Dear Great Lakes Grazier,

Rainfall has returned to much of Michigan this growing year and thus far we are looking at a very good grazing season. Things have been fast and furious here at the MSU Extension Office this spring and because of that this grazing newsletter will be short and sweet highlighting two upcoming pasture walks. More walks and events are being planned. Watch for future details.

Jerry Lindquist

MSU Extension Grazing Educator

Pasture walk at Voogt Farm Near Grand Rapids

The Ottawa County Conservation District and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) will be holding a pasture tour on **Wednesday, June 5** at Voogt Farms, 2831 Hayes Street in Marne.

The event will highlight Voogt Farms’ grazing operation and focus on fencing and watering systems, pasture mixes and environmental practices implemented on the farm, which helped them achieve their recent verification with the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program (MAEAP).

- Speakers will include Heather Bartholomew of the NRCS; Rob Stein, MAEAP specialist; Kevin Gould, MSU Extension beef educator; and Betsy Dierberger, NRCS grazing specialist.
- Registration and check-in begin at 5 p.m. with dinner at 5:30 p.m., courtesy of Voogt Farms.
- There is no charge to attend the pasture walk, but advanced registration is required. Contact the Ottawa Conservation District at 616-846-8770, ext. 5 to register.
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 fields 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 orchardgrass/clover pastures
- New fencing and working facilities
- New water pasture water system
- Red Angus breeding stock from 5L Ranch in Montana and Pharo Cattle Co. Sire from 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 will be on hand to share insight on the process of individuals seeking to become MAEAP verified.

Directions: Go approximately 1 mile south of I-94 and Sprinkle Rd., to East N Ave., and turn east approximately 1 mile to Great Lakes Greenhouse, 6573 East N. Ave. This location is on the North side of the road. For more information contact Jerry Lindquist at 231-832-6139.

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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 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

Pre-registration is required by June 24, 2013; there is no fee to attend. To register for this event contact, Misty Klotz at klotzmis@msu.edu or 269-671-2402.