

AUGUST 2022

THE NEW ENGLAND GRAZING NETWORK

GATHERING AND GROWING REGENERATIVE
GRAZIERS ACROSS THE REGION

NETWORK UPDATES AND EVENTS RECAP:

SPOTLIGHT ON THE "CHOOSING TO FARM" PODCAST:

The Choosing to Farm podcast is intended to be a resource and connection point for first-generation and returning farmers and ranchers. It was founded by Jenn Colby, a Vermont farmer and former Extension staff who had to recapture knowledge lost over two generations, through trial and error. Along the way, Jenn discovered that her experience was similar to other farmers and ranchers passionate about raising livestock, feeding people and managing land; many people attracted to farming and ranching did not grow up on farms and ranches. The challenges and opportunities of first-generation producers are different than many of the "young" farmers we might envision.



Pictured: Jenn Colby in Episode 1.17, credit Jenn Colby

Choosing to Farm is about capturing the stories of farmers and ranchers who have entered into the livestock profession. The show includes conversations with diverse individuals, from a variety of states, livestock types, and scales. Ultimately, the hope is that through the Choosing to Farm podcast, we'll create more farmers and ranchers in the world who are whole, healthy, profitable, and managing the land – and their lives – well.

To hear from farmers in the NEGN check out:

[Ep. 1.14 Abbie Corse | Choosing to Farm: New Generation Stories](#)

[Ep. 1.2 Randy & Lisa Robar | Choosing to Farm: New Generation Stories](#)

[Visit the Choosing to Farm Pod Website here.](#)

THE NEW ENGLAND GRAZING NETWORK IS A COLLABORATION OF **[INDEPENDENT STATE GRAZING ORGANIZATIONS](#)** LOCATED ACROSS THE NEW ENGLAND STATES, AND IS MADE POSSIBLE BY SUPPORT FROM **[THE CEDAR TREE FOUNDATION](#)**

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ON-FARM RESEARCH - BEATING THE SUMMER SLUMP:

Most New England pastures are dominated by cool season perennial grasses. For the majority of the year, these cool season grasses thrive. However, during the hot and dry summer months, they can struggle, which leads to the 'summer slump,' when cool season grasses slow in growth. Planting drought-resilient warm season annual grass species can potentially extend the growing season for pasture-based grazing systems during drought.

As part of their on-farm research program, Wolfe's Neck Center, located in Freeport, Maine, was awarded a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) from the NRCS to examine if plantings of annual, warm season grasses using a no-till drill is a viable solution to maintain forage production during the 'summer slump.' The objectives of the trial include monitoring soil health, plant emergence, and forage quality indicators. At the conclusion of the trial Wolfe's Neck will host a pasture walk and workshop to discuss the outcomes of the trial, adapting to drought on pasture, and the challenges and successes with no-till pasture seeding.



Pictured: Wolfe's Neck Staff seeding the trial with a No-Till Drill in July, 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS ACROSS NEW ENGLAND:

Kicking Your Grain Bill to the Curb (VGFA)

Monday, August 1, 11:00 AM -1:00 PM

Haynes Dairy - Claremont, NH, 03742

Registration is required. [Details and RSVP here.](#)

Sheep Pasture Walk at Maplemont Farm (VGFA)

Thursday, August 11th, 2022, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Maplemont Farm - Barnet, VT

The event is free for VGFA members and \$15 for non-members.

[Register here.](#)

For more info visit: <https://www.negrazingnetwork.com/events/>