

Case Study - Conservation Effects

Type of Operation and Location: Pasture - Dairy - Southeast Ohio			
Resource Setting:	Resource Problem(s):	Benchmark System:	
Client Objective(s):	Planned Treatment System:		
Comparison of Effects of Benchmark and Treatment Option			
Actions Before Treatment (Kinds, Amounts, Timing of the benchmark system)	Effects Before Treatment (Effects of continuing the benchmark system)	Impacts After Treatment (Change from the before treatment to the applied treatment)	Decisionmaker Evaluation (+) Feels Positive about the change (-) Feels a drawback about change
<p><b>Resource Setting:</b> 160 cow/heifer dairy on rolling to steep well drained soils. Cropland and pasture.</p> <p><b>Client Objective(s):</b> Reduce labor requirements, improve herd health, increase grazing, reduce field crops, have more free time.</p>	<p><b>Resource Problem(s):</b> Shortage of summer pasture for heifers and cows. High labor requirements</p>	<p><b>Benchmark System:</b> Good soil testing and fertility program, mulch tillage C-C-W-4yr Alfalfa, manure storage for 3 months.</p> <p><b>Planned Treatment System:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planned grazing and watering system; no till crop production (C-C-W- 4yrs pasture), nutrient management, pest management, manure storage. Meets Resource Management System Criteria</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Cropland:</b> 300 acres of C-C-W-4yr Alfalfa. Most hay is made into haylage. 20% of corn is for silage. 3 tillage trips required to plant corn. Contour strips are established.</p> <p><b>Livestock:</b> 80 cows in feed and 80 heifers on pasture for 6 months.</p> <p><b>Manure Storage and Handling:</b> Manure scraped daily into semi-solid structure and hauled when time is available and conditions fit. During winter months only holds about 2 months storage.</p> <p><b>Nutrient Management:</b> Soil tests are taken on a regular basis and fertilized per OSUE.</p> <p><b>Pest Management:</b> Scouts, uses IPM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adequate feed is available</li> <li>Very labor intensive</li> <li>Shortage of summer pasture</li> <li>Shortage of winter manure storage - poor hauling conditions in winter.</li> <li>Soil erosion is at tolerable levels.</li> <li>Good crop yields</li> <li>Heifer and cow health problems when confined.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Installed a fencing system \$3,500</li> <li>Installed a watering system \$2,000</li> <li>Fertilizer reduced by 50%</li> <li>Erosion reduced by 2 tons/ac/yr</li> <li>Same manure storage now holds 6 months storage.</li> <li>Herd health improved</li> <li>Labor reduced by \$20,000/yr</li> <li>Labor to move fence twice daily</li> <li>Reduced time for hay making</li> <li>Only silage is corn and is put in silo</li> <li>Intensive grazing offers fast regrowth and quality forage.</li> <li>Cows are cleaner</li> <li>Less time required in the parlor</li> <li>Reduced equipment cost and maintenance.</li> <li>Net profit increased</li> </ul> <p>(Cows on pasture 6 months, heifers on pasture for most of 12 months)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(-) but good investment</li> <li>(-) but good investment</li> <li>(+)</li> <li>(+)</li> <li>(+)</li> <li>(+)</li> <li>(+)</li> <li>(+)</li> <li>(-)</li> <li>(+)</li> <li>(+)</li> <li>(+)</li> <li>(+)</li> <li>(+)</li> <li>(+)</li> <li>(+)</li> <li>(+)</li> <li>(+)</li> </ul>

