

Project Grass Expands, Pushes Ahead

(Continued from Page E1)

systems; and brainstorming and prioritizing goals to be pursued in partnership with numerous local, state, and federal agencies.

Project Grass partners include local conservation districts, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), EPA, the Pennsylvania Grazing Land Conservation Initiative — and others.

"I don't know if I've ever been at a meeting where 12 or 13 partners were all together," said J.B. Harrold, Southwest Project Grass coordinator.

Four new Project Grass chapters were formed within the past year and a half in addition to the original South-

west Chapter. New chapters cover the south central, northeast, northwest, and southeast regions of the state.

Candace Burke, Southwest Project Grass chairperson and sheep producer from Armstrong County, headed the expansion committee formed in 2001. Growth was also facilitated by Robin Heard, NRCS state conservationist, who hired a team of grazing specialists to cover various regions in the state.

More than a half million dollars was granted in 2002 through the state's Growing Greener program to help fund grazing farms through cost sharing in the Northwest, South Central, and Northeast Project Grass regions.

Cost share funds may be used for selected best manage-

(Turn to Page E5)



Project Grass organized a field day to the Jeff Hosterman grazing dairy farm in Centre County as part of a two-day conference last November. Pictured here, from left, are Beth Hirt, Centre County conservation district; Terri and Dave Rice, dairy producers, Blair County; Robin Heard, Pennsylvania's state conservationist; Tom Matticks, western Pa. conservationist; Hosterman; J.B. Harrold, Southwest Pa. Project Grass coordinator; Renee Melvin, eastern Pa. conservationist; Tom Calvert, grazing coordinator; and Carl Rohrer, Pa. Department of Environmental Protection.

Northern Tier Grazing Conference Set For March 3

TROY (Bradford Co.) — Irish brothers and international grassland experts Tom and John Roche will share their views on grazing at the Northern Tier Grazing Conference at the Troy Fire Hall Monday, March 3.

Schedule for the day is as follows:

- Registration and coffee, 10 a.m.
- Welcome, 10:15 a.m.
- Is grass the greenest in Ireland or New Zealand? Tom & John Roche, 11:20 a.m.
- Northeast Project Grass update, 11:30 a.m.
- Lunch and visit with exhibitors, 1 p.m.
- Dairy and sheep Farming in the same system, Tom Roche, 2 p.m.
- Break, 2:15 p.m.
- Grazing opportunities in Northeast U.S. Why would an Irishman want to come here? John Roche, 3 p.m.

Bradford/Tioga Pasture Group will also introduce upcoming pasture walks sponsored by USDA, NRCS, Bradford and Tioga Conservation Districts, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Pennsylvania GLCI, Endless Mountain RC&D, and Northeast Project Grass, and supported by King's Agri-Seeds and PFGC.

Look for your chance to join the PGGC at the workshop. Membership applications will be available.

Conference registration is \$10 per person, due Feb. 24. Registration includes lunch and conference handouts/reference materials. Please return or e-mail your registration to: J. Craig Williams, Penn State Cooperative Extension, Tioga County, 118 Main Street, Wellsboro, PA 16901 Phone: (570) 724-9120, fax (570) 724-6819, e-mail: jcw17@psu.edu.

Come share in the wealth of grazing and forage knowledge in Pennsylvania. Visit with dairy and livestock producers, bring your questions, and join in informal discussion groups.

The Troy Fire Hall in Troy is located behind the Little Red Hen off of Rt. 6.

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