

## **Twilight Dairy Grazing Management Meeting in the Unadilla River Watershed**

The Otsego and Madison County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, The Otsego Co. Grazer's Group, The Upper Susquehanna Coalition, and The Graze-NY Program are teaming up with 20 year dairy grazing veteran, Brian Hackley, for an after-milking twilight pasture-walk on August 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm to 9pm at 7301 County Highway 18, West Winfield, N.Y. (1 mile south of Bridgewater off Route 20).

Brian Hackley's family farm legacy spans 8 generations of dairy farming in the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay. The river bottom farm consists of 250 acres of owned and rented land with 50 acres in a rotational grazing system for the 45 dairy cows. Brian describes his journey into grazing management as self-taught with help from other farmers, pasture walks, books and agency partners. "The cows have helped me the most by showing how they like my management with their milk production, said Brian. Grazing has helped me obtain a 6:1 milk to grain ratio, lower my fuel/utility use and improve herd health."

He uses portable tumble-wheels to move the cows on a daily basis within a high tensile fence boundary and recently added above ground pressurized water system with new movable tubs. He has worked with local staff from the Otsego/Madison County Conservation Districts and USDA-NRCS field office to design and implement conservation on the ground. He has utilized the USC sponsored post driver in building new fencing infrastructure and has installed laneways, a water system and a milk-house waste system while implementing prescribed grazing management.

We invite you to discuss grazing strategies, measure Brix levels in the grass and learn from an experienced dairy grazier for improving your operation's bottom line.

Please join us at the farm for practical knowledge, fellowship and homemade desserts.

**To register or get more information, please call  
Troy Bishopp, @ Madison Co. SWCD (315) 824-9849 or  
Bob Weaver @ Otsego Co. SWCD (607) 547-8337**