



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Conservation Beyond Boundaries

NRCS is working with its conservation partners in the eight-state area to combat invasive species, protect watersheds and shorelines from non-point source pollution, and restore wetlands and other habitat areas.

Through financial assistance and technical assistance, NRCS is assisting private landowners with conservation planning and a variety of conservation practices, such as cover crops, conservation crop rotations, filter strips, prescribed grazing and wetlands restoration.

Rotational Grazing enhances buffalo herd on the Oneida Nation Farms

You might take a second look as you drive by the Oneida Nation Farms. The animals that are grazing there are buffalo. The Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin have been grazing buffalo on their Oneida Nation Farms (ONF) since 1996.

The farm is located near Seymour, Wisconsin and extends through parts of Brown and Outagamie Counties. The farm is part of the Lower Fox River Watershed which flows into Lake Michigan.

Expanding the Herd

With only 150 acres of pasture and the herd size reaching 140, changes were needed in both the infrastructure and the grazing management system. Tony Bush, NRCS Tribal Liaison to the Oneida Tribe developed their conservation plan and wrote the new prescribed rotational grazing plan for the farm. Utilizing Great Lakes Restoration

Initiative funds through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), ONF has expanded the pasture acres to 214 and placed the entire operation under a prescribed rotational grazing system. Additional funds to complete the infrastructure were secured from GLRI, EQIP and partners for fencing, pipeline, watering facilities and a well.

Benefits of Conservation

ONF knows well the benefits of a managed grazing system. These conservation practices improve forage quality, plant productivity, and herd health. The goal of the EQIP program is to support production while protecting the environment.

Dennis VanVreede, ONF farm supervisor says, "Thanks to NRCS and GLRI funding, we have been able to expand our buffalo grazing operation allowing us to supply more healthy meat to the Oneida people and at the same time improve forage quality."

Rotational Grazing practices also reduce harmful pathogens into the ground and surface water helping to improve water quality in the watershed.



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