Pasture Evaluation in Dairy Farms in the Northern Area of Puerto Rico as a Tool to Educate Producers

Pagán Riestra, Suzika[1]; Martínez Loarte, Enrique[1]; Vélez Robles, Yomar[1]; and Marrero Olmeda, José[1]

[1]Agricultural Extension Agents, North Central Region, Agricultural Extension Service, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

Goals

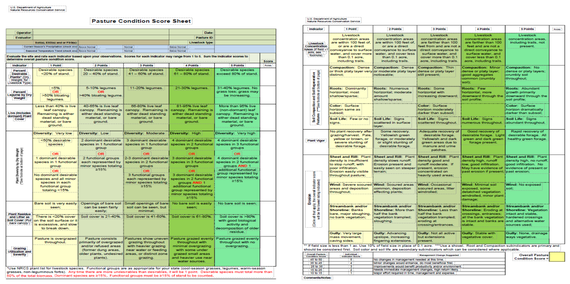
- Educate dairy producers about pasture condition evaluations and rotational grazing.
- Identify actual pasture condition in 37 dairy farm's paddocks in the northern area of Puerto Rico.

Grazing Initiative

- The Cooperative of Milk Producers of Puerto Rico, USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Services (USDA-NRCS) and the Agricultural Extension Service (AES) developed and an agreement to evaluate the pasture condition in paddocks of dairy farms in northern area of Puerto Rico.
- The Pasture Condition Score (PCS) is a tool developed by USDA-NRCS, as a systematic strategy to determine how good or bad the condition of a paddock is.

Extension and Outreach Strategies

A- Producers were **visited individually** and educated about the pasture condition evaluation. **Evaluation of paddocks** was completed.



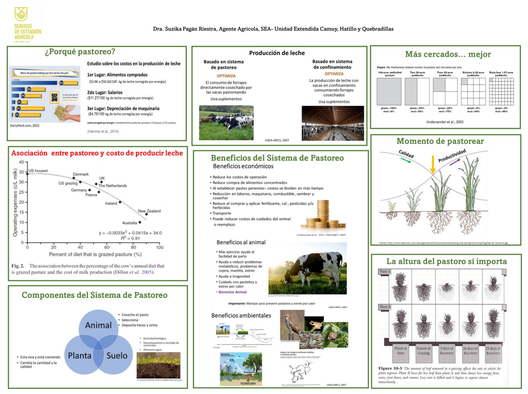
Available at: Pasture Condition Score Sheet.pdf (usda.gov)

B- Within the northern region of the island a lesson related to rotational grazing and a pasture walk was performed.

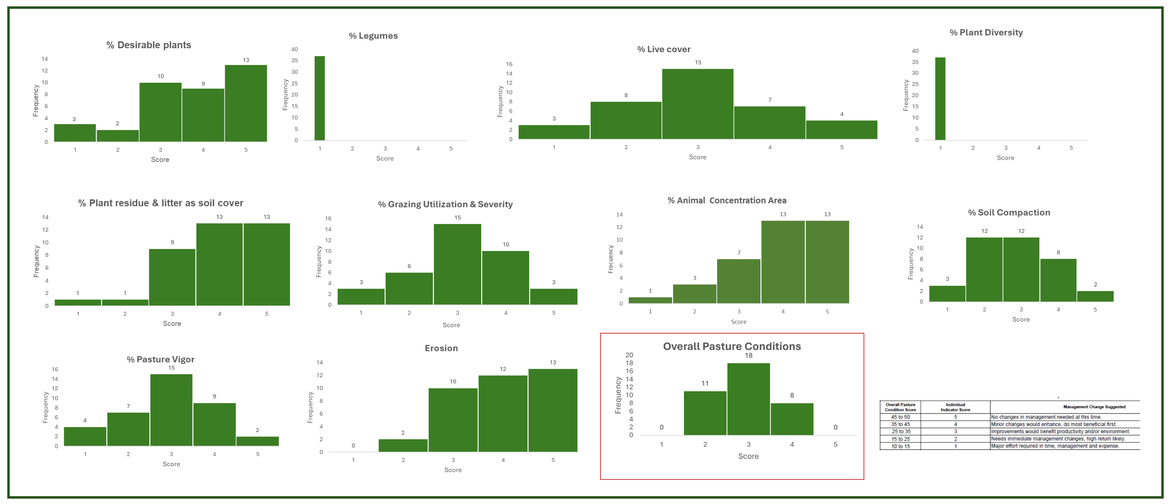
C- Regional results of the pasture condition evaluations were presented and discussed during a technical meeting.

Fotos: Leche Fresca, Facebook
3 de marzo de 2023

Publication and Results



Poster developed for the pasture walks.

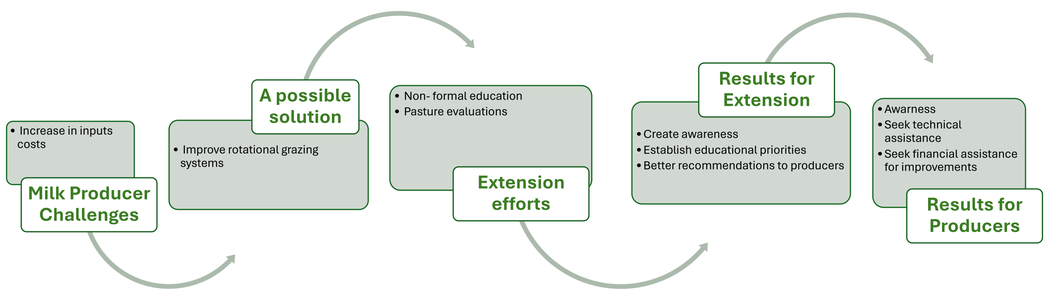


Regional results of the pasture condition evaluations, presented to producers

Impact

- 37 paddocks in different dairies, and municipalities has been evaluated
- 15 producers participated of the pasture walk
- 17 producers learned about the pasture condition score results fron the northern region of Puerto Rico

Implications



References:

USDA-NRCS. 2020. Guide to Pasture Condition Scoring. https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/cmis_proxy/https/ecm.nrcs.usda.gov%3A443/fncmis/resources/WEBP/ContentStream/idd_70378378-0000-C510-AE2E-12F005E69D90/0/Guide+to+Pasture+Condition+Scoring.pdf

Sanderson, M. A., Goslee, S. C., and Cropper, J. B. 2005. Pasture assessment in the northeast United States. Online. Forage and Grazinglands doi:10.1094/FG-2005-1031-01-RS.

Sanderson, M. A. 2014.Evaluating the USDA-NRCS pasture condition score system with weighted indicators. Ecological Indicators 41: 183-186. DOI:10.1016/j.ecolind.2014.01.042