

## CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

### 2018 GrassWorks Grazing Conference

January 30-February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Chula Vista Resort Wisconsin Dells, WI

Deadline: May 1, 2017

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GrassWorks is seeking proposals for its 2018 conference.

We're looking for dynamic presentations that inform graziers about proven practices, push the leading edge of the profession, and motivate the pursuit of excellence on the ground.

### Conference Strands

Presentation proposals must be submitted under one of the nine strands that characterize the conference. Each strand explores a different aspect of grazer development and educational needs.

The strands are:

1. **Species Specific Grazing – Latest and Greatest – Includes horse, beef, dairy, bison, pig, sheep, goats, poultry, rabbits, and more.**
2. **Connecting Kids and Grazing**
3. **Conservation and the Environment On the Grazing Farm**
4. **Marketing Your Grazing Farms Products and How to add value**
5. **Health Benefits of Grass-fed products**
6. **Soils and Grazing**
7. **Management and Leadership**
8. **Financial Management and/or funding opportunities for graziers**
9. **Working with family members**
10. **Marketing/Selling Grazing Products**
11. **Silvopasturing**

### Session Formats

#### **Symposium (90 minutes)**

Symposia are panel discussions presenting different perspectives on a topic or question related to one of the focal points for each strand. Panels must include a minimum of three panelists and a moderator, together representing a minimum of three different organizations. A/V equipment is provided.

#### **Traditional Presentation (40 minutes)**

Traditional presentations focus on a single topic or program, typically including a talk or media presentation followed by a short discussion. A/V equipment is provided.

## **Roundtable Discussion (40 minutes)**

Roundtable discussions are informal presentations that emphasize spirited discussion between the presenter(s) and session attendees. Presenters start the discussion by sharing information about the program/question they wish to explore, and then open discussion for input and exchange of ideas. Examples and interactive materials are welcome. No A/V equipment or electricity is available.

## **Poster (40 minutes)**

Posters are 4-foot x 4-foot or smaller two-dimensional printed presentations illustrating research studies, programs, or other work. In addition, the conference program will include a 40 minute time frame for poster presenters to stand at their posters and interact with attendees. No A/V equipment or electricity is available.

## **Audio-Visual Equipment**

Rooms for all presentations except poster sessions are equipped with a PC laptop (with Microsoft Office Suite loaded-If you use Apple, please let us know ahead of time), LCD projector, and screen. No audio-visual equipment is available for posters, but presenters may use their own laptops or tablets. Rooms for all presentations, including roundtable discussions and poster sessions, will have wireless internet access. If additional AV is needed, GrassWorks can work with presenters to locate/provide rental information for what is requested.

## **Preparing Successful Proposals**

The conference planning committee evaluates and rates all session proposals. The committee will consider the following questions when evaluating proposals; please consider them carefully as you write your session descriptions. Provide enough detail for reviewers to fully understand your plans.

- Does the presentation inform graziers about proven practices, push the leading edge of grass farming, and motivate the pursuit of excellence?
- Does the proposal adequately explain what will occur in the session? How engaging is the presentation likely to be?
- How well does this proposal deliver positive, solution-oriented outcomes supported by research, experience and/or program evaluation?
- How well suited is the proposed presentation to the preferred session format?
- How well does this presentation fit the strand?

### How to Submit a Proposal

All proposals must be received by 11:59 p.m. on May 1, 2017. Proposals must be submitted via email. Proposals should be sent to Heather Flashinski at [grassworksheather@gmail.com](mailto:grassworksheather@gmail.com)

### Important Notes

**All presenters and co-presenters are required to register and pay published conference fees. As GrassWorks is dependent on registration fees to cover conference expenses and there are typically 50-75 presenters on the program, we cannot afford to give waivers or discounts to presenters.**

Fees are not yet finalized, but there will be early bird rates and GrassWorks member rates. Non-member and daily rates will also be offered. Daily rates will not exceed \$170. Daily rates will include meals.

We offer sponsors the opportunity to sponsor a session, which helps pay for the presenters registration and travel, plus help make the conference a success. If you know a sponsor interested in getting your presentation on the agenda, please let us know.

All presenters must confirm their conference participation by registering for the conference by the November 30th presenter deadline.

If your proposal is accepted, you will have an additional opportunity to finalize session information after you receive your acceptance notice.

If you have questions about the submission or review system, please contact Heather Flashinski at [grassworksheather@gmail.com](mailto:grassworksheather@gmail.com) or call her at 715-289-4896.