



# Grazing Gazette

Volume 5, Issue 5

September/October, 2016

This newsletter is a joint effort from the following organizations:



John Zinn, Grazing Specialist  
john.zinn@mn.usda.gov  
507-289-7454 ext. 115



Lance Klessig, Resource Specialist  
Lance.Klessig@winonaswcd.com  
Winona County SWCD  
(507) 523-2171 ext 108  
www.winonaswcd.org



Dean Thomas, Grazing Specialist and Area 6 Soil Health Technician  
dean.thomas@fillmoreswcd.org  
dean.thomas@mn.nacdnet.net  
507-765-3878, ext #3



Fillmore & Houston Counties  
Michael Cruse, Educator  
mjcruse@umn.edu  
Fillmore: 507-765-3896  
Houston: 507-725-5807

Winona County Extension  
Jake Overgaard, Educator  
over0128@umn.edu  
507-457-6440



Minnesota  
Grazing Lands  
Conservation  
Association



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

## Winter's Coming....Have you Considered Bale Grazing?

By Lance Klessig

Whether we want to admit it or not, fall is knocking on the door and winter won't be far behind. As we start fall, it's not only a great time to assess our stored feed supply far before we will need it, but also think about how we might most efficiently feed our livestock during the frozen months. While many dairy and beef producers across Minnesota and the Midwest for that matter are used to feeding hay and silage in a feedlot type setting, there are a few other very attractive and simple options.

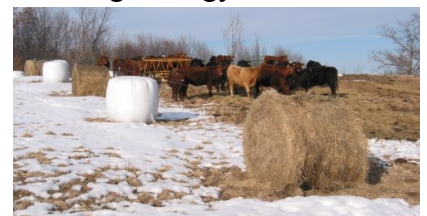


"Bale Grazing" is such an option that saves time and \$ where the farmer pre-places round bales in the fall out in specific paddocks. Generally these paddocks could use a fertility boost, have poor grass/legume composition and are located at least 300 feet from a stream or river and 1,000 feet from a lake. The bales are placed on about 30' centers and in rows. Prior to the ground freezing, the producer often installs temporary fencing to protect the bales throughout winter. Most times this is accomplished using a high quality polywire and 5' fiberglass posts that can be inserted into the heart of the round bales (see picture). It's recommended to have a strong low impedance energizer that can generate 4-5,000 volts even in winter when our animals have thicker insulation (hair) and creating 2 lines of fences out in front of the animals. Using the combination of light weight and durable bale rings along with temporary fence can allow us to not only feed our livestock, but also have them spread their own manure and urine where we want. Now there's a thought....have the cows or heifers spread their own waste so you don't have to in spring!

Dairymen and beef farmers across the state continue to cherish this fuel and time saving method for winter feeding. We've worked with farmers that only start their tractors in winter to push snow around or haul wood. They spent a couple of nice fall days planning out their winter feeding strategy and once the cold and snow comes all they need to do is move some polywire on a reel, a few lightweight posts and the bale rings.

### Bale Grazing can and will work if you want it too! Dairy herds, cow calf farmers, and even

grass finishers continue to have success with this feeding option. If you have questions or are interested in finding out more information please don't hesitate to contact any of the resource folks listed on the left side of this page.



## Please join us for our...**Soil Health Field Day!**

Is your soil healthy? What does a healthy soil really mean? Come learn what local farmers are doing to improve their soil health and improve yields at our 2016 Soil Health Field Day, hosted on the farm of Jeff Jirik. We'll have several farmers from Southern Minnesota on hand to share their experiences with cover crops, seed mix selections, termination methods, and more.

Thursday, September 8, 2016

10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Jeff Jirik Farm - 11485 Canby Ave, Faribault, MN 55021

*(From: I-35, take Exit 66, then West on Co 1 Blvd 1.5 miles, then turn South on Co 60 about 1/4 mile.)*

Please RSVP by September 1<sup>st</sup> for meal count. Call Rice County SWCD at 507-332-5408 with questions.

### **AGENDA:**

- 10:00 AM Welcome/Introductions Steve Pahs, Rice SWCD and Tom Coffman, NRCS, & Jeff Jirik
- 10:10 AM Herbicide Options for Interseeding Cover Crops in V5-V7 Corn Craig Maurer, Central Farm Service
- 10:40 AM Interseeding covers into V5-V7 Corn Keith Hartmann, Gibbon Area Farmer
- 11:10 AM Cover Crop Experiences Brad Hagen, Ellendale Farmer
- 11:45 AM Lunch
- 12:20 PM Review Terrace/Sediment Basin Project
- 12:30 PM Soil Pits (Break into 2 groups)
  - Pit 1: Soil Erosion since settlement & Rainfall Simulator John Beck, NRCS Soil Scientist
  - Pit 2: Cover Crop Root growth & View 6/20 Interseeding Kristen Brennan, NRCS Assistant State Soil Scientist
- 1:30 PM Equipment Display and Discussion
- 2:00 PM Cover Crop Mixes, Seed Availability @ Albert Lea Seed House and Werner Farm Seeds
- 2:30 PM Wrap up

- See 8 different cover crop mix plots
- Rainfall simulator to demonstrate runoff on various tillage types
- Hear from area farmers using cover crops
- Free Lunch!!

- Equipment Display**
- Dawn Mfg. Interseeder
  - Dawn Mfg. ZRX Roller/Crimper
  - BZ Mfg. Interseeder
  - Great Plains No-Till Drill/Interseeder
  - Dew Drop Drill
  - Custom Built Roller/Crimper
  - CRWP Broadcast Seeder
  - Gandy Orbit-Air System

Thank you to our sponsors: Ag Star, Albert Lea Seed, Werner Seed, Rice County Dairy Producers, Reliance Bank, CRWP, NRCS, Rice County SWCD

# FALL FIELD DAY

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

**9:00 AM-4:00 PM**

**Departs from: 1400 WEST MAIN ST. ALBERT LEA, MN**

Please arrive as early as 8:30 AM to sign-in.

Bus will leave promptly at 9:00 AM from the Albert Lea Seed House parking lot!

*Join us as we take a bus tour to area farms participating in a SARE funded research program to learn how incorporating a 3rd crop and multi-species cover crop can benefit soil health.*

## **Stop 1: Winston Beiser**

⇒ *Learn about cereal rye planted on marginal land and harvested for cover crop seed with a multi-species cover crop mix planted after harvest.*

**Lunch:** Boxed lunch provided

## **Stop 2: Tom Cotter**

⇒ *See a multi-species cover crop mix planted after a canning crop and learn about cover crops used for grazing livestock.*

## **Stop 3: Mark Ditlevson**

⇒ *Experience a multi-species cover crop mix planted after the harvest of small grains that were no-tilled into a terminated cover crop.*

Limited seating available on bus.

First 50 RSVPs will be guaranteed a spot.

RSVPs will be accepted until seats are filled.

507.373.5607 ext. 116

[lindsey.zeitler@mn.nacdn.net](mailto:lindsey.zeitler@mn.nacdn.net)

Hosted by:  
Freeborn Area Soil Health Team





# ALBERT LEA SEED

---

Store Hours  
Monday-Friday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Saturday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

(800) 352-5247  
[www.alseed.com](http://www.alseed.com)  
[seedhouse@alseed.com](mailto:seedhouse@alseed.com)

---

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

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