

MN Grazing Lands Conservation Association



VOLUME 3
ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER, 2014

MENTORS:

Dean Hanson
(218)268-4555
Polk County

Roy Bell
(218)397-2579
Cass County

Dan Jenniges
(320)634-4253
Pope County

Clarence Caraway
(507)368-9437
Lincoln County

Scott Thooft
(507)865-4436
Lyon County

Dan & Terese Hall
(507)956-2657
Watonwan County

Troy Salzer
(218)384-3511
Carlton County

Nathan Redalen
(507)282-8051
Olmsted County

Ralph Lentz
(651)345-2557
Wabasha County

**Dave/Florence
Minar**
(952)212-9506
Scott County

**Grant & Dawn
Breitkruetz**
(507)641-5384
Redwood County

Dean Thomas
(507)765-3878
Fillmore County

Minnesota GLCA 2014 Video Conference

“Grass Bred and Fed”

December 12, 2014 * 8:00 am – 4:00 pm * six sites throughout Minnesota

Conference locations:

Morris: Humanitarian/Fine Arts Center, U of M Campus Morris (lower level),
Room 45, 600 East 4th Street, Morris MN 56267

Pine City: Pine Technician & Community College, Room 91
9000 4th Street SE, Pine City MN 55063

Lamberton: SW Research and Outreach Center
23669 130th Street, Lamberton MN 56152

Staples: Central Lakes College, Room A114
1830 Airport Road, Staples MN 56476

Crookston: U of M Crookston, Dowell Hall, Room 101
2900 University Avenue, Crookston MN 56716

Rochester: Rochester Community and Technical College,
Room ST-108 and ST-112, 851 30th Ave SE, Rochester MN

Keynote speakers:

- ◆ Todd Churchill, Thousand Hills Cattle Company
- ◆ Brad Heins, University of Minnesota, Morris
- ◆ Marielle Graese, North Star Bison of Wisconsin
- ◆ Carmelita Nelson, Department of Natural Resources
- ◆ Kelly Anderson, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
- ◆ The afternoon producers panel will include Jake Grass, Tim Hendrickson, Rory Beyer and Bonnie Haugen.

Cost: (pre-registration ends December 1, 2014)

MN GLCA members; \$25 (*members may register for \$45 and renew membership for 1 year*)

Non-members; \$45 and receive 1 year membership

Spouses and Students; \$25

*After December 1st & at the door cost will be \$30 for members,
\$50 for non-members, spouses & students \$25.*

Registration:

Register at www.mnglca.org

By mail send payment and indicate site selection to:

Nathan Redalen, MN GLCA, 7618 County Road 19 SE, Rochester MN 55901

Lunch is included with registration but seating is limited; pre-registered participants will have guaranteed seats. Walk-ins may be standing room only.

MN GLCA 2014 Video Conference - "Grass Bred and Fed" - 12/12/14

PROGRAM

- 7:30 am – 8:00 am Registration
- 8:00 am Welcome: Format of the day.
Recognition of sponsors, background,
vision & value of the MN GLCA –
Clarence Caraway, MN GLCA President
- 8:15 am Opening Address: Don Baloun,
NRCS State Conservationist.
- 8:30 am Todd Churchill, Thousand Hills Cattle Co.
"100% Grass Fed Beef 100% Good for you"
- 9:30 am Brad Heins, Assistant Professor of
Organic Dairy Management U of M. "Best
management practices for production,
grazing and breeding for profitability".
- 10:30 am BREAK
- 10:45 am Marielle Graese, North Star Bison.
"Using Bison to manage prairie restoration
and the multifaceted business of processing
and marketing.
- 11:45 am Carmelita Nelson, DNR and
Kelly Anderson, MDA – Update on the use
of insecticides while grazing public lands
in Minnesota.
- 12:15 pm LUNCH
- 1:00 pm Producer Panel and Discussion:
Jake Grass, Tim Hendrickson, and Roy
Beyer will talk about their hands on
experience in their operations. How they
manage their challenges to remain
sustainable and their strategies to improve
pastures and production as well as
profitability on their farm and ranches.
- 3:00 pm Bonnie Haugen, Dairy Apprentice Program.
- 3:30 pm Final Question & Answer period. Evaluation
- 4:00 pm Adjourn and Thank You
from GLCA President Clarence Caraway

PRESENTER INFORMATION

MORNING SESSION

Don Baloun has been Minnesota's State Conservationist for the NRCS since 2010. He has been responsible for the development and implementation of programs in our state as well as joint regional programs that benefit all of agriculture in Minnesota.

Todd Churchill, The Thousand Hills Cattle Company. Beginning in 2003, Thousand Hills Cattle Co. founder has been working with farmers and chefs to provide a healthy, regional source of grass fed beef. In addition to raising his own cattle, Todd has built a cooperative network of independent small family farms in Minnesota and surrounding states to provide a consistent supply of grass fed beef. Todd and his committed expert staff inspect all cattle for tenderness, marbling and overall meat quality. The business model is grounded in the principles of stewardship and sustainability. All practices are considered and implemented in a manner consistent with this vision.

Brad Heins is an Assistant Professor of Organic Dairy Management at the University of Minnesota's West Central Research Center in Morris, Minnesota. His research and extension program focuses on the best management practices for organic cattle, crossbreeding and group rearing of calves in an organic system. Brad will also discuss a recent research study, which compared: growth, meat quality, consumer acceptability, and profitability of grass-fed dairy steers, grain-supplemented dairy steers, and conventional dairy steers, these findings will help producers explore value-added options for raising and selling dairy-beef steers. The meat quality analysis and taste panel evaluation that the study includes, will provide information to consumers to help them make choices about food quality in a culture that is becoming more aware of how food is produced.

Mariel Graese North Star Bison is a family owned and operated vertically integrated enterprise. To fulfill a life-long dream, it was birthed in September 1994 with the purchase of 2 young bison from Blue Mound State Park in Luverne, Minnesota. In 1995, they continued to grow the herd, during this time, the decision to market the meat directly was made and they formed the distribution division. They realized that 100% grass-fed bison was the

best all around; good for the land, good for the animals, and good for people. A licensed custom processing plant was added in 2005 in Conrath, Wisconsin. Their market includes retail and wholesale customers ranging from restaurants to grocery outlets and ranch stores. Today approximately 600 bison are grazed under Holistic Resource Management principles.

Carmelita Nelson has been with the Minnesota DNR for over 25 years. Her career has included many positions with them and now as Prairie co-coordinator. She has worked to expand the numbers of prairie grasslands, by building partnerships, public information and education. By implementing grazing as a management tool she improves habitability.

Kelly Anderson has worked for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture as a Livestock Specialist for five years. Her duties include producer assistance, livestock program development, licensing of livestock dealers and agents and writing grazing plans. She has been working with the Department of Natural Resources to assist with development of the conservation grazing program and writing grazing plans for public land management. Kelly and her husband live near Farwell, MN where they run a herd of 70 cow/calf pairs on a combination of private land, rented pastures, and Fish and Wildlife land.

AFTERNOON SESSION- PRODUCERS PANEL

Jake and Lindsey Grass operate Grass Meadows Farms. This joint operation consists of 120 cow calf pairs for the production of grass fed beef. The cattle are born on a 210 acre farm in St. Louis County. The calves are finished on their 70 acre farm in Pine County. The cattle are sired by Angus bulls and out of Angus, Gelbvieh and Scottish Highland cows. They raise most of their own finishing forage in Pine County on 120 rented acres.

Tim Hendrickson and his family lives west of Menahga, MN (which is located in Becker County). They graze 150 spring and fall calving beef cow/calf pairs. They also custom raise an additional 120 beef cow/calf pairs, and background calves. The land they manage is in pasture of which most are rotationally grazed. Tim began working with NRCS to improve his grazing management in 2009, and continues to work at improving his land. Tim's winter feeding program includes feeding out on pasture to improve pasture fertility which has increased the production, health, and condition of the forages. Tim has graciously worked with the NRCS grazing specialist to

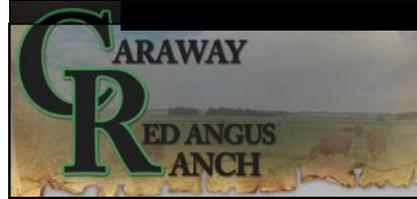
produce a video on his winter feeding program to share and educate others on the aspects of winter feeding to improve pasture fertility.

Rory Beyer started as a 100% Registered Holstein herd with total confinement. Their herd was a very high producing herd with sales of breeding stock. They switched to Organic in 2006 and obtained certification in 2009. They anticipated the 30% grazing rule that is part of the organic certification and contracted their local NRCS office for technical and financial support. In addition to the organic requirements they wished to meet feedlot rules for manure management and thought the pasture system would allow them to accomplish this. Rory will discuss the costs of establishing a rotation grazing system for a dairy herd. Some of the key items include the costs of fence, watering system components, seeding, and the skill set he's developed and continues to acquire. He will discuss the changes to the operation and planned changes. One of the areas he's learned about since starting the pasture projects is fertilization, reseeding pastures, and seed mixes that work for him.

Bonnie Haugen of Springside Farm, Canton, MN, and the Minnesota Education Coordinator for Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship program. Bonnie and her husband, Vance, have been rotationally grazing their crossbred dairy herd since purchasing 230 rolling acres in 1993. They are mostly spring freshening and some years they have shut down in the winter. Bonnie has raised calves on momma barrels with waste milk and replacer, in individual pens and by leaving the calves on the cows until weaning. Currently Olaf, their son is in the 4th year of share-milking. Their dairy grazing apprentice, Nathan, is in his second year, and they are looking to add a second apprentice. As Coordinator for the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship program, her work includes identifying Master Grazers, helping to place apprentices, and facilitate these relationships. She establishes mentor groups, monitors the job book progress, and organizes any requested educational sessions. Bonnie strongly believes that farming is everybody's bread, butter and water. Contact: bonnie@dairygrazingapprenticeship.org



SPONSORS



www.carawayredangus.com
507.530.3166

SUPPORTING SPONSORS:

MN Board of Water & Soil Resources, Audubon MN
Lincoln County Corn & Soybean Growers Association
Paul Fehrman Red Angus and AXIS seed,
Lake Benton MN 507.828.7399
East Ottertail Soil & Water Conservation District
Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association
Redwood Soil & Water Conservation District
Eagle Bank, Glenwood MN
Albert Lea Seed
Midwest Machinery Company, Glenwood MN
Caraway Red Angus, Lake Benton MN 507.530.3166

THANKS TO OUR SITE FACILITATORS:

Rochester: Nathan Redalen, GLCA; Dean Thomas, Fillmore SWCD & GLCA; Jess Bronson, NRCS; John Zinn, NRCS
Lamberton: Grand & Dawn Breikreutz, GLCA; Scott & Deb Thoof, GLCA; Lance Smith, NRCS
Morris: Clarence Caraway, GLCA; Kelly Anderson, MDA; Dan Jenniges, GLCA; Robin Moore, LSP
Staples: Jeff Duchene, NRCS; Brenda Miller, Extension; Roy Bell, GLCA
Crookston: Jim Stordahl, Extension; Mark Hayek, NRCS; Dean Hanson, GLCA
Pine City: Tom Gervais, NRCS; Troy Salzer, Extension;

University of Minnesota Extension
Fillmore County
902 Houston Street NW, #3
Preston MN 55965

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Preston MN 55965
Permit No. 36

Return service requested

«Name»

«Address»

«City»