

David and Elva Hoover farm is immediately south of Benton Center on Route 14A in Penn Yan. Approximately 120 acres supports forage production for between 80 and 90 head of cattle including young stock plus some grain production.

A number of management factors contribute to the sustainability of this farm.

Grazing – Managed grazing provides the cows fresh green grass every 12 hours, mimicking a more natural animal movement. This reduces the cost of purchased feed, handling home grown feed, and manure spreading while allowing the cows more comfort. The cows are happier and healthier, and so is the farmer.



Maximizing nutrient recycling – Manure is composted in a bedded pack in the barn, which stabilizes nutrients to reduce potential leaching into ground water. The bedded pack contributes to cow comfort and health. The heat from the bedded pack helps reduce feed requirements in the winter time.



Diversification - Besides dairy farming, farm machinery rental, and crafting fine furniture and cabinets rounds out the income opportunities for this family.

Family food production – Almost all of their food is produced on this farm. The USDA estimates it would take \$32,000 per year to feed this family on the “moderate food plan”. The active lifestyle of this family requires more than moderate food consumption.

Vocational training – Each child in this family receives extensive training in at least one skill area that will prepare them for self-employment in an endeavor of their choosing.

Giving back to society – Members of this family actively contribute time and talent to the community through participation in disaster relief, food contributions, informal education, and fellowship. This service starts within the community, but through more organized endeavors extends throughout the world.

