

# Great Lakes International Grazing Conference Feb. 12-13

WOOSTER, Ohio — Experienced graziers know that a good pasture offers the right mix of forages to meet the needs of their livestock.

In that sense, the program at the sixth Great Lakes International Grazing Conference, scheduled for Feb. 12-13 at the Shipshewana Antique Auction Barn in Shipshewana, Ind., offers a balanced mixture of topics to meet the needs of beginning and experienced graziers alike, according to Tom Noyes of the Ohio State University Extension and a member of the planning committee for the conference.

The planning committee is comprised of resource people from Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, and Illinois.

Noyes said that the one of the benefits to conferences such as this one is the fact that graziers not only have access to several key resource people, but it also gives them the opportunity to

meet and exchange ideas with other producers.

The conference kicks off Feb. 12 at 1 p.m. and concludes on Feb. 13 at 3 p.m.

The first day is jam-packed with educational information for dairy, beef, and sheep producers.

Topics for dairy producers include managing an expanding grass-based dairy, presented by Bernie Van Dalfsen; an update on the Great Lakes Grazing Network Dairy Economics Project, presented by Tom Kriegl and Bill Bivens, and planning and managing a seasonal dairy presented by David McCartney, Steve Hoolley, and Tom Cordes.

Topics for sheep producers include pasture lambing, presented by Janet McNally; predator control, presented by Eric Householder and Dave Schott; and sheep budgets and records, presented by Tom McConnell.

Topics for beef producers include more \$\$\$ from rotational grazing beef cows on fescue, presented by Curt

Rincker; managing grazing systems for maximum grazing season: animal considerations, presented by John Johns; and beef stocker grazing for profit, presented by Andy Fadorson.

The first day also features a special session related to the interaction between animals and the grazing process. The session titled "Why Animals Do What They Do" covers topics such as "How Animals See The World Around Them," presented by Dr. Ed Pajor; plant-herbivore interactions by Darrell Emmick; and facilities and handling skills: how to be smarter than a cow, presented by Dr. Ben Bartlett.

Evening activities include dinner and a panel discussion by Janet McNally, Dr. David Zartman, and Troy Bishop, titled "Grazing is More Than Grass."

The second day of the conference gets underway at 6 a.m. with an early bird buffet breakfast and roundtable discussions on topics including rye grass management, marketing, forage

budgeting, neighbor's pasture, organic production, and grass-cash.

Following the breakfast and discussion, concurrent breakout sessions introduce potential or beginning graziers to the science and management practices needed for a successful grazing operation and also offer experienced graziers the latest information on grazing practices.

For experienced graziers, the topics include creative grazing, presented by Troy Bishopp and Wendell Miller; fertilizing for profit, presented by Cliff Little; and extending the grazing season, presented by Dr. David Zartman.

Beginning graziers will learn the art and science of grazing during sessions on managing the pasture for yield, quality and persistence by Dr. Keith Johnson; lanes: how many, size, and construction, presented by Tom Noyes; and water: how much do you need, where do you need it, and how do you get it there? presented by Dr. Stephen Hawkins.

The conference wraps up with a general afternoon session covering timely topics for graziers

such as soil health and fertility by Dr. Dick Harwood, a GLCI update by Bob Drake and phosphorous supplementation and the environment presented by Tom Noyes.

Also to be presented are grazing riparian areas, presented by Ralph Lantz; carbon sequencing, presented by John Caveny; and making grass silage, presented by Dr. Keith Bolsen.

The cost of the conference is \$65 (\$70 after Feb. 7) for the first person from each farm and \$55 (\$65 after Feb. 7) for each additional person from the farm if the reservations are made prior to Feb. 7. This fee includes registration, breaks, trade show, proceedings, and Tuesday lunch. The (optional) dinner on Monday evening is \$15.

Checks should be made payable to LaGrange Soil and Water Conservation District. All fees should be paid in U.S. funds. Registrations should be mailed to Donna Hunter, LaGrange Soil and Water Conservation District, 910 South Detroit Street, LaGrange, IN 46761. Deadline for conference registration is Feb. 7. After that date, contact (219) 463-3471 for registration information.

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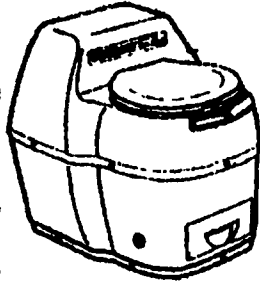
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