

UVM CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE GRASS FARMING RESEARCH: ROTATIONAL GRAZING, MORE ROOTS, LESS PLOWING

ABOUT THE RESEARCH

The assumption we are testing is that having high stock density animals graze on hay fields for short intervals will improve the health of the soil. Preliminary results indicate that well-managed grazing can improve soils and a farm's productivity without synthetic fertilizers, and without great additional expense - as many grass-based farmers have believed for years.

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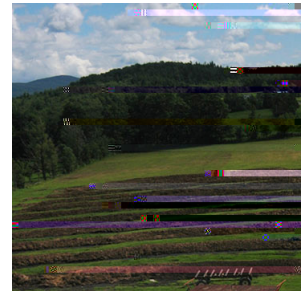
KEY RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR BUILDING SOIL HEALTH



Soils are kept well covered with a diverse vegetated sward, with plants at least 4" tall.



Animals graze all fields at least once per year, so that microorganisms and nutrients can contribute to soil health.



Organic amendments (on-farm bedded pack compost and low formulation Pro-Gro*) can support overall improvement.

Questions?
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WHAT IS HEALTHY SOIL ON A PASTURE-BASED FARM?