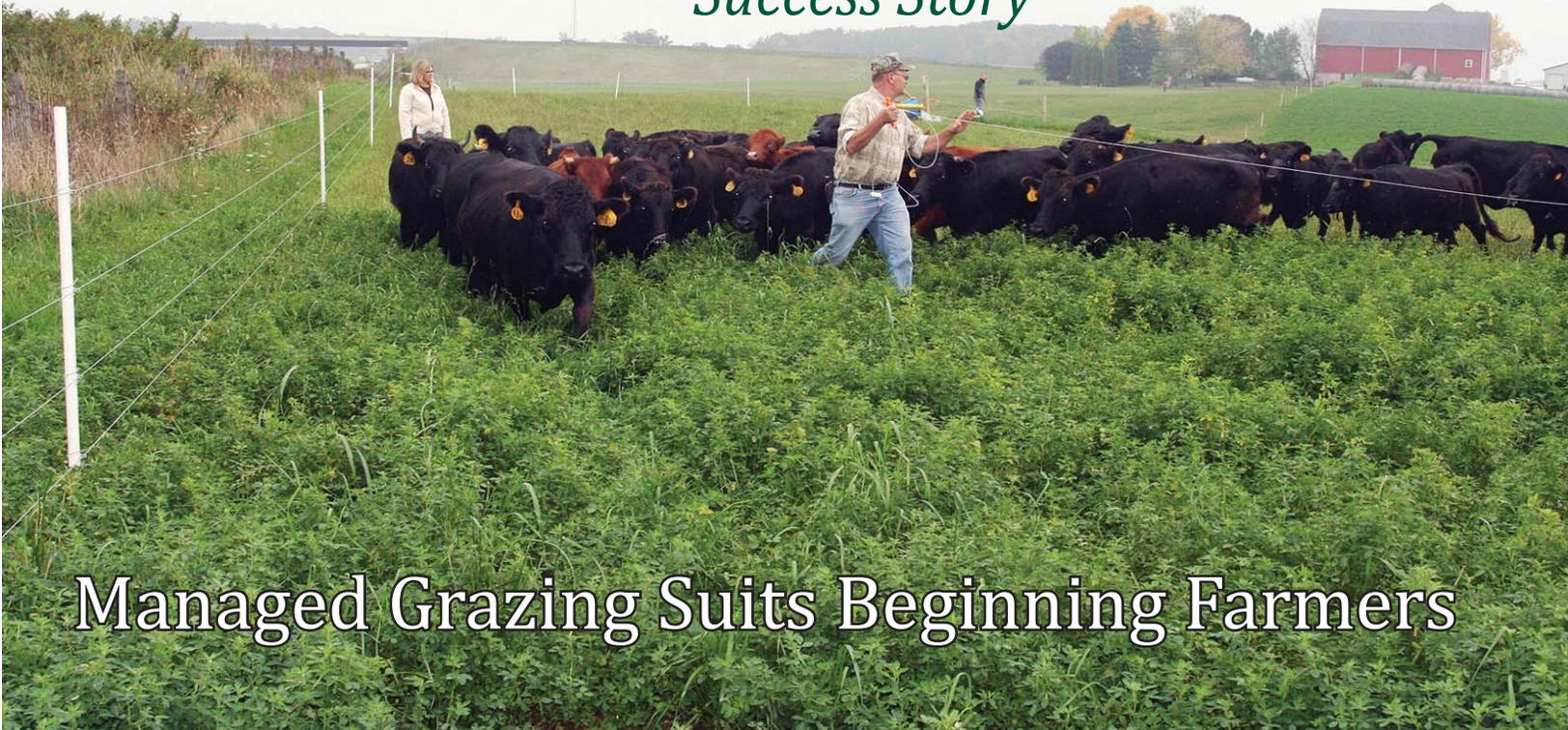


Great Lakes Restoration Initiative *Success Story*



Managed Grazing Suits Beginning Farmers



United States
Department
of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Carlos and Kathy Tennessen, and daughter Amanda, are beginning farmers, just getting started with managed grazing. Their small operation on 59 acres feeds 35 head of beef.



Carlos, daughter Amanda, and Kathy Tennessen, enjoy the quality of life that managed grazing offers.

Moving cattle from one paddock to another is just a matter of opening the gate, and the cattle rush to the new forage.

They will out winter cattle with bales for the first time this year. Last year, the cattle were in the barn, and the Tennessens found themselves spending enormous amounts of time feeding animals and cleaning barns. With grazing, even in winter the cattle feed themselves and no barn cleaning is needed.

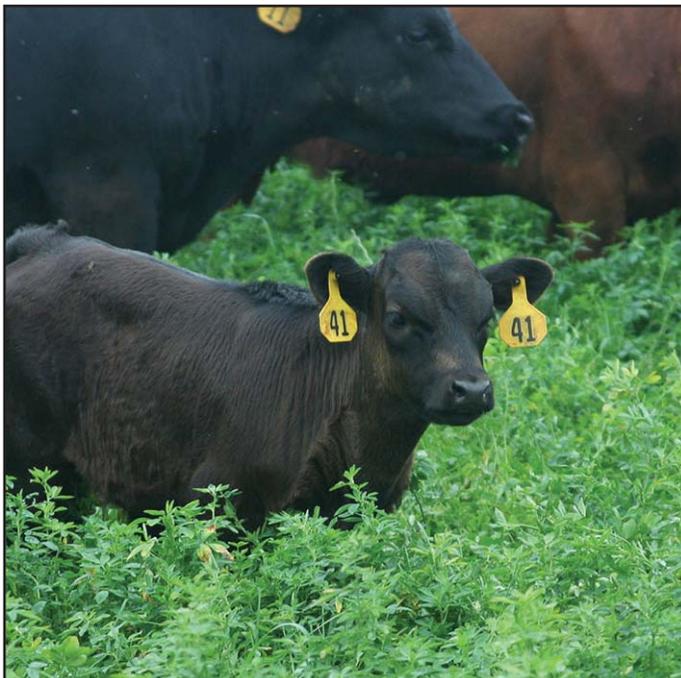
Good fencing is essential, as is an all-weather watering system, all designed by an NRCS Soil Conservationist Adam Abel, with financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

“Working with NRCS has been a really good experience. We went with NRCS to visit another well-established beef grazer, and we were sold.” That visit convinced them that they could make this work too. It provided the final nudge to help them in their decision to start grazing.

Now the Tennessens are hosting pasture walks to help others who are interested see the ease and potential in managed grazing.



Technical assistance from NRCS Soil Conservationist Adam Abel and visits to other working grazing operations helped the Tennesseans learn the management techniques needed to succeed with grazing.



Cattle are moved every two or three days, to allow good quality forage to recover and regrow quickly. There is enough forage that it can be baled to provide hay throughout the winter months. Manure management, soil erosion and runoff are no longer an issue on the farm.

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.