

# Grazing Management: Real-life Stories from the Field

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Farmer Panelists:

**Leon Corse**, Whitingham, VT

**Steve Robinson**, South Hero, VT

**Bruce Rivington**, Hamilton, NY





# Pasture is a Crop - Let's manage it like one!



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# Pasture $\neq$ Putting Green



# “Solar Farm”

**Good Stewardship using livestock creates many benefits:**

- \* **Perennial cover**
- \* **Pasture species diversity**
- \* **Soil health**
- \* **Animal health**
- \* **Decreased feed costs**
- \* **Animal performance**
- \* **Human nutrition**

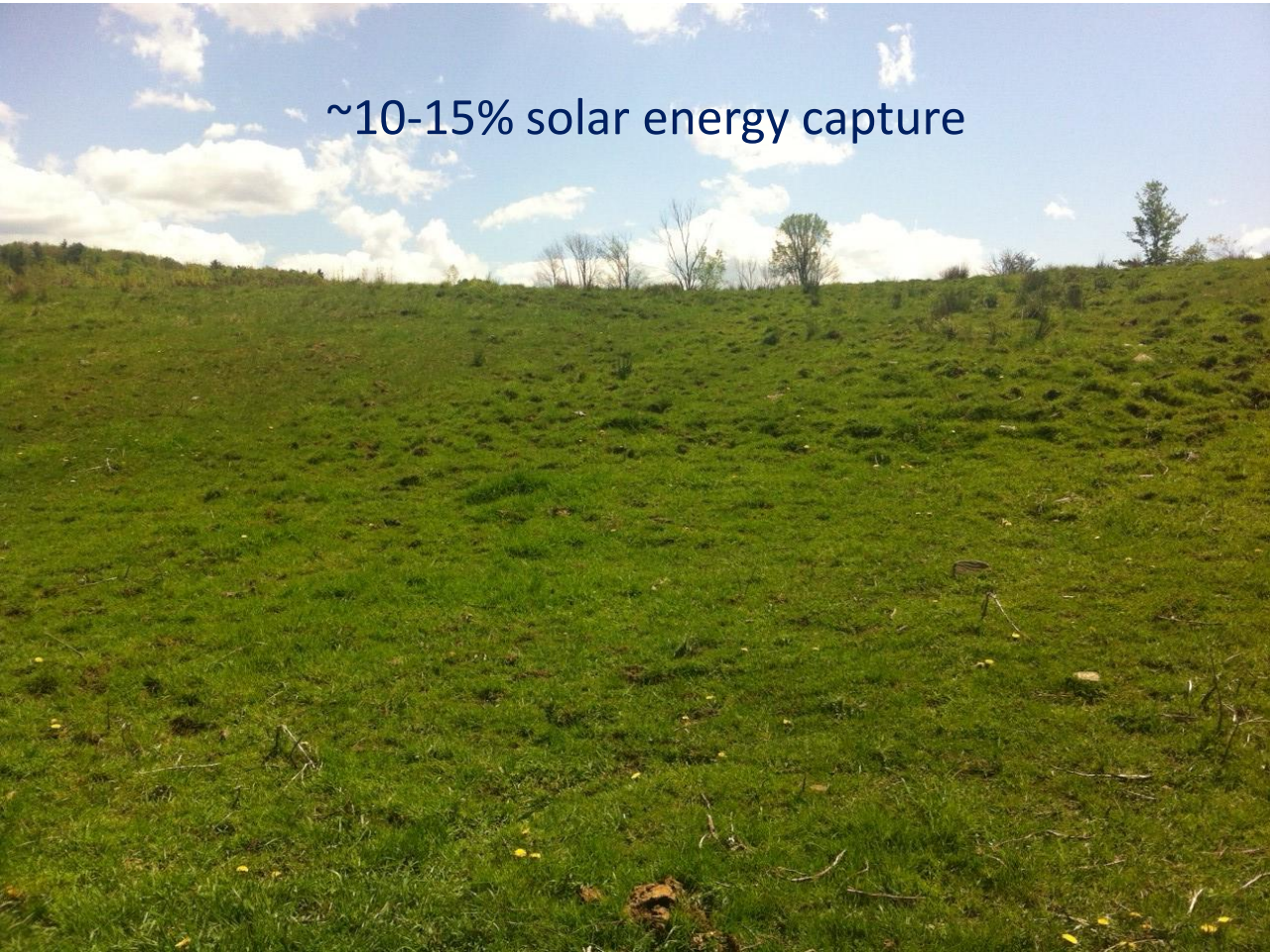


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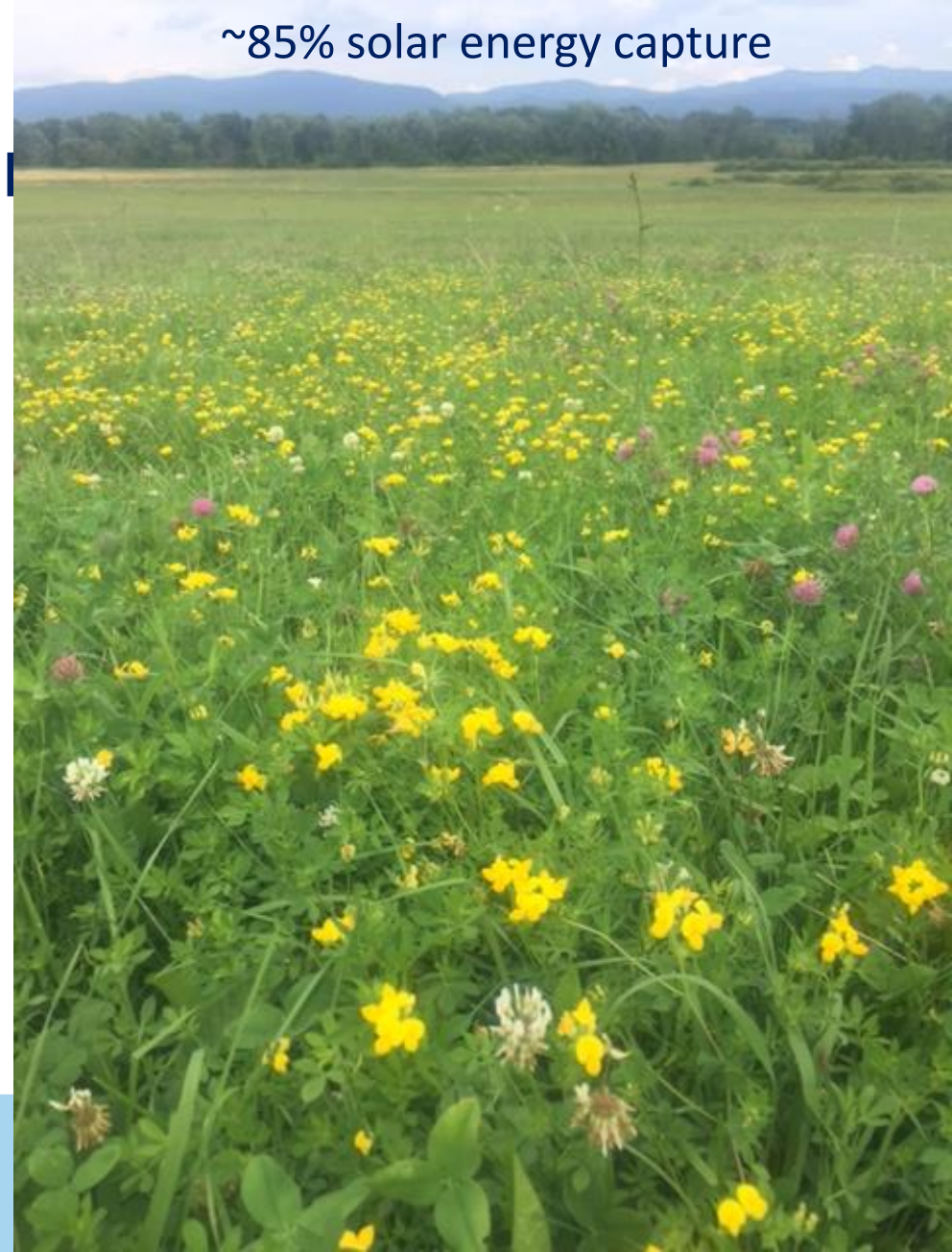
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# Goal - maximize solar energy capture

~10-15% solar energy capture



~85% solar energy capture





# Number One Producer Goal? Cost savings





## And on the other end...





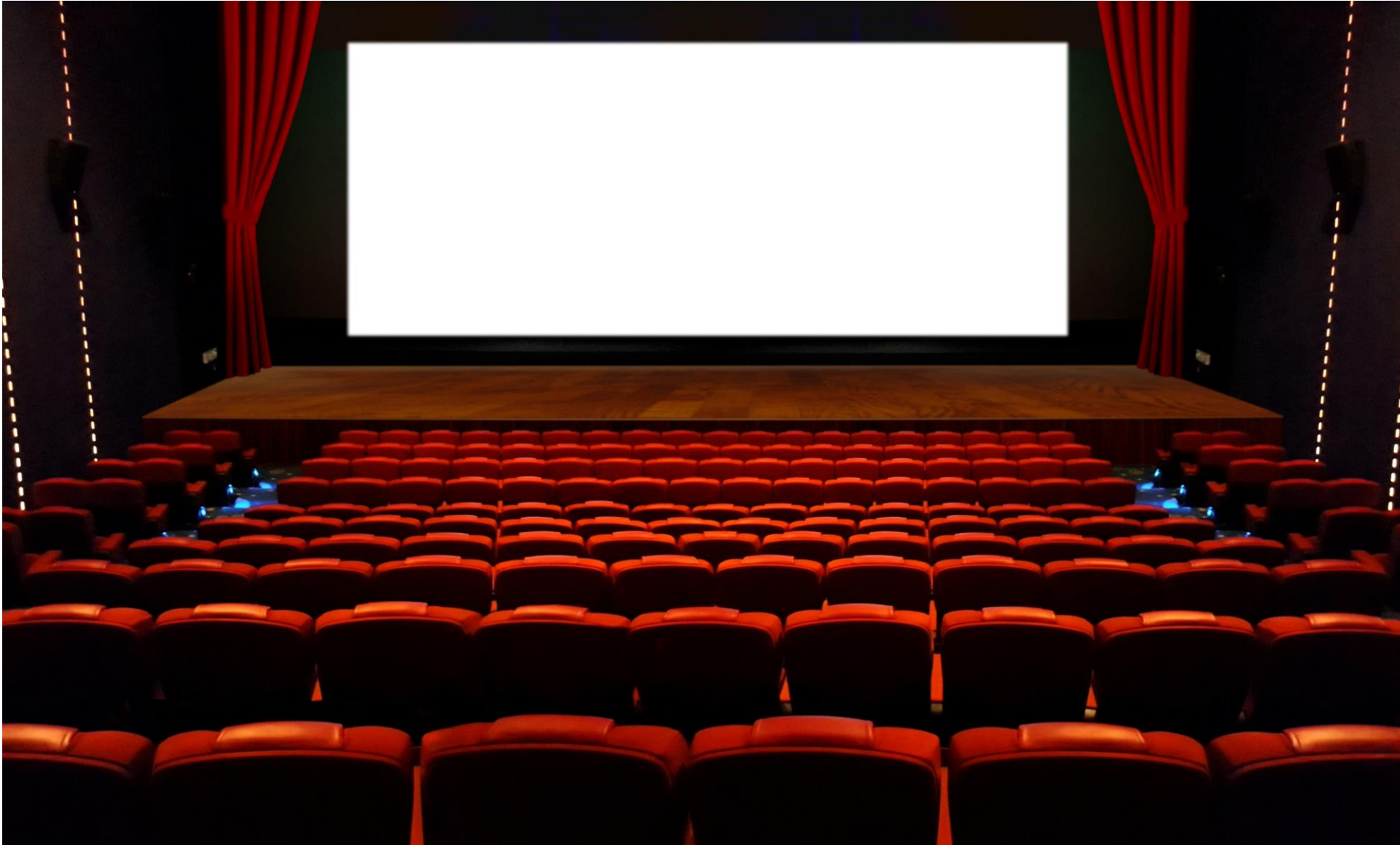
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# What are we trying to achieve?









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## Predators stimulate 'herd effect' in the wild







**On the farm, we have  
tools to stimulate  
herd effect**

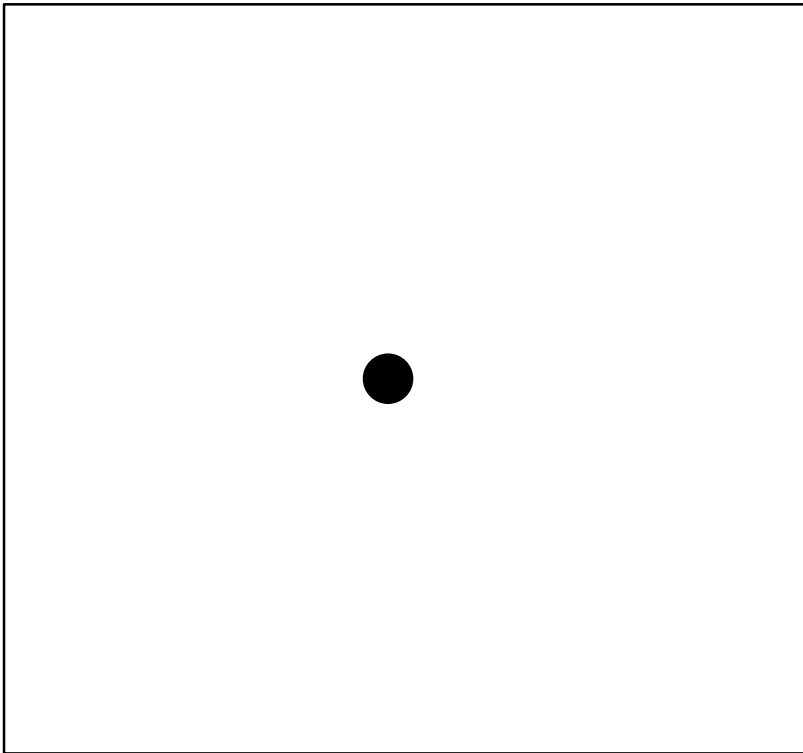


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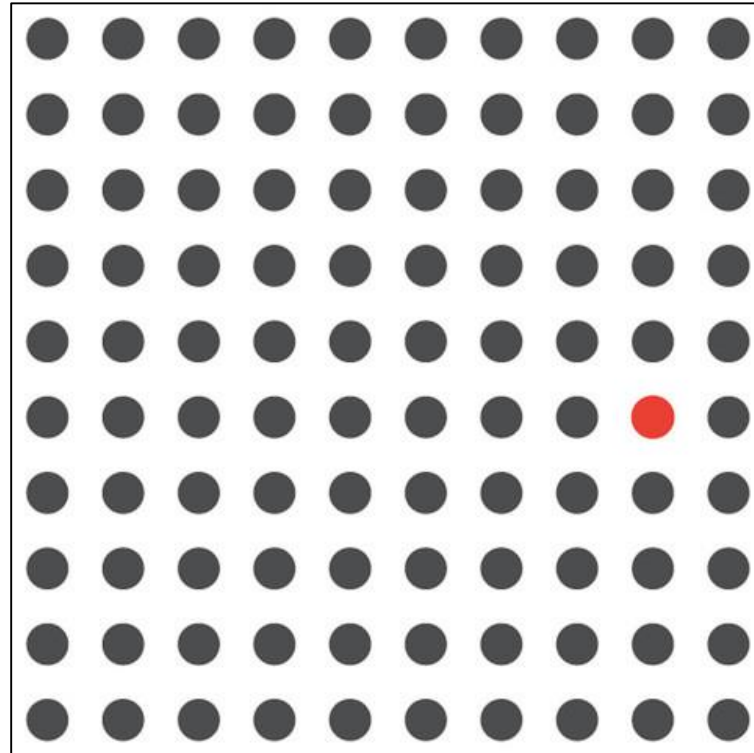


# Which causes more over-grazing damage?

One cow on an acre for 100 days



One hundred cows on an acre for 1 day





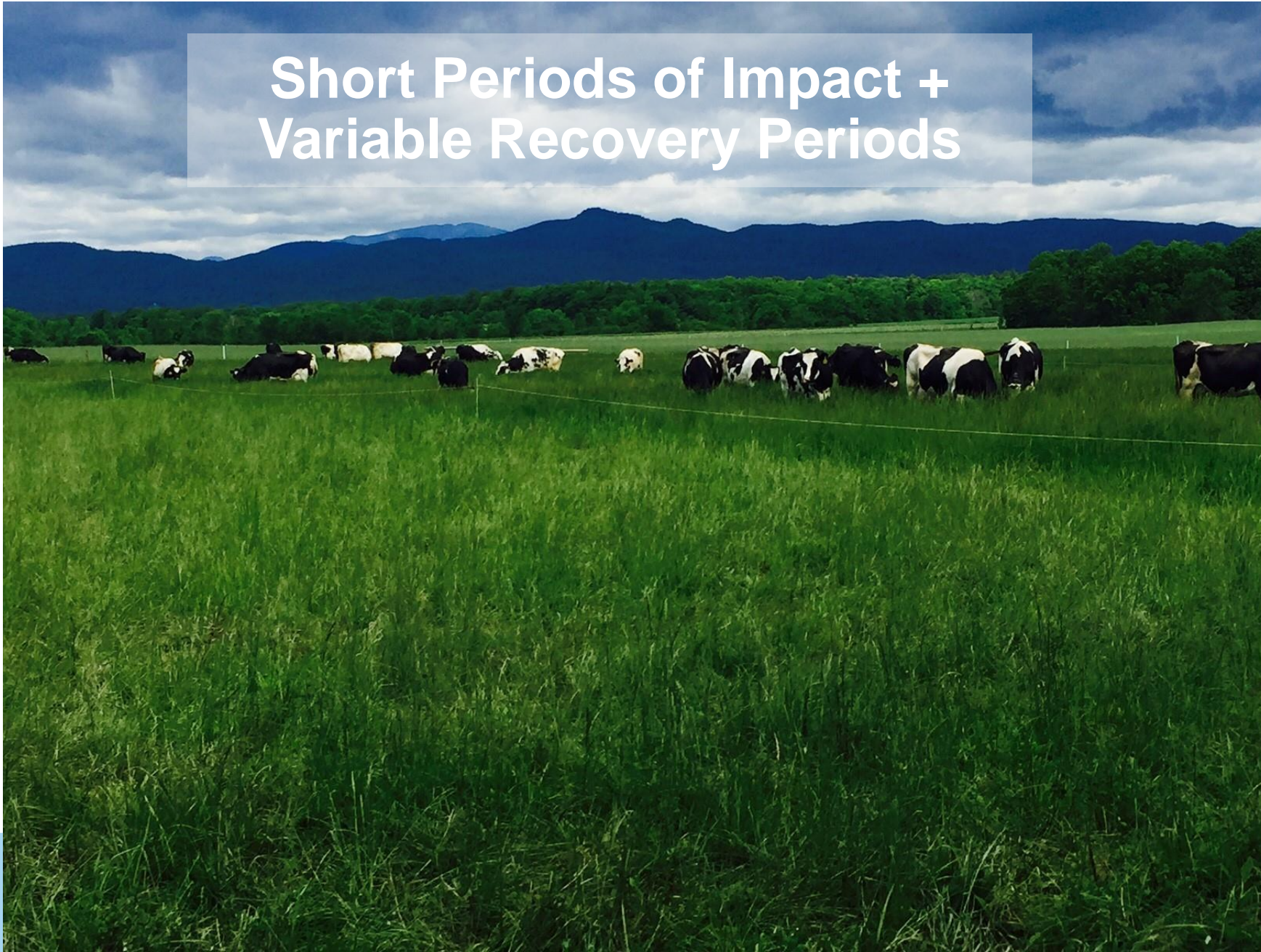
**Over-grazing is not a product of animal numbers**

**Over-grazing is a product of time**





# Short Periods of Impact + Variable Recovery Periods





# Keys to Success: Planning, Implementation, Monitoring, Re-planning





# Leon Corse, The Corse Farm, Whitingham, VT







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# Steve Robinson, Islandacres Farm, South Hero, VT







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**Tie-stall barn, loafing area, small continuously stocked pasture area**



**2013 – began planning for NRCS EQIP grazing plan**

Fence, pipeline, tubs, animal trail, and seeding down corn land





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# 2014/2015- 60 acres converted from annual to perennial crops (not without its challenges)





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Upgrade of existing infrastructure  
and a lot of new additional



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# Spring Turnout - 2018





**May 2018**





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# June









# July



# August



# September

