

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Technical Assistance Available for Grazing Operations

HARRISBURG – The Capital Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area Council, Inc. announces a new program to provide assistance for grazing operators within impaired watersheds in South Central Pennsylvania.

The “Grass Roots: Fencing the Future” project will assist eligible landowners to install or improve grazing systems on up to 5,000 acres in a fourteen-county region. Working with partners involved in the South Central Project Grass initiative, including representatives of county conservation districts, private and non-profit businesses, USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Penn State University as well as the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the program aims to improve the economic viability and environmental quality of livestock operations by promoting individual grazing practices.

Project partners will coordinate a targeted program aimed at not only installing fencing, crossings, watering systems and other beneficial practices, but also providing on-farm field walks and one-on-one assistance to participants. The project will provide planning and technical assistance along with other tools for success, including innovative opportunities for networking, developing nutrient and carbon credits as well as training on marketing strategies for grass-fed meat products.

"This innovative project will help our farms achieve lower inputs for greater profitability, as well as provide lasting benefits for rivers and streams in our region and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay" said Bicky Redman, Capital RC&D Chairperson. Capital RC&D is a regional non-profit organization that networks people, resources and projects to promote responsible use and conservation of our region's natural, community and economic resources. Capital RC&D is an equal opportunity provider.

Funding for the project is being provided through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Chesapeake Bay Program. For more information or to apply for funding through the project, please contact your local NRCS Grazing Specialist or Susan Richards, Capital RC&D Program Manager at (717) 724-0009 or susan.richards@rcdnet.net. Check the website for future information and postings at: www.capitalrcd.org