2019 Pasture Walks and Events

You are invited….MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Tuesday, June 25th — 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Cutler Fence Field Day
2554 County Road N, Milladore

Cutler Fence will be hosting a fencing field day with demonstrations on the use of portable fencing, gate designs, building four-wire tensile fence, and installing corner posts. Participants will have a chance to learn how to stretch, wrap, and brace the fence for durability and reliability. The many uses of geographic information systems and how to access maps of your land will be discussed as well. Sponsor representatives from Gallagher, JUG, Neville Supply, other suppliers and NRCS will be there to answer your questions. Fencing supplies will be available and all customers will have a chance at winning door prizes. Refreshments will be catered by Emy J’s Café from Stevens Point. Contact rcutler@tznet.com 715-305-5670 with questions.

Thursday, June 27th — 1:00 to 3:00 PM
Transitioning Dairy Cows From Stored Feed to Pasture
Carl & Carol Flaig Farm, 5417 County Road M, Junction City WI 54443

Please join us for an early afternoon pasture walk featuring the Flaig organic dairy operation hosted by Carl and Carol Flaig, along with their current Dairy Grazing Apprentice intern, Rylie Elvers.

The Flaigs took over the farm from Carl’s parents in 1982, began managed grazing in 1995 and were certified organic in 2015. Carl is an outstanding grazing manager and has consistently risen to the challenges of dealing with flat, wet pastures, which have been an increased challenge in recent years due to the wet weather. The Flaig farm consists of 350 acres of grazing and hayland acreage. The Flaigs milk a cross-bred herd of 65 dairy cows and have additional replacement young stock.

Carl has worked closely with the NRCS and WI DNR over the years and has developed agreements for improvements on their farm and use of public grazing lands in exchange for excellent conservation efforts on the Flaig Farm. Their farm borders DNR land and the Flaigs have a partnering agreement with the DNR to graze that DNR land. The Flaigs have always been very concerned about conservation and had incorporated conservation efforts into their farming practices even before they began working with NRCS and the DNR.

Directions from Marshfield: South of Marshfield, take US Hwy 10 east, approximately 15 miles to County Road N. Turn right onto County Road N and go south 6 miles to County M. (NOTE: N will combine with County S, continue south on County S when N goes to the right). Turn left and go east on County M, 0.7 miles to the farm which will be on the right.

Directions from Stevens Point: North of Stevens Point, from I-39/US Hwy 51, take Hwy 10 west, 8.9 miles, and take the exit for State Hwy 13/WI Hwy 34 S. Go 5.1 miles south on Hwy 13/34 to County Road M. Turn right onto County M and go 1.1 miles to the farm which will be on the left.

Directions from WI Rapids: Take Hwy 13/34 north out of WI Rapids 9.1 miles to County Road M. Turn left onto County M and go 1.1 miles to the farm which will be on the left.
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Hosted by Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship (DGA) and WI River Grazing Network

Wednesday, July 17th — 1:00 to 3:00 PM

Ron and Ester Van Langen Dairy Farm 122001 Chesak Rd, Edgar, WI
OLD ADDRESS TO GOOGLE: W821 Elderberry St, Edgar, WI.

Ron and Ester Van Langen are hosting an afternoon pasture walk featuring their managed grazing, robotic milking dairy enterprise. The Van Langens own 400 acres, with approximately 310 in pastures and rent another 110 acres for cropland. Their crossbred herd of 140 includes 130 milking cows.

Growing up in the Netherlands, where they also previously farmed until 2008, the Van Langens have incorporated some European haying and no-till equipment into their operation which includes an Einbock Tine Weeder with Air Seeder, a Pottinger Mower and a Pottinger Self Loading Wagon. We will have the opportunity to see this equipment along with taking a look at the robotic milking facility and tour the farm to see their grazing practices.

Please join us for an informative afternoon!

Directions: From Highway 29 in western Marathon County, take County Road M south 1 mile to Chesak Road. Turn right and go west on Chesak Road 1/2 mile. Farm will be on the left, (south) side of the road.

For more information or questions please contact: Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship Educational Coordinator Bob Brandt at (715) 965-6771, or Bill Kolodziej Marathon County Planning and Zoning Grazing Specialist at (715) 261-6038

Tuesday, August 6th — 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Utilizing Rotational Grazing to Improve Wildlife Habitat, Reduce Brush, Control Weeds, and Keep Cattle Productive – Year 5

Buena Vista Wildlife Area, Lake Road, Portage County

Zach Knab, WDNR, is taking over for Erin Grossman, WDNR, working with William Kolodziej, Rancher, on improving wildlife habitat with rotationally grazing cattle. Every year has shown an improvement on the numbers of observed song birds, prairie chickens, butterflies and forage available for the cattle. This year the grass is thicker than before and the cattle are really thriving. NO MORE winding a quarter mile of polywire, carrying 25 step-in post, dragging 500 gallon water tanks and carrying multiple fresh 12 volt batteries for the fence energizer. The work load for the rancher has been reduced with pre-set polywire paddocks, multiple water tanks and a solar charging station for the fence energizer. Come see the wildlife (and the cows).

Directions: From I39, take State Highway 54 west ¼ miles to Hoover Ave. Take Hoover Ave, south ¾ miles to Prairie Drive. Take Prairie Drive west 1 mile to Taft Avenue. Take Taft Avenue south 4 miles to Lake Road. Take Lake Road west 1½ miles. Watch for signs
Jim Gerrish Pasture Profitability School - July 31 & August 1, 2019
Enjoy a quality lifestyle from pasture

Sponsored by Central Wisconsin River Graziers Network along with Marathon and Lincoln Counties

Jim Gerrish is an independent grazing lands consultant providing services to farmers and ranchers on both private and public lands across five continents. He received a BS in Agronomy from the University of Illinois and MS in Crop Ecology from University of Kentucky. He went on to serve for 22 years at the University of Missouri, where his research encompassed many aspects of plant-soil-animal interactions and provided foundation for many of the basic principles of Management Intensive Grazing. During this time Jim managed a 260-acre commercial cow-calf and contract grazing operation of his own. Now living in Idaho, Jim manages a ranch consisting of 450 center-pivot-irrigated pastures, 90 acres of flood ground, and several hundred acres of rangeland.

Wednesday July 31, 2019   (At 210 River Drive, Wausau, WI)

8:00   Welcome & Introductions
8:30   Is this a business or a hobby? Setting goals & objectives for your farm, business, & life.
10:00  BREAK
10:20  Understanding stocking rate, carrying capacity, & stock density.  
What’s right for your farm & how do you figure it out?
12:00  LUNCH
1:00   Grazing management based on ecosystem processes  
(solar energy flow, water cycle, mineral cycles, biodiversity)
3:00   BREAK
3:20   Continued….
5:00   ADJOURN

Thursday August 1, 2019   (at 210 River Drive, Wausau, WI)

8:00   Dollars & Sense of grazing. What really determines profitability in pasture-based production?
10:00  BREAK
10:20  Grazing management for targeted animal performance.   
From maintenance to milk, how do we adjust management?
12:00  LUNCH
1:00   Grazing management in the field. Observation and review of grazing management principles. (Farm Location to be announced).

Jim Gerrish School, Registration limited to 40 attendees
Cost: $100 per person (includes 2 lunches). We reserve the right to cancel due to low registration.

Name(s):__________________________________________________________________________________________________________
Address:_________________________________________________________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip: ______________________________________ Telephone:(__________)__________________________
Email address:____________________________________________________________________________________________________

Mail registration form to: Marathon County CPZ, 210 River Drive, Wausau, WI,54403 (checks made payable to Marathon County)
If you have questions call Bill Kolodziej at (715) 261-6000 or e-mail at William.Kolodziej@co.marathon.wi.us
Network News

Marathon County CPZ
210 River Drive
Wausau, WI 54403-5449
715-261-6000

Farmers have asked about developing a grazing network of “farmers learning from farmers”. To initiate this network, I will be looking for host farmers doing daily and/or interesting projects that are willing to allow other farmers to watch and learn. These can be basic jobs normally done on the farm like frost seeding, no-tilling, milking, feeding, cutting hay, baling, installing waterline or fence, building facilities, building lanes, working cattle, assisting in calving/lambing, etc. These events will be emailed only to those individuals on the grazing email list since timing is everything. The host farmer needs to be willing to give up an hour or so to discuss the project. Attendees may or may not be able to participate depending on the host farmer’s project. If you are willing to share your experience and time, please email me. If you would like to see a project on a grazing farm, let me know and I will see if I can find a host farmer. I may not be able to get all topics/events but, let’s try and see how this opportunity works. If you are interested in being on the grazing email list, please send me your email address. Any questions, please let me know. Happy Grazing!

Bill Kolodziej
William.Kolodziej@co.marathon.wi.us

Do you have suggestions for articles or photos to share? Would you like to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter, or are you receiving it by mistake and want to be removed from the mailing list? If any of these apply, please call 715-261-6038 or e-mail WILLIAM.KOLODZIE@CO.MARATHON.WI.US