

## Southwest Wisconsin Grazing Network – Iowa, Grant and Lafayette Counties



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**Ocooch Grazing Network Contact: Adam Hady, Richland County UWEX, 608-647-6148**

Date & Time	Location	Topic Description
June 2 10:30 a.m.	Jeff Robinson 17128 State Hwy 131 Wauzeka, WI	Grazes about 700 head of beef stocker until July transferring about 300 head to a remote location, with 400 head remaining on the home farm. Great River Graziers Network Event
June 9 1:00 p.m.	Dave Thomas Hollandale Farm	Renting a 320 grass farm for the past 6 years. The farm was already set with 8 permanently fenced paddocks and features a buried gravity fed watering system and corral. Red clover is frost seeded on 1/3 of the farm each year Historically, this farm ran 600 stockers or up to 160 cow/calf pairs, from mid April until mid November. In 2009, fewer pairs are being run, but the excess capacity is being utilized with contract grazing for another owner. From Dodgeville: Take Hwy 191 South about 6 miles, 2 <sup>nd</sup> farm past Clay Hill Rd on east side
June 10 10:30 a.m.	Herb & Nona Bechtel 23385 Buckhorn Drive Richland Center, WI	Grazing Dairy—UWEX Grazing Research Specialist, Rhonda Gildersleeve, will discuss soil fertility in pastures. Ocooch Grazing Network Event
June 16 10:30 a.m.	Rhonda Gildersleeve 16129 County T Boscobel, WI	Developing working crop ground into pasture lands Great River Graziers Network Event
June 24 6:00 p.m.	ACA Hady Poultry 13680 State Road 171 Muscodia, WI	Rare breeds of chickens and ducks utilizing daily move pens and day ranging. Hwy 171 west from Boaz Ocooch Grazing Network Event
June 30 7:00 p.m.	Rick Gullickson 3396 County H Ridgeway, WI	Rick has been managing his grass and beef cattle to clear and restore productivity to overgrown, abandoned pastures on highly erodible hills and along the Smith-Conley Creek, a Class II trout stream. He's installed a stream crossing and water access point for cattle, and this spring, interseeded red clover to boost pasture quality. Rick is currently direct marketing Scottish Highland Cattle to local restaurants and privately. His goal is to expand his grazing acres and cow numbers to meet market demands. Cattle finish at about 24 months primarily on grass and a small supplement of Wet Distillers Grain.
July 9 10:30 a.m.	Jerry & Claudia Berres 21602 Berres Lane Richland Center, WI	Custom beef grazing with permanent paddocks. Solar powered watering system taking water to ridge top paddocks. NCRS engineer will discuss designing watering systems for livestock. Hwy 80 North from Richland Center to County A, west to Berres Lane. Ocooch Grazing Network

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July 14 1:00 p.m.	Tim & Heidi Vosberg 3308 Hwy H Cuba City, WI	Tim & Heidi ship organic milk from 72 purebred Holsteins and are in their 4th year of grazing. Starting with alfalfa hayfields, grazed forage now represent about 40% of the total daily intake. Initially Tim wasn't certain his cows knew how to graze, now his cows contentedly graze til Thanksgiving. After his initial experiences the need for improved lanes is becoming more important, and coming up with a graze/crop rotation.
July 28 1:00 p.m.	Ray & Sherry Ihm John & Deb Ihm 5161 Scenic Road Lancaster, WI	Ihm's are in their 5th year of grazing and ship organic milk from 56 Holsteins. They graze permanent pastures and crop acres starting with an alfalfa base interseeded with grass. They've installed lanes to facilitate animal movement. Cows are provided a fresh break of forage every 2-4 days, pending growth. Grazed forage represented 30-40 % of the total diet. Initial challenges have been, keeping ahead of grass growth in the fall and keeping properly groomed cattle lanes to avoid erosion and mud on hill-sides. In the future they plan to put in permanent lanes that incorporate erosion control, install a permanent watering system. Grazing paddocks are re-seeded every 4-5 years with a seed mix consisting of approximately 5 grasses and 3 legumes.
August 11 1:00 p.m.	Jim & Shelia Campbell 1520 County E Rewey, WI	Jim and Sheila are long time grazing (Jim said it's been so long he's forgotten when he started) and ship organic milk from 50 Holstein and Holstein cross cows. His feeding program is about 10 lb. grain with the remainder coming from forage. They've had lanes for many years and recently made some improvements to these including installing roof gutters to control water.
August 14 Tentative Date	UW Lancaster Research Station	Profitability Pasture Field Day—More information to come
August 19 10:30 a.m.	Brian Denman 26528 Hillview Drive Richland Center, WI	Mixed species grazing Dairy and Sheep From Richland Center, west on Q, left on Y to Hillview Ocooch Grazing Network Event
August 25 1:00 p.m.	Paul Bickford 7081 Rock Road Ridgeway, WI	Paul & Cyd Bickford, 7081 Rock Rd., Ridgeway, – A long time dairy grazer that's adapted grazing to his farm and conditions. In 1994 they convert a row crop farm to a seasonal grazing farm. Currently they milk 450 Jersey and Jersey cross cows bi-seasonally. They have very high stock density, grazing paddocks with 450 head on 250 grazing acres. Approximately 30% of the diet is coming from grazed forages. Paul has never been shy with his opinions and they've changed over the years, including his opinions on grass. The things that matter are the bottom line and quality of life.
September 22 1:00 p.m.	Mark & Jenny Opitz 18128 Cottage Inn Rd Belmont, WI	Developing a stockpile for fall grazing dairy heifers and a new parlor. Opitz's routinely graze 600-700 heifers until mid-December most years, even under 6-7 inches of snow. Stockpile grazing takes prior planning and begins in August. Feeding this number of animals takes about 1 hour per day while they are grazing. Grazing helps keep their heifer development costs very reasonable. A new parlor is under construction and may be complete by the time of the pasture walk.
October 13 1:00 p.m.	Gene & Ruth Schriefer 2409 County Y Dodgeville, WI	Inspired by an article on cover crop cocktails in Hay and Forage Magazine. Schriefer's are looking at initial results of a very diverse seed salad mixture of seven species of warm and cool season annual grasses, legumes and forbs, as part of planned paddock renovation. Yield and quality data will be collected and methods evaluated for suitability for fall & winter grazing with cattle or sheep under snow.