



This newsletter is a joint effort from the following organizations:



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If you would like to receive this newsletter by email please send a request to:
ruesi001@umn.edu

Upcoming Events

UMN Extension Farmland Rental Workshops ~ *Attend to learn about lease & rental agreements, land value, and rental rate trends.*

Monday, November 17, 9:30-11:30 am

Winona County Office Building, 202 W 3rd St, Winona

Monday, November 17th, 2:00-4:00 pm

Fillmore County Office Building, 902 Houston St NW, Preston

Monday, November 24th, 9:30-11:30 am

Criminal Justice Center, 306 S Marshall Street, Caledonia

Monday, November 24th, 2:00-4:00 pm

St. Charles City Hall, 830 Whitewater Ave, St. Charles

Contact Winona, Fillmore, or Houston County Extension for more information.

2014 U of M Cattle Feeder Day ~ December 11, 5:30 pm

Rochester, Regional Extension Office, Heintz Center, 863 30th Ave SE

Minnesota GLCA Video Conference ~ December 12, 8:00-4:00

www.mnglca.org

Farm Bill Crop Update Meetings ~ These sessions are to help farmers understand the crop commodity program provisions in the 2014 Farm Bill. A complete list of locations can be found at <http://z.umn.edu/cropfarmbill>

December 5, 9:00 am-11:30 am, 4 Seasons Community Ctr, Caledonia

January 13, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm, Lewiston Community Center

January 14, 9:30 am-12:00 noon, Harmony Community Center

January 15, 1:00 pm-3:30 pm, RCTC Heintz Center, Rochester

Driftless Region Beef Conference ~ January 22-23, 2015, Dubuque Iowa. More details at: <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/beef/>

Ignite the Spark - Farm Bureau's Leadership Conference ~

January 23-24, 2015, Treasure Island Resort & Casino, Red Wing.

Keynote Speakers: Greg Peterson of Peterson Farm Brothers and Will Coggin, senior research analyst at the Center for Consumer Freedom.

Registration is due January 9, 2015. Look for brochures and conference information at your county Farm Bureau office and on fbmn.org. For more information call 651-768-2115 or email ruth.meirick@fbmn.org.

U of M Beef Team to host 2014 Cattle Feeder Days

5:30 pm December 11, 2014

TOPICS AND SPEAKERS:

Value of oil-extracted distillers grains in feedlot cattle diets

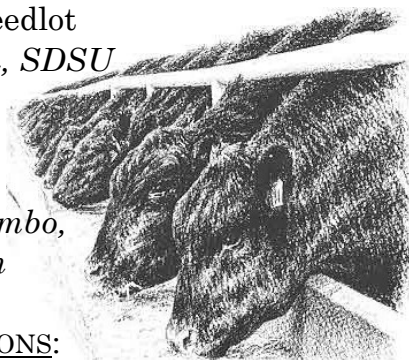
- *Dr. Alfredo DiCostanzo, U of M Beef Team*

Seeking, hiring and retaining an effective labor force in the feedlot

- *Dr. Alvaro Garcia, SDSU*

Mineral nutrition of feedlot cattle

- *Nicole Kenney Rambo, UofM Beef Team*



DATES AND LOCATIONS:

**12/11/14 - 5:30 PM Rochester,
Regional Extension Office,
Heintz Center, 863 30th Ave SE**

12/9/14 - 9:30 am Morris

12/9/14 - 5:30 PM Tracy

12/10/14 - 5:30 PM Luverne

REGISTRATION: \$30 per person and \$15 for each additional person from the same family or farm, includes a meal and all educational materials.

CONTACT:

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http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/bef/docs/2014_cfd_flier.pdf

Minnesota GLCA 2014 Video Conference

8:00 am – 4:00 pm December 12, 2014

The Minnesota Grazing Lands Conservation Association (GLCA) is a grassroots nonprofit organization of volunteers who promote grazing as a management tool to benefit the grazing acres in Minnesota. The GLCA in the past four years has organized a video conference to further the promotion of healthy soils, pasture and good grasslands as major component of a viable farming and grazing operation.

The Conference will be available in six sites around Minnesota; Lamberton, Morris, Staples, Crookston, Pine City, and Rochester. The keynote speakers will be Todd Churchill, Thousand Hills Cattle Co.; Brad Heins of the U of M, Morris; and North Star Bison of WI. The afternoon program will be the always popular producers panel with area grazers telling about their experiences and their operations. Carmelita Nelson of the DNR and Kelly Anderson of MDA will give an update on the use of insecticides while grazing on public land in Minnesota. There will be time for discussion between sites and within your area site. This years conference is all about grazing from all parts of our state and different ways to make the best use of one of Minnesota's greatest natural resources GRASS.

For more information contact:

Clarence Caraway

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website: www.mnglca.org

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
EXTENSION

Fund your livestock expansion projects with grants

\$2 MILLION AVAILABLE STATEWIDE

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson announces \$2 million in grant funding being made available to livestock producers for on-farm improvements. The Livestock Investment Grants help farmers stay competitive and reinvest in their industry. Last year, 131 Minnesota livestock farmers received grants to improve their operation.

2014 recipients include Eugene Leckness of Hayfield who updated his facilities with a monoslope barn to keep cattle and manure under cover, protecting his animals and the environment. This grant also helped Eugene plan for the next generation and bring his son back to the farm in the future.

Stephen Haugen of Roseau used his grant to complete an enclosed cattle barn sheltering his 300 grazing cows. These upgrades help ensure his children have a farm to call home and make a living in northwest Minnesota.

Katie Johnson of Kerkhoven is expanding her family's dairy operation with a special calf care unit. The heifer barn also secures work at home in rural Kerkhoven and helps strengthen the family farm and town economy.

Qualifying producers are reimbursed ten percent of the first \$500,000 of investment, with a minimum investment of \$4,000. Qualifying expenditures include the purchase, construction or improvement of buildings or facilities for the production of livestock, and the purchase of fencing as well as feeding and waste management equipment. Producers who suffered a loss due to a natural disaster or unintended consequence may also apply.

The grant will not pay for livestock or land purchases or for the cost of debt refinancing.

Minnesota livestock producers who applied for but did not receive a grant in past years need to reapply for the 2015 program. These grants are incentives to start projects and are not awarded to works in progress. Grants are competitively funded based on how well applicants score. Applications for operations with farmers transitioning into livestock, beginning farmers and those with a positive environmental impact receive priority.

The deadline to apply for the grant program is December 10, 2014.



You can apply on our new online grant application site here:
<https://www.grantinterface.com/Common/LogOn.aspx?eqs=aBcdzT88cio4Jcof4JQ-mg2>.

Read about the Minnesota Livestock Investment Program on the MDA website at:
www.mda.state.mn.us/livestockinvestmentgrant.

See the full list of 2014 recipients accompanying this release in our news archive:
<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/news/releases.aspx>.

CONTACT:

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Minnesota GLCA Hosts National Grazing Coalition

Clarence Caraway

Conservation Grazing Leaders from throughout the country visited Minnesota recently. On September 5, they toured farms in Wabasha and Washington County. They stopped first at the Ralph Lentz farm near Lake City where they viewed a research project where different amounts of grazing were applied to a section of stream. No grazing produced heavy tree cover and a wide, shallow, stream with eroded banks. Moderate grazing produced a narrower deeper stream with forb and bank cover on the banks and little to no erosion. Former DNR biologist Larry Gates explained that when they shocked the sections of the stream that had moderate to light grazing they determined that the fish populations were much higher in these sections. Lentz detailed his experiences with academic types and other “experts” who told him the opposite would happen.

The group had lunch at Hoksilah Park in Lake City where Clarence Caraway presented Ralph Lentz with the 2013 MN GLCA Grazer of the Year award, and Art Thicke with the 2014 MN GLCA Grazer of the Year award.

Next stop was the Belwin Conservancy where the group viewed a large prairie restoration occupied by bison from Northstar Bison, one of the largest bison producers in the Midwest. Marielle Graese, daughter of the founders and manager of the bison part of the multifaceted business which also includes processing and marketing, explained how they use the bison to manage the prairie restoration at the Conservancy and other

areas. Tara Kelly, manager of the Conservancy, explained the history and mission of the organization.

Finally, the group visited the 2900 acre Kelley Land and Cattle Company, where Maurice Grogan explained the many enterprises that comprise the operation, which include custom grazing, grazing of purchased feeder cattle, hunting dog field trials, a hunting preserve, and a sportsman’s club that includes skeet shooting.

On September 6, the National Coalition held their fall meeting where they discussed their strategic plan to address the needs of grazing lands nationally and to publicize the contribution of grazing lands to the public good. States reported on their activities and plans were made for the National Convention which will be held in December of 2015 in Grapevine Texas.



Invasive Species Grazing with Goats May Offer Profit Potential and Income Diversification and Farm Start-up Opportunities

John Zinn, Grazing Specialist

Buckthorn, Multiflora Rose, and wild parsnip have spread throughout much of Southeast Minnesota in the last decade. Goats prefer brush and browse with a mouth structure that allows them to defoliate thorny species and a metabolism that can utilize plants that are toxic to other ruminants. Their small body size creates minimal impact on steep areas and they usually avoid riparian and other sensitive aquatic sites.



They have become cost competitive alternatives to fire, mechanical and chemical brush control. Some producers hire out their goats to browse the land to governmental agencies and private individuals as a business.

The advantages of this business model are:

- 1) It provides free, high quality forage
- 2) Research shows that gains are possible without grain for all classes of goats
- 3) Fee browsed land is often free of parasites
- 4) This land is often able to be certified as organic

- 5) Better environment for birthing
- 6) Occurs on marginal land or land unsuitable for any other kind of livestock
- 7) Can be profitable

Some of the disadvantages are:

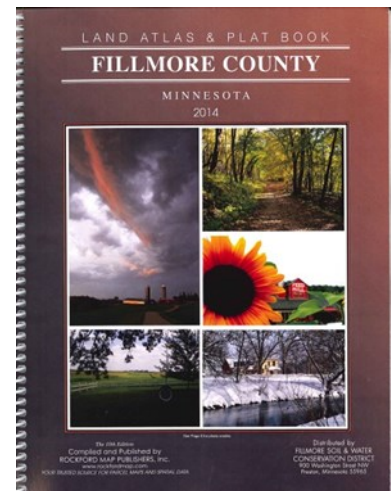
- 1) Higher labor requirements than other kinds of livestock
- 2) Need to have a portable system
- 3) Travel to place and inspect livestock
- 4) Potential for liability, vandalism, predation
- 5) Traveling to address problems may be costly

Due to the increased interest in this business model, the MN GLCA is planning to hold future meetings and summer pasture walks. Watch the Grazing Gazette for more details.



New!!
2014 Fillmore County
Land Atlas & Plat Book

- ◆ Great reference tool.
- ◆ Great features.
- ◆ Amazing aerial view.
- ◆ Available at the Fillmore SWCD office.



The Fillmore SWCD also offers...

State Cost Share Dollars for Conservation Practices – Grazing Management Plans – Soil Health Technical Assistance - Nutrient Management Plans – Manure Spreader Calibration – Stormwater Management Mini-grants - Bacteria Testing – Survey Flag Sales – Tree Sales – Tree Planter & Gopher Machine Rental – Tree Bar Rental/Sales



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