Dear Great Lakes Grazier,

Another summer grazing season is winding down. It has not been a perfect season for most but many would say it has been O.K. and maybe a few would acknowledge it has been better than average. As fall approaches the most critical season for grazing management arrives. The groundwork you may have laid this summer with extra grazing acres fenced, stock-piled pastures set aside, or cover crop forages planted could benefit you greatly this fall and early winter.

The period of September – December is when most farms run out of grazing forage in Michigan. At current hay prices, for every day that you can avoid feeding hay to a beef cow for example, by using some of the grazing forages mentioned above, you could be saving $0.50 - $0.75/head/day. This savings factors in the cost of the alternative grazing forage. So for example if you used good grazing management in the summer and September 1 started grazing a warm season cover crop mix and November 1 then grazed a cool season cover crop mix to December 15 you could have saved $68/cow by feeding less hay (106 days X $0.65/day). For a 35 cow herd that is a savings of $2,412 in feed costs just for the cows. If you used cover crops, they may have also improved your soil quality and it may have allowed you to take grazing pressure off of your pastures in the fall, making the pastures stronger for better growth next summer. The total impact of this may be well over $3,000 for an average sized cow herd of 35 cows.

Enclosed in this newsletter are announcements of upcoming events that can provide you with more knowledge and information to make fall your farm’s most productive and important grazing season. Here’s to a great fall season!

Jerry Lindquist,
MSU Extension Grazing Educator

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U.P. MSU Extension Forage Field Days Continue in September

Two more forage-based on-farm field days are scheduled for September. These free, informal programs are designed to address local issues in forage and grazing management and are supported by a grant from Project GREEEN. Host farmers and MSU personnel will lead discussion, present research-based forage information and respond to questions. Come and learn from fellow farmers about their successful forage systems. Please call Jim Isleib, MSU Extension, at 906-387-2530 to register. Leave a message if calling after office hours. Make sure to mention which field day you will attend. This is needed to arrange for on-farm transportation and refreshments.

Friday September 12, 2014 - 10:00 am—12:00 pm EDT
Bob Barron Milking Parlor
8050 L.75 Rd, Gladstone, MI 49837
Note: L.75 Rd Runs north and south between 21st and 20th Roads. The milk parlor drive way way is almost 1/2 mile from both roads. The corner of L.75 Rd and 21st Rd sets on County Highway 420 and 426
Topics
☑ Grass Based Dairy Operations
☑ Open Sided New Zealand Style Milk Parlor
☑ Rotational Grazing Dairy Cows
☑ Grazing Cover Crops with Dairy Cows
☑ Seasonal Calving the Dairy Herd

Agenda
10:00 – Meet at Barron Milking Parlor / Tour of Milking Parlor – Bob Barron
10:30 – Grazing Dairy Cows – Bob Barron
11:00—The Grazing Dairy Cow and Seasonal Calving—Bob Barron
11:30 - Grazing Cover Crops—Bob Barron and Jim Isleib, MSU Extension Educator
12:00 – Lunch and Wrap up Sponsored by Hiawatha Farm Bureau.

Saturday, September 13, 2014 - 10:00 am – 12:00 pm EDT
Brusso Farm, Frank Wardynski and Dallas Brusso
18360 Firesteel Rd, Ontonagon, MI 49953
Topics
☑ Cover Crop Plots
☑ Fall Calving Herd and the Forage System
☑ Differences between Rotational, Intensive and Tall Grass Grazing
☑ Water/Soil Infiltration, Rain Fall Simulator
☑ Additional topics will be determined by participant interest

Agenda
10:00 – Meet at Brusso Farm. Farm description and forage production practices and challenges – Frank Wardynski
10:30 – Tour Cover Crop Plots—Frank Wardynski and Jim Isleib
11:00 – Grazing Systems—Jerry Lindquist and Kable Thurlow, MSU Extension Educators
11:45 – Rainfall Simulator - Kable Thurlow and Jerry Lindquist
12:00 – Lunch and Wrap up
Save the Date

MSU Small Ruminant Health Symposium

Saturday, October 11, 2014
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
MSU Veterinary Medical Center

Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine invites you to attend a symposium on small ruminant health.

Veterinarians, animal health professionals, and small ruminant owners and producers are encouraged to attend the symposium to hear lectures and panels led by faculty and professionals of small ruminant health.

Featured Lecture:
Dr. Robert Van Saun, VMD, Penn State University
Dr. Van Saun, an expert in nutrition of small ruminants, will share the latest concepts in nutrition during the transition period between late pregnancy and early lactation, as well as mineral nutrition during all phases of production.

Program Speakers:
Dr. Richard Ehrhardt, Small Ruminant Specialist, Michigan State University
Dr. Ehrhardt will discuss lessons learned in developing feeding programs for large sheep farms as well as an update on current strategies of internal parasite control in small ruminants.

Dr. Judy Marteniuk, Large Animal Clinical Sciences, Michigan State University
Dr. Marteniuk will discuss chronic health concerns of small ruminants in small herds and flocks.

Dr. Dalen Agnew, Pathology, MSU Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health
Dr. Agnew will share information on health services provided by MSU for small ruminant producers and provide a primer on sample submission.

Come join us for this unique opportunity to learn the latest in small ruminant health!

$25 Registration Fee
Additional Registration Information to Follow

Michigan State University
College of Veterinary Medicine

(517) 353-4937 / development@cvm.msu.edu / 784 Wilson Rd., East Lansing, MI 48824
2014 Michigan /Great Lakes Region Sheep for Profit Programs


Topic: Low cost lamb finishing systems. The Wernette family will host a farm tour of their innovative lambing finishing program that utilizes grazing of standing corn and delivery of feed supplement on pasture. A discussion of lamb feeding systems and cost of gain in various feeding systems will be presented.

Oct 18: MSU south campus farm, Meeting and first tour starting point: MSU Swine Unit conference room 4813 Powerline Drive, Lansing MI 48910 (gravel road running east off of College Rd. between Jolly and Bennet Rds). Second tour location at 3 p.m.: Ehrhardt Farm, 6280 Kinneville Rd., Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Topic: Forage crops to improve whole-farm forage utilization in sheep farming systems. A tour of MSU south campus sheep farm annual forage plots and Dr. Ehrhardt’s farm located 30 min south near Eaton Rapids will highlight both annual and perennial forage crops that can be used to improve whole-farm forage utilization. Unique cultivars of forage brassicas, bulb brassicas, highly digestibly sudan grass hybrids, and “herb” mix plantings will be presented with a discussion on how each of these crops fits into a farm’s forage budget.

Nov. 8 Oswalt family farm, 10144 East XY Ave., Vicksburg, MI 49097. (Meeting location details to follow)

Topic: Modern forage feeding systems for sheep production. The Oswalt family will host a tour of their sheep farm that is home to 1200 ewes and a feeding system that centers on total mixed ration technology and use of by-product feeds. A discussion of feeding systems for highly productive ewes during pregnancy and lactation will be presented.

Each program will begin at the meeting hall location at noon and then continue to the farm location at 2 pm with each program concluding by 5 pm. Each program is free and requires no registration! Please contact Dr. Richard Ehrhardt with any questions you might have on these programs.

Email: ehrhard5@msu.edu
Phone: office (517) 353 2906 [office] or cell: (517) 899-0040
MSU Grazing School
W.K. Kellogg Biological Station, Kellogg Farm, 10461 N. 40th St.,
Hickory Corners, MI 49060
September 9th and 10th, 2014

Michigan State University Extension specialists will blend classroom-style instruction, hands-on education and the latest animal/forage research to give participants an in-depth introduction to grazing management.

This grazing school is for farmers and consultants just starting to graze animals and for experienced grazers with a desire to brush up on the principles of grazing.

Agenda:

**Day 1 (9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.)**
- Matching livestock to forage resources
- Economic factors affecting grazing decisions
- Nutritional and welfare needs of livestock on pasture
- Forage quality, species management
- Extending the grazing season

**Day 2 (8 a.m. to 4 p.m.)**
- Soil health and fertility management
- Fencing and watering systems
- Rainfall simulator demonstration
- Forage plant ID
- Paddock layout and design

**Please Note:** This grazing school is applicable to all types of livestock. In addition you can earn MAEAP Phase I education credit.

**Registration information:** Maximum enrollment is 35 people. Registration is $125 per person and $85 for a second participant from the same farm. Farm staff share one set of printed materials. The fee includes workshop notes, a forage handbook and all meals and refreshments.

**Register at:** events.anr.msu.edu/Grazing14/
**Early Registration ends September 3, 2014**
**Late Registration:** is $150 per person, September 3 - 7, 2014

Contact Misty Klotz at:
klotzmis@msu.edu or (269) 671-2402

Learn about the KBS Pasture Dairy :
http://pasturedairy.kbs.msu.edu/
Grazing School Agenda 2014
W.K Kellogg Biological Station, Pasture Dairy Center,
10461 N. 40th, St. Hickory Corners, MI 49060
September 9th, & 10th, 2014

Tuesday, September 9, 2014; Pasture Dairy Classroom

9:00 - 9:15am Registration

9:15 - 9:30am Introductions and overview
Misty Klotz, KBS Pasture Dairy Outreach Coordinator
Brook Wilke, KBS Farm Manager - The biology of plants, soil and animals at KBS

9:30 - 10:3 am Matching livestock and forage resources
  a. Evaluating farm and forage resources
  b. Setting goals - Beef, goat, dairy, horse, sheep enterprises
Philip Kaatz, MSUE Field Crops & Forage Educator Specialist

10:35 - 10:45am Coffee break

10:45 - 11:15am Economic factors affecting grazing decisions
  a. Costs of production, land value, leasing
  b. Potential returns, marketing, etc.
  c. Grazing management system options
Jerry Lindquist, MSUE Grazing & Field Crop Educator

11:15 - 12:00 pm Meeting the nutritional and welfare needs of livestock on pasture
  a. Quality vs. quantity of nutrients
  b. Supplementation (minerals, energy, protein), differences among livestock species and classes
  c. Avoiding problems (bloat, tetany, nitrate, prussic acid, GI parasites, flies, toxic plants, etc.)
  d. What to do in the winter
Dr. Richard Ehrhardt, MSUE Small Ruminant Specialist

12:00 - 1:00 pm Lunch, Box Lunch Delivered to the Classroom

1:00 - 2:30 pm Plant growth, forage quality, and species management
  a. How plants grow and respond to grazing, growth curves, seasonality, weather
  b. Yield vs. quality tradeoff
  c. Functional groups, individual species traits, variety selection
  d. Pasture establishment, renovation, improvement
  e. Pest and plant disease control
Dr. Kim Cassida, MSU Forage Specialist

2:30 - 3:30 pm How to measure pasture biomass (field)
Dr. Santiago Utsumi MSU Assistant Professor & Dr. Kim Cassida

3:30 - 3:45 pm Afternoon break

3:45 - 4:00pm Review forage measurement and how to use information
Dr. Kim Cassida, Dr. Santiago Utsumi
4:00 - 5:00pm  Extending the grazing season
   a. Stockpiling
   b. Grazing cover crops, annual forages, or temporary pastures
   c. Grazing crop residues
   d. Bale grazing
   e. Winter feeding options
Dr. Richard Erhardt, MSUE Small Ruminant Specialist

5:00 - 6:00pm  Free time - Dr. Santiago Utsumi, Is available for questions on grazing dairy systems

6:00 - 6:50pm  Dinner, McCrary Dinning Hall

6:50pm  Meet at McCrary Dinning Hall for farm tour

7:00pm  Arrive at Mick Cox Farm (see map)

7:00 - 7:15pm  Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP) Phase 1
Linda Zabik, MAEAP Specialist, Kalamazoo Conservation District

7:15 - 8:30pm  Farm Tour of Mick Kokx’s Farm
(see map for address and directions)

8:30pm  Return to KBS

(See Page3 for Wednesday, September 10th Agenda)

This Grazing School is made possible by our partners and supports
Wednesday September 10, 2014: Pasture Dairy Classroom

7:00 - 8:00am  Breakfast, McCrary Dinning Hall

8:00am  Travel to Pasture Dairy Classroom

8:15 - 9:15am  Soil health and fertility management, GAAMPs, and environmental concerns
   a. Three pillars of soil health (biology, chemistry, physics)
   b. Soil testing and fertilizer, nutrient cycling
Phil Kaatz, MSUE Field Crop & Forage Educator

9:15 - 9:45am  Water systems for grazing management
   a. Michigan regulations for access to surface water
   b. Animal water requirements
   c. Pasture watering options & equipment
Kevin Gould, MSUE Beef Educator

9:45 - 10:00 am  Load wagon, for Pasture Dairy Center

10:00 - 10:30am  Water systems for grazing management (field demo)
Kevin Gould, MSUE Beef Educator

10:30 - 10:45am  Coffee Break

10:45 - 11:15am  Fencing systems for grazing management
   a. Permanent vs. temporary fence
   b. Electric fencing options and chargers
   c. Fencing demos
Kevin Gould & Kable Thurlow MSUE Beef Educator

11:15 - 11:30am  Forage Plant Identification - Dr. Kim Cassida

11:30 - 12:10pm  Tour of the Pasture Dairy Center
Howard Straub III, KBS Dairy Manager

12:10 - 1 2:30pm  Lunch - Rainfall simulator demonstration (workshop evaluation)
Jerry Lindquist Grazing, Field Crop Educator & Kable Thurlow Beef Educator

1:00 - 1:45pm  Paddock layout and design of grazing systems
   a. Number, size, and shape of paddocks
   b. Access lanes
Jerry Lindquist, MSUE Grazing & Field Crop Educator

Informal Break  KBS Pasture-based cheeses

1:45 - 2:30pm  Paddock layout (group project)

2:30 - 3:30 pm  Present group work (10 min per group)

3:30 - 4:00pm  Wrap Up, Follow up and Resources
Osceola County Soil Health Series Twilight Pasture Walk
Grazing Beef Cattle on Fall Cover Crop Mixes

When: October 9, Wednesday, 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

Where: Michele & Chad Nicklas Farm
16134 Schofield Rd., Hersey, MI. 49639

Cost: No charge, a grant from Michigan Farm Bureau covered the cost of this event.

Multi-specie cover crop mixes are gaining a lot of attention for not only preventing soil erosion and reducing weed growth, but for improving soil fertility and soil water holding capacity. For livestock and dairy farms they also can provide a nutritious forage for grazing in the fall and early winter that can be fed for less than half the cost of harvested silage or hay.

The Nicklas’s no tilled a cover crop grazing mix into 16 acres of wheat stubble on August 5. The mix included: oats, triticale, Italian ryegrass, red clover, hairy vetch, turnips, and radish. They plan to graze their beef cow herd on field in November & December.

MSU Extension, NRCS and MAEAP will be on hand for discussions about the benefits of cover crops and programs available. All meetings are MAEAP Phase 1 qualified. Apple cider and doughnuts will be provided. If you have any questions, please call us! At the Osceola-Lake Conservation District—231-832-2950 or MSU Extension—231-832-6139

If you need an accommodation to participate, please contact Greg White at 231-832-5341 or at: greg.white@nrcs.usda.gov at least 2 weeks ahead of the event. USDA programs are open to all people.