



Transform your Land with Regenerative Grazing

Unlike conventional tillage which degrades soil and often involves chemical applications, regenerative grazing seeks to work with nature to continually improve ecology over time without artificial inputs.

Expected Outcomes

- **Soil Health Improvement:** Regenerative grazing increases soil organic matter through the addition of animal impact and the trampling of plant matter into the soil. This enhances soil structure, fertility, and water retention capabilities, reducing erosion.
- **Carbon Sequestration:** By promoting plant growth and soil microbial activity, regenerative grazing helps capture atmospheric carbon dioxide and store it in the soil, mitigating climate change.
- **Biodiversity Enhancement:** The practice supports a diversity of plant species due to varied grazing patterns, which in turn supports a broader range of insects, pollinators, birds, and other wildlife, contributing to ecosystem resilience.
- **Water Cycle Regulation:** Improved soil structure from grazing practices leads to better water infiltration, reducing runoff and helping to recharge groundwater. This can also stabilize local water bodies by reducing sediment load.
- **Reduction in Chemical Use:** With healthier soil and more diverse plant life, there's no need for synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, which reduces chemical pollution and associated ecological damage.
- **Habitat Restoration:** Converting cropland to pasture can restore habitats that were previously disturbed, providing corridors for wildlife and supporting native plant species.
- **Erosion Control:** The root systems of grasses and forbs, combined with the physical protection of the soil surface by plant litter, significantly decrease soil erosion compared to tilled cropland.
- **Nutrient Cycling:** Grazing animals redistribute nutrients across the land through their dung and urine, creating a more balanced nutrient profile in the soil, which is beneficial for long-term soil health.
- **Resilience Against Climate Extremes:** Diverse, deep-rooted pastures can better withstand droughts and floods, providing a buffer against extreme weather events and maintaining productivity.

“When we see Land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.” Aldo Leopold

Red Leg Farms Regenerative Ranching

We are Nick and Annie Rodgers, the proud owners of Red Leg Farms in Montrose, MI. Our farming adventure began in 2018 when we bought our first piece of land with dreams of raising beef cattle and growing hay using conventional methods. However, as first-generation farmers, we quickly learned that the path was fraught with high upfront costs and little room for error.

A pivotal moment came when we watched helplessly as our investment in alfalfa washed away during a summer storm, leaving us both financially strained and disheartened. This experience led us to seek a more sustainable approach. We discovered the documentary "One Hundred Thousand Beating Hearts," which chronicled Georgia rancher Will Harris's transformative journey into regenerative agriculture. This was our turning point.

*We immersed ourselves in learning about regenerative ranching through books, YouTube, podcasts, educational classes, and conventions. We were captivated by the philosophy of working **with** nature rather than against it, fundamentally changing how we manage our livestock and steward our land.*

Today, our farm is home to a fold of hardy Highland and South Poll cattle, along with Katahdin sheep, breeds selected for their resilience and ability to thrive on less than ideal forage, without the need for grain supplements. We practice rotational grazing, meticulously managing our pastures to optimize the benefits from our animals while preventing overgrazing, thus fostering a healthier ecosystem and more resilient farm.



An Expert in the Field

- Greg Judy's Grazing School, 2020
- Michigan State University Extension Beginning Grazing School, 2021
- Savory Introduction to Holistic Management, 2022
- Savory Holistic Planned Grazing, 2022 & 2023
- Savory Holistic Land Planning, 2022 & 2023
- Savory Ecological Outcomes Verification Short Term Monitoring Training, 2022
- Ranching for Profit, 2023
- Soil Health Academy, Adaptive Grazing School, 2023
- Savory Holistic Financial Planning, 2023
- Soil Health Academy, Making Grazing Pay in a Northern Environment, 2024
- Member Genesee County Farmers Network board member, 2024
- Board of Directors, Michigan Forage Council, 2025

