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# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Pasture walk to highlight profitable dairy grazing

Farmers interested in seeing first hand a profitable dairy grazing operation and well-managed pasture are invited to attend a farm tour and pasture walk showcasing Rocky Acres dairy farm in Warren, Mass. on Wednesday, September 27, 2006 from 12:00 noon to 3:00 pm.

The pasture walk is hosted by farm owners Robert and Martha Richardson and sponsored by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, New England Small Farm Institute, Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), and University of Massachusetts Extension.

The Richardson's farm is located on the east side of Coy Hill Road in Warren, MA, between routes 9 and 67. For more detailed directions, call Barbara Miller, NRCS, 413-253-4380, [barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov](mailto:barbara.miller@ma.usda.gov) or Sue Ellen Johnson, NESFI, 413-323-4531, [sejohnson@smallfarm.org](mailto:sejohnson@smallfarm.org). A map is available on-line at [www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ma.nrcs.usda.gov).

Rocky Acres Farm has been selected for the 2006 Massachusetts Outstanding Dairy Farm of the Year award by the New England Green Pastures Committee. The Richardsons will be recognized in a ceremony on Friday, September 15th at the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield.

Rocky Acres Farm, located atop the picturesque hills of the town of Warren and adjacent to the Quaboag River, is a grassed based operation that consists of 100 acres of grass hay and 60 acres of pasture. Bob Richardson, who has been operating the farm since 1976 and is the second generation on the farm, practices rotational grazing and seasonal milking on this family run farm.

"Rotational grazing was a practice that has evolved on our farm" said Richardson. "We realized that the cows could harvest their own grass even more efficiently than we could."

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