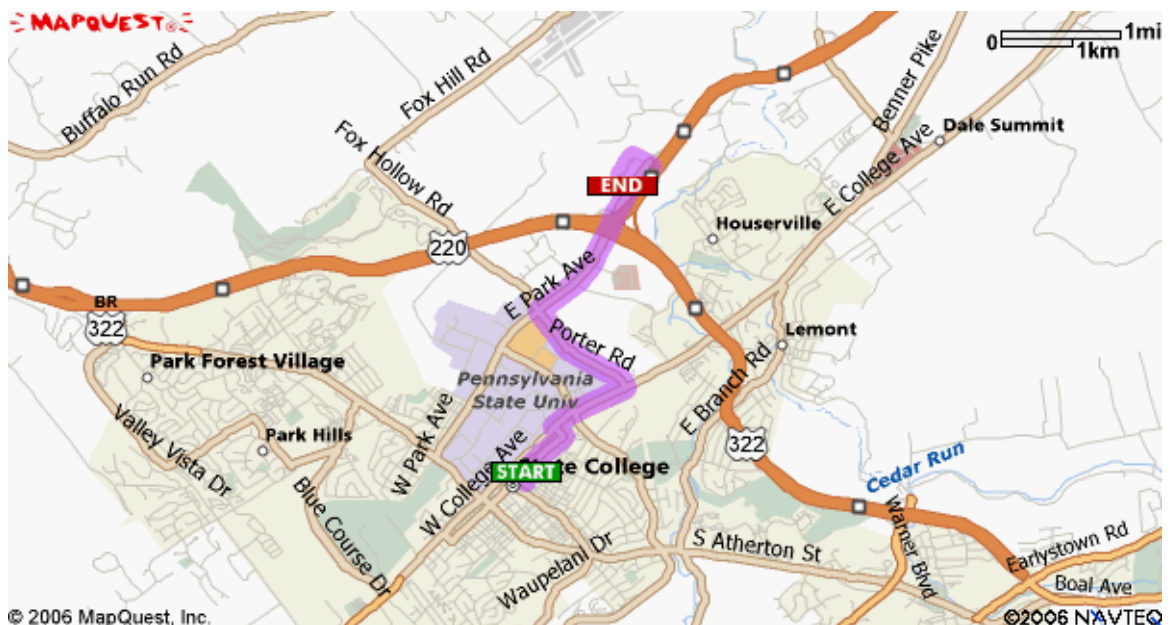
1:00pm-4:30pm Workshops

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3

8:00am-3:00pm PASA Conference Workshops

Directions	Distance
<b>Total Est. Time: 9 minutes Total Est. Distance: 4.22 miles</b>	
 1: Start out going NORTHWEST on S PUGH ST toward HIGHLAND AVE.	<0.1 miles
 2: Turn RIGHT onto E BEAVER AVE / PA-26 N.	0.5 miles
 3: Turn LEFT onto HIGH ST / PA-26 N.	<0.1 miles
 4: Turn RIGHT onto E COLLEGE AVE / PA-26.	0.6 miles
 5: Turn LEFT onto PORTER RD.	0.9 miles
 6: Turn RIGHT onto E PARK AVE.	1.3 miles
 7: Take EXIT B toward INNOVATION PARK.	0.2 miles
 8: Turn LEFT.	0.1 miles
 9: Turn LEFT onto INNOVATION BLVD.	0.1 miles
 10: End at <b>Penn Stater Cnfrnc Ctr Hotel:</b> 215 Innovation Blvd, State College, PA 16803, US	

**Total Est. Time: 9 minutes Total Est. Distance: 4.22 miles**



**Priority needs\* identified by Consortium stakeholders (producers, agri-business suppliers, and NGOs):**

- Determine the management strategies and costs of transition or conversion from row crops to productive and sustainable grazing lands and soils.
- Quantify the economics of whole-farm systems including the effects of breed selection, livestock diversification, and grazing management on animal and pasture health and well-being.
- Evaluate new forage species and improved varieties under grazing management and different climatic and soil conditions with emphasis on extending the grazing season.
- Determine the environmental impacts and profitability of alternative supplemental feeding strategies for animals on high-protein pastures.
- Evaluate the production and management aspects of pasture-based animal products for their human health benefits.
- Evaluate the use of organic food residues as supplemental feeds in organic pasture-based animal systems.

**\* Process used to determine these Consortium stakeholder priorities, described by Dick Warner, New York beef producer and private-sector co-chair, June 2003:**

“...Initially, I worked with a writing group to prepare the first draft using the "Priority Pasture Research and Education Needs" list that was developed by the Consortium and published in 1998, and reaffirmed by private-sector members during recent annual meetings. Then, I asked a task group of stakeholders to review the first draft. This group included: Steve Derrenbacher (MD producer/veterinarian), Sam Dixon (VT producer), Angus Johnson (NH producer), Nate Leonard (NY agri-business supplier), Larry Lohr (PA producer), Larry Shearer (MA producer), and Bill Tucker (VA producer/American Forage and Grassland Council legislative liaison). I "convened" the review group by conference call and their comments and suggestions were incorporated into a second draft that was sent to all private-sector Consortium participants (45 individuals) asking for additional input. Lastly, the second-round suggestions were considered and most were incorporated into the final version. No consensus process is perfect, but I tried to be responsive and inclusive...”

**Consortium Executive Committee for 2006 through 2007 annual meeting:**

Private-Sector Co-Chair: Richard Swartzentruber, dairy producer; Swartzentruber Homestead, 12468 Country Lane, Greenwood, DE 19950

Public-Sector Co-Chair: Ray Bryant, research leader; USDA-ARS, Pasture Systems and Watershed Management Research Unit, University Park, PA 16802-3702

Private-Sector Co-Chair elect: Gary Bergmann, equine breeder; Stonegate Standardbred Farms, Inc., 500 West Hill Road, Glen Gardner, NJ 08826

Public-Sector Co-Chair elect: Fay Benson, extension educator; Cortland County Cooperative Extension, Cornell University, 60 Central Avenue, Cortland, NY 13045-4490

Private-Sector Member-at-Large: Jon Winsten, agricultural economist and program officer, Winrock International, Burlington, VT 05401

Public-Sector Member-at-Large: Rick Kersbergen, extension educator, Waldo County Cooperative Extension, University of Maine, 992 Waterville Road, Waldo, ME 04915

Private-Sector Past Co-Chair: Angus Johnson, dairy producer; Ardent Arts Farm, 249 Dooe Road, Dublin, NH 03444; 603.325.5300

Public-Sector Past Co-Chair: Jana Malot, grassland specialist; USDA-NRCS-GLCI, One Credit Union Place, Suite 340, Harrisburg, PA 17110; [jana.malot@pa.usda.gov](mailto:jana.malot@pa.usda.gov)

Ex-Officio Member: Ed Rayburn, Consortium Executive Director, Morgantown, WV; [ed.rayburn@nepastureconsortium.org](mailto:ed.rayburn@nepastureconsortium.org)

**Nominees for Incoming Executive Committee members for 4-year term:**

Private-Sector Member-at-Large:

Public-Sector Member-at-Large:

**Departing Executive Committee members after 4-year term:**

Angus Johnson

Jana Malot

**Consortium Stakeholder Action Committee:**

Angus Johnson, Chair, 603.325.5300, Dublin, NH

Troy Bishopp, [farmboytb@aol.com](mailto:farmboytb@aol.com), Deansboro, NY

Steve Derrenbacher, [gardenstylebeef@msn.com](mailto:gardenstylebeef@msn.com), Woodsboro, MD

Sam Dixon, [samdixon@sover.net](mailto:samdixon@sover.net), Shelburne, VT

Larry Lohr, [gjlohr@shol.com](mailto:gjlohr@shol.com), Hooversville, PA

Clyde B. Bailey, [cb57sb@aol.com](mailto:cb57sb@aol.com), Charleston, WV

### **Biographical sketches of Consortium annual meeting speakers:**

HOWARD SKINNER has been a plant physiologist with the USDA-ARS at University Park since January 1999. He has also held positions with the ARS in Fort Collins, CO, Phoenix, AZ, and Logan, UT. His research at University Park has focused on how plant species diversity affects yield, canopy photosynthetic rates, root biomass and distribution, and soil carbon sequestration. He has also investigated how the interaction between diversity and drought stress affects freezing tolerance and winter survival of pasture species. Currently, he is using micrometeorological and canopy chamber techniques to quantify CO<sub>2</sub> fluxes over grazed and cut pastures and is helping develop a multi-species pasture model to include in simulations of whole-farm crop and animal productivity and carbon flows.

SARAH GOSLEE is a Research Ecologist with the USDA-ARS Pasture Systems and Watershed Management Research Unit at University Park, PA. She came to Pennsylvania in 2002 from the ARS's Jornada Experimental Range in southern New Mexico. She is interested in the ecological functions of plant species in complex mixtures, in the potential benefits of placing different mixtures within a farm, and in the many roles of farms within a larger landscape.

CAREY WILLIAMS joined the Rutgers Equine Science Center in July 2003 as its Equine Extension Specialist, taking an active role in teaching, conducting research and working with the equine and academic communities to ensure the viability of the horse industry in New Jersey. A Wisconsin native, Dr. Williams earned her doctorate degree in animal and poultry sciences (with an emphasis on equine nutrition and exercise physiology) in June 2003 from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. She holds a master's degree in equine nutrition, also from Virginia Tech, and a bachelor's degree from Colorado State University. She has worked extensively at Virginia Tech as a Pratt Fellow in Equine Nutrition, has designed and conducted various research projects dealing with equine nutrition and exercise physiology and assisted in the breeding, care and feeding of approximately 100 horses. At Rutgers, Dr. Williams maintains a herd of Standardbred horses for exercise physiology research as well as works with agricultural agents within Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension (RCRE) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to carry out equine pasture management initiatives. She is a member of many associations, including the American Association of Veterinary Nutritionists, and the Equine Science Society. As a hobby she trains and competes with her Thoroughbred mare at various New Jersey dressage shows and horse trials.

KATHY SODER is a Research Animal Scientist who joined the USDA-ARS Pasture Systems and Watershed Management Research Unit at University Park in 1998. Her current research interests focus on the effects of diverse pasture systems on grazing behavior of ruminants, and how these systems can be manipulated to optimize forage and animal productivity. Specifically, research is being conducted to (1) determine the morphological characteristics of selected temperate grasses, legumes, and forbs that control the intake rate and bite mass of grazing dairy cattle, and (2) evaluate the

characteristics of various supplementation strategies that influence intake rate, grazing time, diet selection, and total pasture intake of dairy cattle.

BOB PARSONS is an Extension Ag Economist at the University of Vermont. Prior to joining UVM he was a extension associate at Penn State University. Bob conducts extension and research programs on farm finance, profitability analysis, and farm transfer issues. He is currently examining the profitability of organic dairy farms in New England.

C. ALAN ROTZ is an Agricultural Engineer with the USDA / ARS at University Park where he serves as the lead scientist of the integrated farming systems project in the Pasture Systems and Watershed Management Research Unit. He has led the development of a farm simulation model used to evaluate and compare the performance, economics, and environmental impact of farm production systems. His current work emphasizes the effects of cropping, feeding, grazing, and manure handling strategies on nutrient losses and farm profitability. Al grew up on a dairy farm in southern Pennsylvania. For 16 years, he led the East Lansing Cluster of the U.S. Dairy Forage Research Center. He is a member of the American Forage and Grassland Council, and he serves on the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Forage and Grassland Council. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, and a registered Professional Engineer in the State of Michigan.

MATTHEW HARBUR joined the Alfred State College faculty in Fall 2006. Dr. Harbur is a native of Upstate NY, but has spent extensive time in the Upper Midwest, where he earned degrees from Iowa State University and gained postdoctoral experience at the University of Minnesota. At Iowa State, he earned a Master's Degree in Soil Science, and a Ph.D. with co-majors in Crop Production and Evolutionary Biology. In Minnesota, he researched fundamental issues in organic crop production, including composting, cover crop establishment, and management of Canada thistle.

At Alfred State, Dr. Harbur is responsible for fundamental courses in soil science and crop production. He is working actively with other faculty, NRCS, and Cornell Cooperative Extension to develop the following programming for Alfred State's new Center for Organic and Sustainable Agriculture:

- Organic grazing, hay, and crop production.
- Campus-based vegetable production.
- Composting of campus wastes.

Dr. Harbur is also nationally-recognized for his work with weed ecology, strip-cropping, forage soybean, and even agricultural law. He looks forward to applying his research experience to the further evaluation of sustainable practices for *both* conventional and organic crop production in Western New York and Northwestern Pennsylvania.



**2007 NEPC Public Sector Breakout Session Report**  
**February 1, 2007 NEPC Annual Meeting**  
**State College, PA**

Discussion of proposed reorganization of REE agencies:

- Formation of REES would combine ARS, CSREES, ERS and FS within one agency under the Department of Agriculture.
- Create 21 proposes a new agency outside USDA with a politically appointed Director that is advised by a board, but answers directly to the President's office.
- Future funding increases would be directed 70% toward competitive funding (grants and contracts) and 30% toward base funding.
- There is a provision that insures small colleges and universities will receive some funding and protect against larger, more competitive research institutions getting all of the funds.
- There is debate about the balance between basic research vs. applied research. Some argue that federally funded programs should address basic research that serves the whole population. Site specific research should be the responsibility of the states. Others argue that Congressional Representatives are responsible to their constituency and research with local application shows responsiveness.
- Discussion concluded with the consensus that it is too early to try to influence this debate. Once more concrete proposals are drafted in legislative language, there will be opportunities to provide comments.

E Extension has small amounts of funds to support national efforts to serve extension information over the web. An effort focused on "Pastures" or "Grazing" would have to be national.

The NE Pasture Center initiative is encouraged to continue its efforts. Documented commitments from collaborative institutions would strengthen their proposal and demonstrate substantial progress.

**2007 NEPC Private Sector Action Items**  
**February 1, 2007 NEPC Annual Meeting**  
**State College, PA**

1. Letter of support for University of Massachusetts – Amherst proposal
2. Three letters to University of New Hampshire
  - a. Supporting continued effort at organic dairy.
  - b. Congratulatory on accomplishment.
  - c. Dean, provost and president supporting effort to obtain individual full-time person at University of New Hampshire dairy.
3. Letter to University of Maine to encourage on going pasture research efforts.
4. Letter to University of Maryland to encourage hiring/filling forage agronomist position.
5. Post more calendar events on NEPC website.
6. NEPC 2008 annual meeting in early February, possibly MD, DE, NJ.
7. Charge Stakeholder Action Committee to actively pursue NPEC priorities in Farm Bill.
8. Continue involving equines in NPEC.
9. Angus Johnson reappointed chair of Stakeholder Action Committee.
10. Executive Committee to monitor Federal budgetary request items and respond if necessary.
11. Executive Committee to find funding for Web site.