



Marathon County



February 2020

Bale Grazing on Remote Pastures

Saturday, February 22, 2020 ~ 10:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.

*Site Location is 1/4 mile east of the Sandstone Ranch,
401 Dewey Drive, Stevens Point, WI 54482*

Bale grazing allows for out-wintering livestock without making investments in barns/buildings. It improves soil health, soil fertility, nutrient holding capacity, soil water holding capacity and pasture yields.

Do you have a remote pasture that needs fertility but doesn't have electricity or water? Bill Kolodziej will explain the advantages of bale grazing along with how to set up an "off the grid" year-round fence and water facility:

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Directions:

From Stevens Point: I-39 north to Casimir Road, turn right, 1/8 mile east to 2nd Drive, turn left, 3 miles north to County Road X, turn right, 3/4 mile north to Dewey Drive, turn right, 3/4 mile east to site. Watch for signs.

From Wausau: I-39 south to County Road DB, turn left, 2 miles east to County Road X, turn right, 5 miles to Dewey Drive, turn left, 3/4 mile east to site. Watch for signs.



Keep up to date with events, articles, and other lake news at our new revamped Conservation, Planning, and Zoning Facebook page!



Out-wintering Strategies to Reduce Cost, Runoff, & Increase Profits

Cattle have been kept outside for centuries and because of this, only animals with year round grazing skills and genetics to survive in their climate were able to breed and reproduce. During the 1950's and 60's, with inexpensive grain and the love of new equipment, the out-wintering of cattle changed. Instead of having cattle graze, farmers began housing and feeding cattle indoors.

Out-wintering cattle can increase income, reduce expenses and will benefit you, your cattle, and your soil. However, out-wintering does require skills and knowledge that has been forgotten. Pasture, infrastructure, animal nutrition, animal feeding, and environmental concerns are items that need to be addressed.

Extend Grazing on Pasture:

Plan the year before for stockpiling. Set up a grazing plan that will leave you forage for late season grazing. Consider winter watering facilities and bale feeding areas.

Stockpile species. Orchard Grass, Tall Fescue and Meadow Brome are good choices that maintain feed value throughout the winter. Existing pastures of Smooth Brome and Quackgrass are less desirable but will suffice. Reed Canary is a poor species to stockpile due to low digestibility levels.

Fertilize, if necessary. If your pasture is lacking legumes, apply nitrogen in the early fall either by manure or commercial fertilizer. Use

ammonium forms of N (ammonium sulfate, 21% N, and ammonium nitrate, 34% N) because urea breaks down to ammonia. If urea (46% N) is used, apply in the evening before heavy dew or before a rain. Apply 30-40 lbs. of actual N on sands and 40 to 50 lbs. on heavy soils. The best results occur when nitrogen is applied in the fall when moisture is not limiting, but with ample growing season available (at least 30-40 days).

Infrastructure:

Water. Install a reliable frost free watering facility for the winter months. Cattle will need water during the winter, although in lower quantities than in the summer. Cattle can walk a half mile or more to water, but they are more prone to travel in large groups the longer the distance they must travel. This may require larger watering facilities. Snow may be a water source but does requires a higher level of management.

Temporary fence. Use fiberglass posts with polywire on a 3:1 geared reel. Keep the polywire 4 feet away from the bales to prevent the cattle from reaching. Fiberglass posts, 5 feet long, work best by sticking the post 1 foot into a round bale. When the snow gets deep, the animals may not be grounded enough to get a shock. Use an energizer that produces around 8000 or more volts on the polywire. Energizers with 15 joule outputs work well. If that does not contain them, try running two wires with one hot and a ground.

Portable windbreaks.

Windbreaks reduce the effect of wind on cattle. Reducing wind speed will lower animal stress. This will increase animal health, weight gain, and reduce the amount of hay used. Move the windbreak often so that manure will be spread evenly throughout the pasture to capitalize on nutrients. Fence off areas where cattle yard up to prevent manure build up. Woodlots may provide protection from wind but may cause cattle to congregate and build up manure where you do not need it. Feeding far from woodlots will reduce the amount of time cattle will spend in them.

Animal Nutrition: The approaches for preparing cattle for winter range from "wait and see" to "cover it all."

Wait and see approach.

Provide only salt at first. Supply other minerals or supplements only when cattle start showing signs of stress.

Cover it all approach.

Provide year round balanced minerals for your area. This may include molasses tubs and a grain based supplement. Successful ranchers and farmers believe that salt and some minerals should be provided year round (whatever is missing in your pasture or hay). Protein/energy supplements are only needed when your cattle begin to lose body condition. Late winter and spring is a good time to select animals that cannot hold up to your program.

Bale Grazing: Feed on

mature pastures or on pastures you plan to renovate. Feeding hay can be expensive. Beef cattle, older heifers, and dry dairy cows need hay with about 8% protein for maintenance. Manure from hay provides valuable nutrients to the soil as well. Each ton of hay is worth \$20 to \$40 in nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium fertilizer. Feed on pastures that need nutrients by setting bales throughout the pasture, allowing the cattle to spread the manure. Nitrogen and potassium are mostly excreted as urine and phosphorous is mostly excreted as dung. Compared to feeding on a drylot where the manure is collected and spread later in the year, feeding on a pasture will capture a larger portion the nitrogen and potassium in the urine that would have been lost from runoff or leaching.

Consider environmental concerns and reduce manure runoff. Bale grazing should be kept out of environmentally sensitive areas like Water Quality Management Areas (WQMAs) to prevent nutrients from entering waters of the state. WQMAs are areas within 300' of a river or stream and 1000' of a lake, flowage, or pond; and sites susceptible to groundwater contamination or potential direct conduit to groundwater. Prevent cattle from pulverizing manure patties in spring and out-winter on or near tops of slopes to reduce runoff. Out-wintering on row crops or thin pastures will result in increased runoff.

Winter Feed Quality Discussion

“Quality Animals Never Go Hungry from Conception to Kill Floor”

Thursday, March 5, 2020, 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Marathon County Parks, Recreation, and Forestry Building

212 River Drive Room 5, Wausau, WI 54403

Whether you are raising replacement dairy or beef heifers, a cow-calf producer or finishing beef, winter feed is more than half of the total cost of keeping a beef cow. Reducing feed cost will increase your bottom line. This can be accomplished by extending the grazing season, but when winter comes early or you run out of pasture, you need to start feeding. Feed quality and mineral supplementation are key factors to maintaining good herd health and achieving optimal animal performance. However, the hay you either harvested or purchased may not have the quality needed to your herd's full potential. Attend the upcoming “Winter Feed Quality Discussion” to learn how we can take herd production to the next level. Marathon County Conservation, Planning and Zoning Department and Lincoln County Land Services is offering a free seminar related to livestock production. The discussion will feature presentations by Floyd Sutton followed by a roundtable discussion with local professionals including farmers, veterinarians and livestock nutritionist.

AGENDA

Feeding minerals to improve generational performance *Floyd Sutton*

Mineral supplementation is an important tool to meet the nutritional requirements that might not be met by other feeds. Learn how feeding mineral to an animal influences their performance and the performance of their offspring into the future.

Keeping your cows healthy *Floyd Sutton*

Mineral balance can effect cattle health. Come learn what strategies can be used to help cattle meet their nutritional requirements and improve productivity.

Round Table Discussion *Floyd Sutton, Ray Melander - Beef Specialist Purina, Matt Aitkin – UW Livestock Nutritionist*

Bring your questions! Ask professionals and the fellow farmers to weigh in on animal nutrition and productivity, and hear what's worked and what hasn't for them.

Floyd W. Sutton is a native of Seneca, Wisconsin. He grew up on a diversified livestock farm and in 1983 received his B.S. in animal science at UW–Platteville. After graduation, Floyd spent 15 years as ruminant product manager and nutritionist for a national premix company. In 1998 he accepted a position with Zinpro Corporation as the Great Lakes District Manager. His duties at Zinpro involve sales and market support for Wisconsin. He works with nutritionists, feed companies, and dairy and livestock producers to improve their products and practices. Floyd and his wife, Kim, reside in Freeport, Illinois. They have two daughters, Allison and Emily.

Network News

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

Address Service Requested

Heart of Wisconsin 26rd Annual Winter Grazing Conference

Tuesday, March 10th, 2020 9:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
with Free Evening Bonus Session from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Stoney Creek Inn, Rothschild, WI

Presentations Include:

Millianaire Model Dairy Farms

Larry Tranel, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Management of Baled Silage

Wayne Coblenz, Research Dairy Scientist

Grazing Dairy Cow Supplementation – Energy, Protein, Minerals

Matt Akins, UW-Madison Dairy Science and Extension

Show Me the Money (determining profits)

Larry Tranel, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Winter Feeding for Grazing Dairy Herds

Matt Akins, UW-Madison Dairy Science and Extension

Milking Systems from AMS to Low Cost Parlors (focus on labor efficient parlors)

Larry Tranel, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Adam Abel, NRCS

Using the new Dairy TRANS to Analyze Profits

Larry Tranel, Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Multi Layered Profitable Beef Operation Including Cattle, Agri-tourism, Horses to Garlic

Gabe & Aurora Slattery, Devils Hole Ranch, Norwalk, WI

