



The Farm on Peaceable Pastures
64 Thompson Street
Troy, NY 12180

January 14, 2019

To: Capital Mohawk PRISM
50 West High Street
Ballston Spa, NY 12020

Re: Livestock Grazing Final Report

Below is the final report of work completed by the Farm on Peaceable Pastures for the Capital Mohawk PRISM / CCE – Saratoga for the 2018 contracted year.

Thank you. It was a pleasure to complete this work for the the Capital Mohawk PRISM.

Sincerely,

Melissa Parade

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64 Thompson St.
Troy, NY 12180

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FINAL REPORT

Re: Contract 18-006 Livestock Grazing

A 30 page handbook and a 1 page flyer were created to educate conservationists about prescribed grazing for invasive species management. Over 54 hours of case study, 40 hours of literature review, and 100 hours of writing contributed to these documents. Case study included sites visits and phone interviews in Washington County, Albany County, Dutchess County, and Westchester County. The documents will be available to conference go-ers at the Grassfed Exchange Conference (in Albany County), conference go-ers at the Farming Our Future Conference (Columbia County), and groups associated with the New York State Land Trust Alliance. The materials will be available at other conferences and to other conservation agencies as opportunities arise. Additionally, the documents are available freely to the public and for distribution by relevant agencies.

Over 225 individuals were engaged through outreach in the Tivoli Lake Preserve at over 25 work days and farm visits. Outreach included education about invasive species with a focus on common reed, activities contributing to control of the common reed population, and related environmental education and activity. An invasive plant key was created to educate visitors to the preserve about 12 common invasive plants.

In the Tivoli Lake Preserve, a small flock of sheep manage the common reed population. In treated locations, the common reed density was reduced to an average of 7 stalks / m² (from a baseline of 20 stalks / m² in untreated areas) and the common reed biomass was reduced to an average of 340 g / m² (from a baseline of 3000 g / m² and in untreated locations). Volunteers associated with the project were equipped to supplement the work of the livestock with black-out tarps, loppers, and pruners. Volunteers associated with the project were organized to educate themselves about techniques to build a more balanced ecosystem as the common reed is removed.