



# Great Lakes Grazing Newsletter

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY Extension

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Dear Great Lakes Grazer,

The 2013 growing year is off to a good start mainly because we have soil moisture once again. Hay and pasture growth is abundant in most parts of the State but there are still concerns. Grain crop tillage and planting was slowed by the wet soils, and now dry hay harvest is being delayed by wet soil conditions and additional rainfall.

But after last year's drought we are not going to complain about too much rain. We know there will be hay harvest window of opportunity coming. Currently hay prices are still staying high for the following reasons: very little carry-over of 2012 hay; high grain prices; wet weather that is hampering the baling of dry hay; yields that thus far are not above average; reports out of Wisconsin and Minnesota of winter kill reducing the density of their alfalfa field causing speculation that farms over the Lake will need more MI hay; and less hay acres in State as many were planted to corn and soybeans.

Hay and pasture yields are quite variable this year. Moisture has not been the most limiting factor thus far so yields this season are heavily dependent upon soil fertility. A long term trial I am conducting at the MSU Lake City BioAg Research Center has shown the importance of proper fertilization this spring. The yields for the 1<sup>st</sup> cutting grass hay crop were:

- |   |                            |
|---|----------------------------|
| • Control with no fertilization                                       | 1.5 ton/acre of dry matter |
| • 110 lbs./acre of nitrogen with P & K applied according to soil test | 2.7 ton/a of dry matter    |

This plot was harvested on June 7 and the fertilized trials yielded 1.2 tons more per acre or at a hay price of \$130 per ton, an extra \$156 per acre. When the fertilizer cost of \$86.87 and the spreading fee of \$8 per acre is subtracted from the hay value, just on the 1<sup>st</sup> cutting thus far, the gross revenue is \$69.33 per acre more with the fertilizer applied. We assume the 2<sup>nd</sup> cutting will also benefit from the spring-time fertilizer application and will be able to determine how much with the other harvests.

In the drought of 2012 the best of these trials only yielded \$50/acre of forage more for three cuttings than the cost of the fertilizer. The worst trial lost \$54/acre because of the lack of rainfall. That is why I am running this trial over several years to determine the long term impact of fertilization over various weather events.

Because of all of these factors hay prices early in the harvest season are holding over \$130/ton for just about all types of hay. Following are some early season reports for 1<sup>st</sup> cutting:

- Lower quality grass and alfalfa mixed grass 1<sup>st</sup> cutting \$130 - \$180 per ton
  - Medium quality alfalfa mixed hays \$140 - \$200 per ton
  - High quality alfalfa hays \$180 - \$300 per ton
- (prices are dependent upon quality and bale type)

We will know a lot more after all the 1<sup>st</sup> cutting is harvested and the pastures have been grazed a few turns. Stay tuned!

Jerry Lindquist

MSU Extension Grazing & Field Crop Educator

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# Forage Management School for Sheep and Goat Production

June 24 to 25, 2013 Workshop; Tour on June 26

MSU Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education

4301 Farm Lane, East Lansing, MI 48824

Efficient forage use is essential to profitability on all farms, regardless of size. If you are interested in optimizing resource and forage use on your farm, join our panel of experts and specialists in sheep and goat production, forage, grazing and land management for a two day school that will focus on improving forage use through grazing as well as efficient machine harvest for winter feed. This workshop will include classroom sessions combined with field labs over two intensive days. An optional third day (June 26) of tours of sheep and goat farms in southern Michigan is available. This tour will feature both large and small sheep and goat farms that all strive to optimize use of forage resources.

Specific topics to be covered include:

- Forage budgeting: optimizing land use for both stored forage and grazing
- Soil/land improvement: short and long term strategies to improve soil health and productivity
- Pasture improvement and establishment guidelines
- Grazing management: guidelines for increasing pasture utilization and productivity
- Complimentary forages: how to use annual forages to fill in gaps of production and as part of a crop or perennial pasture rotation
- Grazing infrastructure: efficient pasture layouts, water systems, fencing solutions, and animal handling systems
- Forage harvest and feeding systems: silage and dry forage systems appropriate to farm size, efficient feeding systems for both sheep and goats
- Health management of grazing animals: integrated parasite management, bloat and micronutrient issues

All classroom sessions will be held at the MSU Pavilion. Field labs will be located nearby at MSU Sheep Teaching and Research facility.

General Schedule: June 24, 2013: 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
June 25, 2013: 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
(Optional) June 26, 2013: 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

This optional charter bus tour will begin and end at the Pavilion.

Program instructors: Dr. Richard Ehrhardt: MSUE small ruminant specialist, Dr. Kimberly Cassida: MSUE forage specialist, Dr. Santiago Utsumi; MSUE grazing ecologist, Jerry Linqvist: MSUE educator, Mike Metzger: MSUE educator; Jennifer Silveri MAEAP technician



\$100 for the 2 day program (6/24 & 6/25). \$50 for the optional charter bus tour on June 26. Please register by June 20 to ensure proper arrangements for meals. On-site registration is available for an additional \$25.00 for each event.

Registration can be made online at:

<http://events.anr.msu.edu/Foragewkshopsheep/>

or by sending a check payable to *Michigan State University* to:

Forage Management School, Anthony Hall,  
474 S. Shaw Lane Room 1287, East Lansing, MI 48824.

For more information contact the  
program coordinator and lead instructor:  
Dr. Richard Ehrhardt, MSU small ruminant  
extension specialist,  
email: [ehrhards@msu.edu](mailto:ehrhards@msu.edu)  
(517) 353 2906.

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Michigan State University Extension  
Dr. Richard Ehrhardt  
474 S. Shaw Lane, Room 1287  
East Lansing, MI 48824  
517-353-2906

## Sustainable control of internal parasites in sheep and goat production

Join us for a series of web based discussions and a hands-on field day to learn more about sustainable control of parasites that impact sheep and goat production. This program will provide a series of 2 webinars to provide the information needed to understand and implement effective, sustainable control of parasites and will be followed by a workshop repeated in 2 locations in Michigan where producers will learn how to monitor parasite infection using the FAMACHA system and quantitative fecal egg counting. Novice and experienced producers alike will benefit from the information and techniques presented. Recorded presentations will be made available in a variety of formats for those who cannot attend the lectures and/or lack adequate internet access.

### Webinars:

**Thursday July 18:** Parasite Biology, Risk Factors and Infection Symptoms

Dr. Richard Ehrhardt will identify the parasites of economic importance in the upper Midwest and set the stage necessary to understand the risk factors for infection and how to monitor infection.

**Thursday July 25:** Integrated parasite management for effective control

Dr. Richard Ehrhardt will discuss dewormer drugs, identification of effective drugs and how to slow down the development of drug resistance. This will be followed by an overview of control programs emphasizing a multi-faceted approach using effective drugs, grazing management and feasible plans for infection monitoring.

Each Webinar session will run from 7-9 pm. Log-on can begin at 6:30 to test connection and audio. Details necessary to connect from your personal computer are available at the links below:

**Test your connection:**

[https://connect.msu.edu/common/help/en/support/meeting\\_test.htm](https://connect.msu.edu/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm)  
Test your connection to the MSU Adobe Connect servers: <https://connect.msu.edu/adobeconnectparticipanttest>  
Get a quick overview: [http://www.adobe.com/go/connectpro\\_overview](http://www.adobe.com/go/connectpro_overview)

**Webinar Connections for 7/18 & 7/25:**  
<https://connect.msu.edu/ruminant/>

### Management Workshops:

**July 27, Northern MI:**

Larry and Sarah Hagadorn's Sheep Farm,  
11934 M32 E Johannesburg, MI 49751

On farm Management Workshops will begin at 1 p.m. and conclude at approximately 3:30 p.m.

**Aug 17, South Central MI:**

MSU South Campus Sheep Farm, East Lansing, MI 48827

Workshop participants will receive a FAMACHA card and workshop proceedings

- \* Webinar lecture access (both sessions) and/or web access to recorded sessions: free
- \* CD copy of recorded webinars: \$10
- \* Workshop: \$20;

If you prefer to register by mail; please be sure to include check made payable to MI State University. Include the name of all participants, address, telephone and email address. Also be sure to include information indicating which of the management workshops you are planning to attend. Please send to Parasite Management, 474 S. Shaw Lane, Room 1287, East Lansing, MI 48824.

**On line Registration at:** [https://commerce.cashnet.com/msu\\_3645](https://commerce.cashnet.com/msu_3645)

If you have questions regarding registration please contact Carla McLachlan at 517-432-5402, or email at [MCLACHL2@msu.edu](mailto:MCLACHL2@msu.edu)

## Upper Peninsula Sheep and Goat Day

Tuesday, July 23 10 am to 4 pm



10 a.m. - 1 p.m.: Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center Chatham, MI 49816

1- 4 p.m.: Log Cabin Livestock, Ben and Denise Bartlett, N4632 ET Rd Traunik, MI 49891

Are you interested in raising sheep and goat in Northern Michigan and/or looking for a nice, scenic get away while learning more about sheep and goats? If so, you won't want to miss this informative and fun day in the central UP. We will spend the morning learning about sheep, goats, forage and land management and the afternoon with a tour, youth activities and fun for all!

**Morning session:**

Dr. Richard Ehrhardt, MSU Small Ruminant Specialist and Dr. Kim Cassida, MSU Forage Specialist will discuss: forage, land, predator control and marketing challenges for sheep and goat production in the UP.

**Lunch:** catered lunch available for \$10

**Afternoon session:**

Frank Wardynski and Mike Metzger, MSUE livestock educators will join Drs Cassida and Ehrhardt at the beautiful Bartlett property where we will have a farm tour along with fun youth events.

Registration for lunch, \$10/ person available on line at: [https://commerce.cashnet.com/msu\\_3645](https://commerce.cashnet.com/msu_3645) or via mail (include name of participants, address, telephone and email) by sending to: UP sheep and goat day, 474 S. Shaw Lane, Room 1287, East Lansing, MI 48827. If you have questions regarding lunch registration contact Carla McLachlan (phone 517 432-5402 or email: [MCLACHL2@msu.edu](mailto:MCLACHL2@msu.edu)). For general questions contact: Dr. Richard Ehrhardt, email: [ehrhart5@msu.edu](mailto:ehrhart5@msu.edu); phone (517) 353-2906

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# Automatic Milking Systems on Grazing Farms

A workshop and webinar for agricultural professionals, educators, and consultants

Friday, June 28, 2013 ■ 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

W. K. Kellogg Biological Station, Academic Center, Auditorium  
3700 East Gull Lake Dr. Hickory Corners, MI 49060



## Feed-Base Planning in Pasture-Based AMS Farms

Dr. Cameron Clark, Senior Scientist with the University of Sydney and the FutureDairy Project, Australia.  
Dr. Clark will discuss forage plans for increasing home grown grazeable feed within an automatic milking system (AMS).  
This topic is increasingly important as AMS units are installed on grazing farms with larger herds



## Cow-Traffic in Pasture-Based AMS Farms

Dr. Nicolas Lyons, Junior Scientist with the University of Sydney and the FutureDairy Project, Australia.  
Dr. Lyons will present on cow traffic systems on AMS-grazing farms and grazing behavior. He will review milk production and milking intervals along with management plans for automatic milking rotary systems.



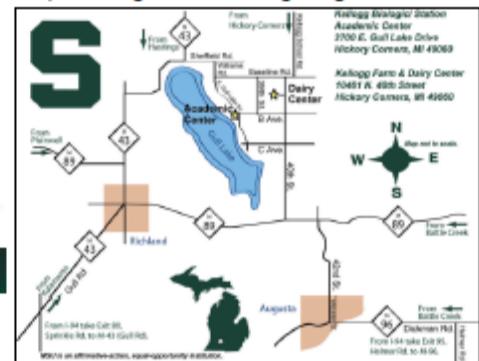
## Feasible Targets for Pasture-Based AMS Farms

Dr. Santiago Utsumi, Assistant Professor of Animal Science, Michigan State University.  
Dr. Utsumi will share recent findings on achievable targets for milk production, and forage utilization on grazing farmlets at the Kellogg Biological Station Farm and Pasture Dairy.

Presentation will be followed by an optional tour of the KBS Pasture Dairy Center led by Howard Straub III, Dairy Manager  
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. (See Map)

Lunch is available for \$7.00 per person  
McCrary Dining Hall from 12:00p.m. – 1:00p.m.

Pre-registration is required by June 24, 2013; there is no fee to attend.  
Contact Misty Klotz at [klotzmis@msu.edu](mailto:klotzmis@msu.edu) or 269-671-2402  
Learn about the KBS Dairy at: <http://pasturedairy.kbs.msu.edu/>



## Automatic Milking Systems (AMS) on Grazing Farms Workshop and Webinar

**When:** Friday June 28, 2013

**Where:** W.K. Kellogg Biological Station, Academic Center, Auditorium,  
3700 East Gill Lake Dr. Hickory Corners, MI 49060

Speakers for the workshop include Dr. Santiago Utsumi, Michigan State University-KBS, and Drs. Cameron Clark and Nicolas Lyons, University of Sydney, Australia.

Speakers will address the following topics:

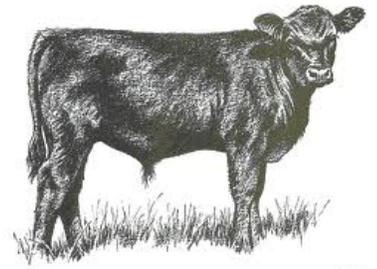
- Strategic development of successful feed-base plans on AMS-grazing farms
- Recent advances on cow traffic management for single-box AMS and AMR in pasture-based systems
- Feasibility analysis of AMS on a Midwestern pasture-based farms

Presentation will be followed by an optional tour of the KBS Pasture Dairy Center led by Howard Straub III, Dairy Manager

# MSU Extension Pasture Walk

**Where:** Mike & Linda Klooster, 6573 East N Ave  
Kalamazoo, Michigan

**When:** Tuesday, June 18, 2013, 6:00 – 8:30 P.M.



## Evening Itinerary

Gathering and introductions	6:00 P.M.
Head out into the pasture	6:15 P.M.
Return to barn for refreshments	8:30 P.M.

The Kloosters have made a living in the greenhouse industry and just recently decided to venture into another aspect of agriculture raising grass fed beef. Those attending will have the opportunity to learn about the following:

- Newly established orchard grass/clover pastures
- New fencing and working facilities
- New pasture water system
- Red Angus breeding stock from 5L Ranch in Montana and a sire from Pharo Cattle Co., in Colorado.

Representatives from the fencing, working facilities, seed sales, and MSUE will be on hand as resources for those in attendance. In addition the Kloosters are in the process of becoming MAEAP verified and a representative from the Soil Conservation District will be on hand to share insight on the process of individuals seeking to become MAEAP verified.

**Directions:** On the southeast side of Kalamazoo take the Sprinkle Road exit off of I-94 and go approximately 1 mile south on Sprinkle Rd. to East N Ave., and turn east and travel approximately 1 1/2 miles to Great Lakes Greenhouse. The meeting location is on the north side of the road. For more information contact Jerry Lindquist, MSU Extension Grazing Educator at 231-832-6139.