



31st Annual GrassWorks Grazing Conference

Session Title	Session Description	Presenter(s):
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd		
The Future of Grazing	What can be said about grazing that isn't already known by the greatest grazing minds? Just like the practice of grazing, the 31 st iteration of the Grazing Conference will remain tried and true, poised for the next season, just as sure as grass turns green in the spring. Before charging ahead, let's pause to look back, as it's looking back that proves how far you've come. Then, let's look ahead and choose the best path forward, toward the Future of Grazing.	Jason Cavadini
Adaptive Grazing for Managing Oak Savanna and Prairie on Public and Private Lands	The session will cover why and how adaptive grazing management can address multiple resource and livestock goals on private and public lands. Examples from 2 case studies will be presented.	Kent Solberg and Doug Voss
The Top 10 Keys for Natural Rearing: Heirloom Birds, Pastured Pigs	Biodiversity is the "secret sauce" of regenerative and sustainable agriculture. What Gabe Brown refers to as "stacked enterprises" means that we can leverage our acreage to increase production and profit. As many famous farms illustrate, from Polyface Farm, to White Oak Pastures, this is a worthwhile pursuit. Birds, raised right, are a joy to behold, they can even bring families together! Likewise, heirloom hogs are interesting and intelligent creatures guaranteed to make you smile! By adding these species, one can easily create new streams of revenue with very little additional cost of inputs or labor. Few livestock operations scale up or down as easy as free-range poultry or pastured pigs, plus heirloom operations are perfect for direct and niche marketing! Holistic management, including breed selection, natural nutrition and all-natural, drug-free rearing will clip years off of one's learning curve.	Dr. Will Winter, DVM
Contract Grazing and Pasture Leases	How do you handle grazing when the animals, or land, or both - aren't yours? Managing land or animals for others, whether as a renter on leased ground or shepherding others' herds, is an option to start (or expand) a farm operation with fewer startup costs. But the agreements in place must be crafted with consideration. Margaret will present general guidelines for creating equitable pasture leases and grazing contracts, garnered from experiences of past grazing brokers and her own experiences as a targeted contract brush grazer with Goats On The Go.	Margaret Chamas, Laura Paine
Outwintering Strategies – From the Plot and From the Field	Many grazing operations may look similar during the growing season, but what differentiates them is winter. Graziers employ a variety of winter feeding strategies. Winter bale grazing and stockpile grazing are two common approaches. But determining if, when, and how to implement each method is unique to each farm with many factors at play. This presentation will discuss the particulars of each practice in addition to the decision-making process and the economics involved.	Adam Abel, Matt Akins, Jason Cavadini
DGA Meet and Greet	We focus on forage systems to provide as many grazing days as possible and utilize grass efficiently. Forage management can give beef and milk producers a competitive advantage. Days grazed, allocation and utilization that fits your class of livestock is critical. But managing forage takes time. We developed technology to make data acquisition easier. The mantra of Measure, Monitor and Manage gives producers confidence in their daily decision on forage management.	Angie Sullivan
Entomology - How Grazing Management Affects Pollinators and the Beneficial "Bugs"	Pasture and grasslands provide unique habitat for many important insects, including pollinators, butterflies, dung beetles, and more. Come learn about the diversity of these valuable invertebrates, how our pasture management practices can support them, and how we may be able to improve pastures for supporting six-legged wildlife.	Thelma Heidl-Baker and Micah Kloppenburg

Animal Handling System Design and Set-Up: From Starter to Pro	An animal handling system protects you and the animals you care for. The design of the animal handling system is based on the management plan developed by the owner. The basics parts of the handling system will be presented and how to develop your own animal handling management plan will be discussed in an easy step wise fashion. This presentation should help you organize and start your own design and management plan to improve your existing handling system or start from a bare slate.	David Kammel
Latest on Forage Research	Forage research covers many broad topics. Current research focuses on several areas based on funding, industry innovations and political influences, among other factors. This session will discuss several current topics as they pertain to grazing, harvested forages and improved management. Projects in the USA and abroad will be discussed covering forage growth, fertility, soil function, and forage quality.	Chad Hale
Biological Systems Overview	Nutrient Dense crops are the byproducts of well functioning biological systems. This workshop will cover a number of critical environmental conditions and management practices necessary for the production of these more flavorful, aromatic, nutritious, pest and disease resistant harvests. The foundational paradigm of how plants have evolved to operate in relation to their environments will be covered, along with practical suggestions having to do with seed quality, mineralization, minimal soil disturbance, inoculation, in season monitoring, integrating cover crops, managing for soil aeration and hydration, and intention.	Dan Kittredge
Nutrient Management and SnapPlus for Graziers	Join us to learn about nutrient management planning on grazing operations. We will have laptops available to demo the SnapPlus program. SnapPlus is the program Wisconsin uses to write nutrient management plans. We look forward to discussing how nutrient management can help your grazing operation!	Andrea Topper
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd		
General Session - The Path to Nutrient Density	Since 2017 the BFA and the Bionutrient Institute have been leading a project to 1) develop a hand held spectrometer that can be used at point of purchase to test relative nutrient density, 2) populate a database sufficient to define relative nutrient density, and 3) populate a database sufficient to identify causal dynamics in the production of nutrient dense crops. This presentation will cover what we are doing, why we are doing it, where we stand now, and where we think this is going.	Dan Kittredge
Grazing Warm-Season Natives	Farming and grazing is challenging in good times. With increasing input volatility, market and climate volatility, controlling costs and improving environmental resilience of our grazing operations becomes more essential. Warm season natives, may be one opportunity for grazing operations to consider. With correct management, warm season native plants should persist for 50 years or more. For the past 9 years, I've been learning to manage Big Bluestem and evaluate whether the "Juice is worth the squeeze".	Eugene Schriefer
Grazing Season Health issues for Ruminants	Discussion of prevention and treatments for health issues that are unique to the grazing season in Wisconsin.	Dr. Greg Brickner, DVM
Farmstead Cheese Making - Small Scale Dairy	Learn how one farmer transitioned from milking 40 cows and shipping milk to milking 8 cows and making cheese	Inga Witscher
VIRTUAL Fencing - Presentation and Discussion of Technology, Options, and Use	Technology 101, Nofence history, how to use phone app, opportunities and limitations	Kent Solberg, Doug Voss, Meghan Filbert, Monte Bottens
Rural Mental Health	Farming is challenging. This session is designed to be a roundtable discussion to gather together to talk about what it is like to be in an intensive lifestyle. This is a time to see what others are doing to grow their relationships and families, while growing their operations. This is also a time to work through the struggles that come with farming.	Alma Jorgenson
Developing a Forage Chain	Would you like to extend your grazing season, get the most from your pasture acres, integrate livestock into cropping systems for soil health, or capture the most value from manure across more acres on your farm while keeping production costs low? All of these are possible from a well developed forage chain. Experienced graziers Doug and Kent will provide options and help you identify opportunities on your farm to extend the grazing season through a well developed forage chain.	Kent Solberg and Doug Voss
Building a Better Beef Herd	In this session, we'll talk about taking a systems approach to developing the right genetics for your farm and ensuring your animals produce high quality, consistent meat that commands the best prices, however you market them. Topics will include proper phenotype, winter management, body conditioning and the importance of proper finish.	Rod Ofte and Laura Paine
Success with Forage-based Small Ruminants	Information is readily available on how to raise sheep and goats in high-input type systems, but low-input systems that take advantage of locally available resources and require less infrastructure can be more profitable, and sheep and goats can be successful raised in these lower-input systems. Cherrie will cover how she raises small ruminants successfully and profitably.	Cherrie Nolden

"When Weeds Talk"	Weeds tell us the problems in our soils. The first step in weed control should be how we treat the soil. One man produced dry beans with no herbicide and no hand labor, less than 200 weeds in 15 acres. Another man applied too much manure and the herbicide failed to work two times. The Brix of alfalfa told me whether alfalfa weevil had been a problem or not.	Jay McCaman
DGA Meet and Greet	We focus on forage systems to provide as many grazing days as possible and utilize grass efficiently. Forage management can give beef and milk producers a competitive advantage. Days grazed, allocation and utilization that fits your class of livestock is critical. But managing forage takes time. We developed technology to make data acquisition easier. The mantra of Measure, Monitor and Manage gives producers confidence in their daily decision on forage management.	Angie Sullivan
Large-Herd, Low-Overhead Dairy Grazing: Financial Considerations	This session is focused on the economics of starting a New Zealand-style dairy grazing operation that works in the Upper Midwest. Jon Winsten will share the financial statements developed with an expert panel to represent a 240-cow herd with a high-throughput parlor and minimal infrastructure. Joe Tomandl will share his experience as an owner/manager of three larger-herd, low-overhead farms.	Jon Winsten and Joe Tomandl III
Beginner Graziers - Tips to folks just getting started - what NOT to do? - Hear stories from folks that have been in your boots!	Beginner Graziers - Tips to folks just getting started - what NOT to do? - Hear stories from folks that have been in your boots!	Kirsten Jurcek, Mary C Anderson, Aaron Pape (and possibly a couple new graziers they've worked with)
Regulations Relevant to Independent Farm and Food producers.	U.S. Agricultural policy is intended to serve the large industrial agricultural system. In this workshop we will explore some of the regulations more relevant to the small independent producers, including recommendation for corporate structure and protection from liability.	Alexia Kulweic
Are you Managing Soil Fertility as a Transient Property?	Soil fertility is often equated with nutrient applications from inorganic and organic fertilizers. However, soil fertility can be viewed more holistically with soil physical and biological considerations. This workshop will explore the sources of soil fertility and how they can be managed for greater sustainability.	Alan Franzluebbbers
Designing a Producer Owned Processing Network in Northwest Wisconsin	This roundtable style discussion will engage grazers and livestock producers to help inform a feasibility study and planning process for a farmer and employee owned processing network. We will explore existing models, possible ownership structures, and the desired benefits to farmers who might participate. Let's design something awesome together! Pete Lammers of Meatsmith Co-op will be joining to share insight from his experience and the process of starting up their co-op.	Tom Manley and Pete Lammers
Exciting New Research from Grassland 2.0!	Come enjoy a free refreshment and hear about Grassland 2.0 research from UW grad students, postdocs, and scientists. We will explore how grasslands and their management affect a range of ecosystem services critical to the welfare of the planet and our own well-being!	Randy Jackson, Laura Paine and Carl Wepking (and friends)
Maximizing Farm Profitability in a World of Limited Time and Resources	"Should I graze my land, or plant crops? Should I buy farmland, or operating assets? Should I add a new farm enterprise, or stick with what I'm doing? There's never enough time, money, or land, so producers must prioritize investment of limited resources for the best possible return. Join us for a discussion on how to answer these and other strategic business questions using real scenarios and real numbers."	Andy Larson, Paul Dietmann
BMPs for Grass-based Dairy	What we think we know about hitting that sweet spot for forage quality, forage yield and pasture resilience in grazing dairy cattle or other classes of stock requiring high quality forages.	Greg Brickner, DVM
Defining Nutrient Density in Beef	In 2021 the Bionutrient Institute initiated a project to define nutrient density in beef. A global project looking at hundreds of compounds in the meat, overlaid on micro-biome data from manure, soil and forage assessment, and comprehensive management data, we are in the process of being able to say that this beef is better and this is worse. As well, to identify the environmental conditions that lead to these nutritional outcomes and likely human health results. The presentation will consist of a review of the project, outcomes thus far, and conversation with the audience about the implications for the market and ways to engage.	Dan Kittredge
Conversation on Grazing Planted Prairie in WI	Cool-season grass pasture provides some habitat for a number of animals, from birds to bugs. What more can we do to ensure our pasturelands support high-quality habitat for wildlife and still maintain healthy forage for cows? Join an open and honest conversation on the challenges and opportunities of incorporating native planted prairie into your grazing system.	Micah Kloppenberg
MOTH - Musings of the herd with Greg Galbraith - Story-telling Session!	"As farmers, our worst days can make for the best stories" ... so remember ALL the little details. It'll make for a great story someday... hopefully! Take notes and bring your best story to the conference stage!	Greg Galbraith
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4th		

Our Carbon Hoofprint	“Go Vegetarian: Eat Less Meat to Cool the Planet” -- you have doubtless heard or seen claims like that. How much truth is there to the argument that drastically reducing meat consumption will reduce global warming? The claim that drastically reducing meat production can reverse climate change is wildly exaggerated, but meat production is a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions. Luckily, there are many things both conventional and grass farmers can do to reduce their carbon hoofprint - the greenhouse gases released by livestock agriculture.	Diane Mayerfeld
Designing a Regenerative Farm - Multi-species Grazing	In this workshop we will walk through the 4 step process we have developed over the last decade helping our students and clients create their own regenerative farm designs. Whether you already have land and are looking for ideas on how to improve your existing operation, or are thinking of beginning a land-based project in the future, we have a process, tools, and resources that can help you create a successful, sustainable, and ecologically regenerative farm design.	Peter Allen
Forage Selection - Long Term Pasture Management - When to Replant	We will discuss recent trends and advances in forage grasses as well as ways to determine if renovation or management changes are needed. Various management techniques can be discussed based upon audience participation.	Chad Hale
Technology in the Pasture : PastureCast - PaddockTrac	PastureCast - PaddockTrac closes the loop for data acquisition, processing, and decision-making in grassland management. It has value to real people. This research provides immediate benefits to producers by improving pasture management decisions. It applies transformative, data-driven research methods to the agriculture sector that are responsive to and will yield meaningful insights for farmers, other stakeholders, and society. The resulting geospatial AI techniques will have translational implications for other fields, such as environmental protection, crop management, and conservation compliance.	Stacey Hamilton, Joe Tomandl
Predicting Soil Nitrogen Availability	Mineralization of organic nitrogen by soil microorganisms can provide forages with substantial nutrition over the growing season. How much nitrogen is mineralized often requires sophisticated and resource-intensive approaches. However, simple measures of potential soil nitrogen mineralization can be achieved with a standardized, short-term carbon mineralization assay, a.k.a. soil-test biological activity.	Alan Franzluebbbers
Farm Policy: Past-Present-Future	We will discuss how government policies have brought us to today. We will present many current proposals about potential changes affecting farmers. The potential for the 2023 Farm Bill will be discussed. How to craft policies to encourage more grazing management.	Rick Adamski
Weed and brush management with livestock/Goats On The Go, Sheep On The Go, contract browsing considerations	Commercial targeted grazing, typically done with goats and sheep, can add real value to a meat goat or lamb enterprise -- sometimes exceeding the revenue generated by the sale of the livestock itself. But it's not for everyone. Join this session to learn the basics of how to turn your herd into a service business, and the pitfalls and rewards of doing so.	Aaron Steele
Direct Marketing Tips	Interested in learning how others direct-market their products. What has worked and what hasn't. Learn from others different strategies, insight, and ideas!	Haly Barker Schultz, Ashly Steinke and others
*300-club: Discussion Between Folks Grazing the Most Days	Learn from this panel of producers how they extend the grazing season! Each day that animals are grazing is money saved!	Ron Schoepp, Roman Miller, Darren Yanke
Closing Session - Which Part of Soil Carbon can we Manage?	Soil organic carbon is a key soil health indicator, and yet, some forms of carbon in soil are relatively inert and others biologically active. A new approach will be described for assessing the management-induced change in soil organic carbon separate from that of historical pedogenesis. On-farm results in the southeastern US reveal the high capacity of grasslands to improve soil carbon, nitrogen, and biological activity relative to other agricultural land uses. Exploring management-specific conditions on private farms in different regions may reveal important distinctions as to how agricultural soils could be rejuvenated.	Alan Franzluebbbers