



**WAUKESHA COUNTY UW-EXTENSION
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CONSIDER HYBRID GRAZING SYSTEM IN MODERNIZING DAIRY FARMS

In 2006, with low milk price and high production costs, 3% of Wisconsin dairy farms have gone out of dairy farming. The combination of grazing and conventional systems to lower the production costs is a promising approach for small dairy farms to stay in business.

Converting from a conventional dairy system to a management intensive grazing system (MIG) should be in transitional steps instead of leaping to a whole new system you are not familiar with. Bear in mind, reduced milk production per cow when you switch to grazing system. Simply, you can feed grains whether inside the parlor or in the pasture to match the same level of production. On the other hand, you may feed the minimum amount of grains (consult with your nutritionist) and concentrate your efforts in improving the pasture's quality. That may decrease the overall production costs and will make up for more than the milk production reduction per cow.

The unique circumstances of each dairy farm dictate the way to today's dairy modernization. Whatever way you choose, be armed with knowledge, patience, and creativity and most of all, questioning everything.

The University of Wisconsin Extension invites you to attend Wisconsin Grazing Schools 2007 at your convenience in four locations statewide:

River Falls: May 15-16 Registration deadline: May 7
East Troy: June 26-27 Registration deadline: June 18
Neillsville: July 24-25 Registration deadline: July 16
Ashland: TBA

The Wisconsin Grazing Schools are designed to teach producers, educators and agency staff the basics of management intensive grazing with a hands-on approach. These two-day, intensive workshops will provide opportunities for in-depth discussions, field exercises, and reference materials that cover both livestock and agronomic topics related to grazing. This training fulfills the Level 1 requirement for Grazing Certification.

For registration and information about Grazing Schools, contact Dennis Cosgrove at (715) 425-3345. For information and assistance with dairy modernization options, please contact Al Ahmed at (920) 674-7442 or via e-mail al.ahmed@ces.uwex.edu.

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