



Great Lakes Grazing Newsletter

Volume 12, Issue 1 February 2023

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**Gladwin County, MSU
Extension
555 W. Cedar Ave.
Gladwin, MI 48624**

Phone: 989-426-7741

Fax: 989-426-6781

Email: thurlowk@msu.edu

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Great Lakes Grazing Newsletter
Volume 12, Issue 1
February 2023

Dear Great Lakes Graziers ,
Welcome to the first issue of 2023. This newsletter is packed full of events for you to attend. As Dr. Cassada said in the recent newsletter to the Michigan Forage Council, don't dawdle in reading this newsletter there are events that are happening soon.

There is still time to register for the MSU Hay School, which starts next week. The cost of the course is \$85. Pre-registration is required, please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information.

The Michigan Forage Council will be holding its annual meeting, the Great Lakes Forage and Grazing Conference on March 9, 2023. Daniel Olson will be the keynote speaker, plus you will be able to hear from MSU Specialists, Educators, and Andy Nevill from Nevill Supply in Clare. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information.

Save the Date! We have several pasture walks already scheduled for 2023, please save these dates and watch for more details as we develop the flyers. All these pasture walks will start at 6:00 pm.

- May 18, Red Leg Farm in Montrose
- June 1, Lindgren Family Farm in Benzonia
- August 3, Schaedig Farm in Rogers City
- August 10, Hileman Farm in Clare County

I hope to see you at one or all of these events!

Sincerely,

Kable Thurlow
MSUE Beef and Grazing Educator



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Hay Production 101

*RUP & CCA
Credits
Available*

Description

This course is designed for participants to build a foundation of knowledge about growing hay. We will cover a variety of topics aimed at the unique challenges of growing hay in Michigan and the Great Lakes Region. Because of the systematic structure of the course and the importance of building foundational knowledge, participants should plan to attend all sessions. The MSU Extension teaching team is led by Forage Specialist Kim Cassida with other Specialists and Educators contributing.

Who Should Attend?

This virtual course is primarily aimed at first time and beginning hay growers, but anyone wanting to increase their knowledge of hay production is welcome.

Credits:

CCA credits are available for all participants for all sessions. RUP credits are available for the March 7 session for Michigan residents only. Participants must attend the live sessions for the entire time period to be awarded credit hours. Partial credit will not be awarded.

2023 Program Dates and Topics:

- Tuesday, Feb 21 – Hay Industry Overview; Matching Hay Species to Farm Goals
- Thursday, Feb 23 – Soil Fertility & Health Management
- Tuesday, Feb 28 – Field Establishment & Renovation
- Thursday, March 2 - Harvest & Post-Harvest Management
- Tuesday, March 7- Managing Pests: Weeds, Insects, & Disease
- Thursday, March 9 - Cost of Production & Marketing

When and Where?

The course will be taught through Zoom. Classes will take place Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7-8:30 p.m. ET.

How Much?

The course is \$85. Participants are encouraged to attend all sessions to take advantage of our live Q&A with the instructors and receive CCA and RUP credits. Sessions will be recorded and recordings made available to all registered participants.

Register: <https://events.anr.msu.edu/2023HayProduction101/>



Redleg Pasture Walk

Just us for an evening pasture walk on the Red Leg Farm. This is a MAEAP Phase 1 event.

You will be able to participate in discussions surrounding the following topics:

- Making hay when the grass gets away
- Parasites and Fecal egg count testing
- Fencing and Water projects
- Working with Agencies (NRCS, MSUE, MAEAP)
- Reclaiming row crop fields by unrolling hay



Location:
**Nick & Annie
Rodgers 10327
Wilson Road
Montrose, MI 48457**

Date:
**May 18, 2023
6pm-8pm**

Contact:
Kable
Thurlow,
989-426-
7741
Kthurlow@msu.edu

Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the event contact Beronica Conner two weeks prior to the start of the event May 4 at 989-426-7741
Beronica.conner@affiliate.msu.edu
Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.



Producer requirements:

- Producers must obtain an ultrasound “barn sheet” from their breed association for animals to be scanned before the scan date.
- 110V power is needed to operate scanning equipment.
- Cattle need to be restrained in an effective handling facility.
- Cattle need to be weighed at scanning time or within 7 days of the scanning date.

What the cattle breeder receives:

- After scanning and interpretation, the measurements are forwarded to the appropriate breed association for processing. Ultrasound record processing follows the same format used for weight traits within performance programs. Breeders receive the ultrasound measurements (adjustments and contemporary group ratios) as a part of the program.
- Ultrasound measures are adjusted to 365 days for yearling bulls. The current age end point adjustments for developing heifers is 390 days of age (approx. 13 months). The end-point adjustments for feedlot steers and heifers is 420 days of age.

Ultrasound measures on each animal include:

- Rump fat thickness
- 12-13th rib fat thickness
- Ribeye area
- Percentage intramuscular fat (marbling)

Ultrasound information outlining beef industry trends and scanning value for individual herd is available at the [CUP Lab website](#). For additional cattle management resources, visit the [Michigan State University Extension Beef Team website](#) and select “MSU Programs” and “Ultrasound Scanning” or contact Kevin Gould, [Michigan State University Extension](#) Educator at gouldk@msu.edu Ionia office number of (616) 527-5357.

MSU Beef Cattle Ultrasound Program

Kevin Gould—MSU Livestock Educator is certified as a field technician by the Ultrasound Guidelines Council. Kevin travels in Michigan and surrounding states to ultrasound beef cattle as a fee for service program offered by the MSU Beef Team.

Anyone interested in learning more about how ultrasound can benefit your beef cattle selection and breeding program can contact Kevin Gould in Ionia



MSU Beef Cattle Ultrasound Program



*Ultrasounding Beef Cattle
a fee for service program
offered by the
MSU Beef Team*

Contact Information:

Kevin Gould
Beef Livestock Educator
Ionia MSU Extension
101 W Main, 2nd floor
Ionia, MI 48846
gouldk@msu.edu

Phone: 616-527-5357
Cell: 616-443-2956

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UNIVERSITY

Ultrasound Scanning:

Research has indicated that breeders can scan yearling bulls and heifers for carcass traits and have this information included for National Cattle Evaluation ultrasound Expected Progeny Differences (EPDs). Ultrasound EPDs are equivalent to carcass EPDs and may someday completely replace carcass EPDs.

Certified ultrasound technicians collect the images and send them to a centralize lab where the images are interpreted.

Michigan is fortunate to have a certified technician to scan cattle on a timely and cost effective basis.



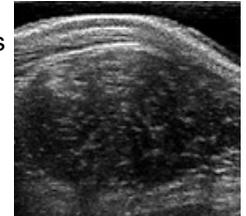
Centralized Ultrasound Processing "CUP" Program:



CUP is presently working with sixteen breed associations. The research has indicated that breeders can scan yearling bulls and heifers for carcass traits and have this information included for National Cattle Evaluation ultrasound EPDs. Ultrasound EPDs are equivalent to carcass EPDs and may someday completely replace carcass EPDs. CUP certified ultrasound technicians collect the images and then send them to CUP where the images are interpreted for rump and 12-13th rib fat thickness, ribeye area and percent intramuscular fat (marbling). The measurements are sent to the appropriate breed association for database storage and for preparation of the performance records to be sent back to the breeder.

Procedures for Breeder Participation:

- Breeders should either receive barnsheets standardly or must request barnsheets from their respective breed association. If the breeders association does not print barnsheets then a CUP barnsheet must be submitted. This would be the case for unregistered cattle. Barnsheets must be completely filled out by the breeder and returned to the CUP lab with the ultrasound images.
- Select a CUP certified technician to do the scanning. A list of certified technicians can be acquired from the National CUP Lab or any participating breed association. The National CUP Lab will only process images submitted by certified technicians.
- Breeders need to plan ahead to insure that scanning is done early enough if the information is to be included in a sale catalog. Processing time will require an average seven (7) working days. In some instances, it could take more than seven days if errors are found.
- It is suggested that all animals be scanned in a squeeze chute and it is required that all animals have hair clipped to 1/2 inch or less in scanning area to ensure image quality and ease of scanning.



Processing Fees and Scanning Costs:

<u># of animals</u>	<u>Scan charge/animal*</u>
5-10	\$18.50
11-25	\$17.50
26-50	\$16.50
51+	\$15.50

*Plus \$30 setup fee per session. Round-trip travel is charged at MSU's current reimbursement rate (\$0.56/mile as of 2/2/21).

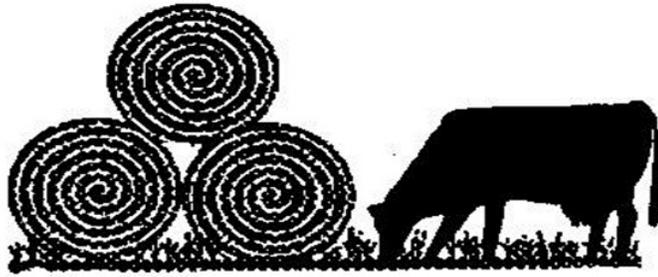
For more information about beef cattle ultrasound, visit the Centralized Ultrasound Processing Lab website. www.cuplab.com. The MSU Beef Team thanks the Michigan Cattlemen's Association and North Country Beef Producers for their support in launching this program.

2023 Great Lakes Forage & Grazing Conference

March 9, 2023 Thursday

Join MSU Extension and Michigan Forage Council for the
2023 conference at:

AgroLiquid 3055 W.M-21
St. Johns, MI 48879



Registration Information:

Michigan Forage Council members
\$45.00

Non-members
\$60.00

At the door registration – **ADD \$10.00**

Pre-registration deadline

March 7, 2023

(Lunch not guaranteed with late registration) Registration covers all sessions, lunch, and breaks.

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Registration Information:

Michigan Forage Council members

\$45.00

Non-members

\$60.00

At the door registration – **ADD \$10.00**

Pre-registration deadline

March 7, 2023

(Lunch not guaranteed with late registration) Registration covers all sessions, lunch, and breaks.

To register go to:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/2023GLFGC/>

(For more information or help
registering contact

Lapeer MSU Extension)

After March 7, registration will be at the
door and no refunds.

Accommodations for persons with disabilities or special diet *restrictions may be requested by contacting the event contact two weeks prior to the start of the event. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.*

For questions about registration call:

Lapeer County MSU Extension
Attention: Tina House

Phone: 810-677-0341

Email: houset@msu.edu

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Michigan Joins the Midwest Grazing Exchange

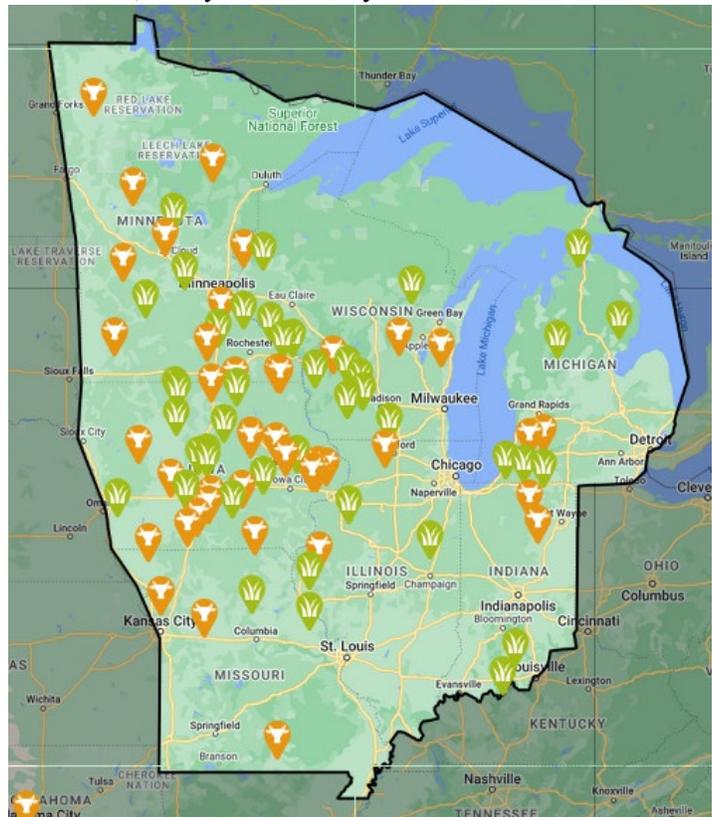
By Kim Cassida (MSUE Forage Specialist)

Pastured and grass-fed meat, milk, and poultry can provide market opportunities and premiums to graziers but lack of access to good grazing land limits the opportunities of too many. On the other hand, landowners that would like to lease idle land as pastures, take advantage of perennial forages in a crop rotation, or add value to a cover crop by grazing often face a challenge finding suitable graziers. In response to this challenge, grazing exchanges are being created across the country to help connect landowners and graziers. The [Midwest Grazing Exchange](#) includes Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and its newest state member, Michigan.

The Midwest Grazing Exchange website is located at <https://www.midwestgrazingexchange.com/>. Listings are shown as a map with location pins using cows for grazer listings and grass for landowner listings. Despite that cow pin, the service is not just about cattle—sheep, goats, and even poultry are included! Clicking on pins reveals the details of the listing. Anyone can browse the listings and use the contact information, but in order to post a listing, land or livestock owners must first create a free account. Postings for land available to graze should include: location, acreage, forage or cover crop that is present, timeframe of availability, whether fence and water sources are available, and any other details the landowner wishes to add. Postings from graziers should include: location, species, class, and number of livestock to be grazed, distance willing to travel, and timeframe desired for grazing, and other details about the livestock. Photographs can be included in listings.

The Midwest Grazing Exchange is purely a matchmaking service to help landowners and graziers find each other. The service is free. Midwest Grazing Exchange does not oversee the interactions among individuals in any way. It is up to the users to make contacts, verify whether they wish to do business with each other, and finalize the details of their specific agreement. The Exchange does provide a [resources page](#) that includes examples of grazing lease agreements and contracts, as well as links to useful grazing information and other grazing exchanges. The page also provides contacts to [grazing experts](#) in each state that can assist with problem solving.

The Midwest Grazing Exchange is led by [Practical Farmers of Iowa](#) and the [Pasture Project](#), run by the [Wallace Center at Winrock International](#), as part of their involvement in the [Midwest Perennial Forage Working Group](#) (MPFWG). The MPFWG's mission is to facilitate an increase in land used for pasture and perennial forage production in the Upper Midwest, and to improve the environmental performance of farming systems, while maintaining agricultural production and profitability. The MPFWG is a branch of [Green Lands Blue Waters](#), an organization championing the integration of perennial plants



and Continuous Living Cover (CLC) into the agriculture landscape. Michigan's participation was made possible by a grant from the Michigan Alliance for Animal Agriculture.

Grazing Sheep and Cattle in Solar Projects

March 6, 2023 2:00PM - 3:00PM

Virtual Via Zoom

Contact: [M. Charles Gould](#)

“Dual use” is the integration of solar power production and an agricultural system in a way that enhances a productive, multifunctional landscape. Forage for grazing is a land management and conservation practice that incorporates rotational livestock grazing and forage production as part of an overall vegetative maintenance plan. Presentation concepts include:

- Principles of solar grazing
- Managed grazing from a solar developer perspective
- Managed grazing from a sheep producer perspective

The 2023 MI Ag Ideas to Grow With conference will be held virtually, February 27-March 10, 2023. This two-week program encompasses many aspects of the agricultural industry and offers a full array of educational sessions for farmers and homeowners interested in food production and other agricultural endeavors. While there is no cost to participate, attendees must register to receive the necessary zoom links. Registrants can attend as many sessions as they would like and are also able to jump around between tracks. RUP and CCA credits will be offered for several of the sessions. More information can be found at: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/miagideas/>

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