# 2020 Northeast Pasture Consortium Conference Proceedings January 15-16, Lake Morey Resort, 82 Clubhouse Road, Fairlee, VT

7. Addressing the Heavy Use Area/Pasture interface (vegetation management)

- Comparison of options (deep-bed packs, composted packs, wood chips) and economic impact on handling facilities, heavy use areas, and cost-effective options,
- Biological composition of bedded packs and livestock health (mastitis—John Barlow & Deb Neher),
- Bale grazing and in-field winter management/calving,
- Species evaluation for vegetated heavy use areas,
- Using summer annuals to restore winter sacrifice areas, and
- Research fact sheet updates?

8. Farm profitability and upcoming cultural/societal changes

- Compare different philosophies, results, benchmarks,
- Development of artificial and plant-based "meat" and "milk" (and other animal products) and how they will that affect our work, stakeholders, audience, and research. Three papers of interest listed below:
  - Paper in Global Change Biology, Proceedings for Natl Academy of Sciences "Soil carbon sequestration is an elusive climate mitigation tool." (2018 Nov 13; 115(46): 11652–11656),
  - 2) EAT-Lancet Commission Summary Report "Our Food in the Anthropocene: Healthy Diets From Sustainable Food Systems", Jan 16, 2019, and
  - 3) American Farmland Trust Testimony of Dr. Jennifer Moore–Kucera, Climate Initiative Director of American Farmland Trust, before the US House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, October 30, 2019.
- Ecological/carbon footprint of animal production compared to ecological footprints of alternative products,
- Quality assurance program requirements; impacts on profitability
- 9. New: Research on planting mixes of 6-12 species together to see what mix works well and remains diverse under well-documented grazing conditions, which species complement one another, and the economics involved in trying to maintain a diverse, as-planted mixture (cost versus value-added with increased meat and milk production and food quality).

## **Business Meeting**

After the public and private sector reports on revised and new research, education, and technical assistance priorities were presented and discussed, the business meeting followed. Fay Benson, Public Sector Co-Chair and Don Wild, Private Sector Co-Chair, presided. The first order of business was to nominate and elect a public sector member-at-large and a private sector member-at-large to the Executive Committee. Jim Cropper nominated Dr. Tom Griggs, West Virginia University for-age agronomist, for the public sector member-at-large. Jessica Williamson nominated Dr. Ben Goff, West Virginia University Extension ANR Agent - Mason & Putnam Counties. Once she nominated Dr. Goff, Dr. Griggs withdrew his nomination citing that he will be retiring before the 4-year term was up most likely and moving to Vermont. Thereupon, Jim Cropper seconded Jessica motion to nominate Dr. Goff. Nominations were closed by those present at the meeting. Dr. Ben Goff was unanimously elected to the Executive Committee. Don Wild announced that the Private

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Sector had several people interested in being a member-at-large, but when Aimee Braxmeier was proposed as a candidate, the other people rallied around her candidacy. Mrs. Lora Goss made a motion to nominate Ms. Braxmeier as the private sector member-at-large. Mr. Rob DeClue seconded the motion. Nominations were closed by those present at the meeting. Ms. Aimee Braxmeier was unanimously elected to the Executive Committee. Jim Cropper said he would send out their duties in a welcoming email along with background information about the Northeast Pasture Consortium since they were first year attendees.

**Margaret Smith**, NEPC Administrative Advisor, Cornell University Agricultural Experiment Station, Ithaca, NY presented a PowerPoint "NEPC is a Project of the Northeast Regional Association of Ag. Experiment Station Directors, NEERA 1603". She provided a brief history of the origin of the Northeast Pasture Consortium that began as a concept and was approved by the Northeast Ag. Experiment Station Directors in 1995. The first Multistate Project was established for the Consortium as NEERA1000 in 2001. It brought together a diverse, integrated group: University research and extension, USDA-ARS, NRCS, and farmers and industry.

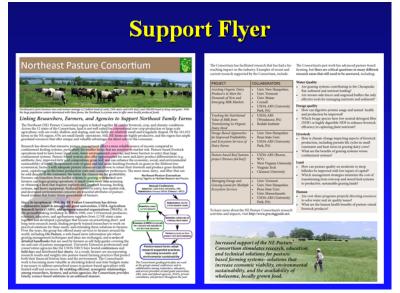
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# Impact Statement 2011-2016



Two impact statement leaflets were produced for the Northeast Pasture Consortium about the last two 5-year projects, with editorial support from the National Association of Ag. Experiment Station Directors. A support flyer was also produced to inform state and national agricultural agencies that the role of the Northeast Pasture Consortium is to bring this integrated group together to promote pasture-based livestock production and marketing. Already it is nearly time to submit a Project proposal we need to re-new! The current 2016-2021 project is almost over. After a question and answer period, Margaret asked the membership if they thought it worthwhile to renew for another 5 years. There was a general consensus that the partnership of private and public sector people are advancing the research, education, and technical assistance needed to create productive pastures all over the Northeast in a

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manner that is cost-effective, environmentally responsive, and produces wholesome food. It is more important than ever to combine the ever-shrinking resources of university and agency people and funding to continue advancing the science and art of pasture-based farming.

Jenn Colby and Sid Bosworth reminded the attendees to submit any filled-in *Future of the NEPC* questionnaires that were still outstanding. They explained that these would be helpful to guide an ad hoc committee on how to proceed with the Consortium with Jim Cropper retiring as Executive Director in February and Sid Bosworth, the Principal Investigator, retiring later this year.

Jim Cropper wrapped up the business meeting by thanking Jessica Williamson and Cliff Hawbaker for their many contributions while being on the Executive Committee. Both had served out their 4-year terms with distinction. He welcomed Ben Goff and Aimee Braxmeier to the Executive Committee. The two new co-chairs were announced, Kevin Jablonski-Private Sector and Daimon Meeh-Public Sector. The 2020 business meeting was then adjourned earlier than originally planned so those residing in the western part of the Northeast could head home before the snowstorm got there.