

## **Wet Meadows**

A wet meadow is a poorly drained area that is populated by native plants and grasses. I have been nurturing wet meadows at the Snake River Farm for many years. Long ago I blocked the man-made drainage channels. That brought the water level up close to the surface. Careful rotational grazing helps to improve the meadows in a number of ways but primarily by keeping brushy plants in check.

This summer has been a grand year for wet meadows. They have bloomed luxuriously since spring. Starting with trilliums, violets, marsh marigolds, anemones, bluebells and then changing to jewelweed, vervain, joe-pye weed, boneset, thistles of many types, milkweeds, asters, goldenrod, gentian, phlox, bergamot, coneflowers, strawflowers, golden alexanders and many more.

This year I had many opportunities to walk through the meadows checking fences after wind storms. Each time, I got soaked up to my chest pushing my way through the luscious growth of vegetation. High rubber boots are required but it has been well worth the trouble.