The primary purpose of this project as stated earlier in this publication was to demonstrate economically and environmentally sustainable grassland management systems that farmers could adopt. In sustainable systems economic and environmental benefits cannot be separated, for without one you cannot have the other. Environmental practices that are not economical will either not be adopted or sustained due to economic constraints. On the other hand practices that are geared solely towards profitability without any regards to the environment or condition of the resource base will not be sustainable over the long term. One of the best ways to get long term conservation on the ground is to find cost effective ways it can be done. Management intensive grazing, applied properly, is one tool that can be used to achieve both long term environmental and economic sustainability.

The following is a listing of benefits observed by the participants of this project.

**Environmental and Economic Benefits:**

**Improved vegetative cover** - reduced runoff potential; reduced soil erosion

**More vigorous root system** - increased water infiltration; improved response to rainfall; reduced soil erosion potential

**Improved nutrient distribution** - reduced nutrient runoff; reduced fertilizer application; reduced pollutants in watershed

**Healthy, vegetative sward** - reduced herbicide usage; reduced potential chemical runoff; improved soil carbon and nitrogen cycling; less outside inputs entering the system

**Increased plant diversity** - improved wildlife habitat; climatic persistence; improved use of available nutrients; longer season for active cycling of nutrients

**Improved soil health/condition** - increased earthworm populations; improved infiltration; improved fertility

**Reduced time and/or access to streams** - reduced streambank erosion; improved streambank cover/shade; improved wildlife/aquatic habitat; reduced pollutants reaching stream

All of these environmental benefits and improvements led to

**Increased production** - increased carrying capacity; increased per acre gains; maintained/improved individual average daily gains; maintained/increased milk production; improved animal health; decreased culling rate

**Decreased Costs** - feed; fertilizer; weed control; fuel/machinery; labor; animal waste storage and handling