KISS THE GROUND FARMER GRANT ‘25-’26

Living Pastures Farm LLC
MARSHALL, VIRGINIA

The Plan

Jonathan Elliott set out to strengthen regenerative grazing at Living Pastures Farm by creating 13 paddocks that could be further divided for more intentional livestock management. His plan included expanding water access and adding cattle-handling infrastructure to support a transition from purchasing young cattle to raising calves on the farm. The goal was to build a healthier grazing system and a more financially resilient business for generations to come.

Challenges & Learnings

Managing cattle across large pastures requires flexible fencing, reliable water access, and the right infrastructure. Transitioning from purchasing young cattle to breeding their own herd also brings new responsibilities. Jonathan recognized that improving these systems was essential to building a more efficient and financially stable farm.

Adaptations

With new paddocks and expanded water infrastructure, Jonathan can manage grazing more intentionally, giving pastures time to recover between rotations. These improvements are also helping the farm move toward breeding its own calves, providing greater control over herd management and long-term operating costs.

Community Impact

Living Pastures Farm is helping connect northern Virginia families with locally raised, grass-fed beef, chicken, and pork. Many customers return year after year, relying on the farm for a significant portion of their meat. These lasting relationships are helping strengthen the local food system.

Results

With support from Kiss the Ground, Jonathan established 13 semi-permanent paddocks and expanded water access, bringing an additional 50 acres under regenerative management. These improvements are supporting more intentional grazing and pasture recovery while laying the groundwork for raising calves on the farm. It’s an important step toward a more resilient operation that can support the Elliott family for years to come.

BIGGEST IMPACT

GENERATIONAL RESILIENCE



“The grant was a major help in us getting our business towards long-term financial sustainability while using regenerative practices.”

– JONATHAN ELLIOTT
LIVING PASTURES FARM LLC