

# Grazing “Summer School” Can Save Your Grass

## *Livestock Producers Attending Can Meet EQIP Requirement*

### **CHAMPAIGN, ILL.**

**S**ummer school is up and running. But for livestock producers, this might be a summer class you WANT to attend. Grazing School could help you save your grass. Several Grazing School sessions will be held across Illinois this summer. The students are livestock producers and Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applicants. The day-long sessions are designed for grazing enthusiasts and will cover topics that can help build the skills and ideas needed to create sustainable grazing systems here in Illinois. Specialists and educators from the University of Illinois Extension and USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will provide information on a wide range of topics: forage species, forage fertility, weed control in pastures, system layout and design suggestions, grazing management, summer and winter annuals, stockpiling options, forage risks and animal disorders, meeting animal nutritional needs with forages, and economics of managed grazing. Most sessions begin at 8:30 am and end at 4:30 pm.

In addition, there will be a panel of local livestock producers. These producers will discuss their operation and experiences with managed grazing. Also, at some locations site visits/farm tours may be available immediately following the conclusion of the grazing schools. Bring

your questions! “One of the questions on the EQIP ranking sheet is whether or not you’ve attended ‘Grazing School.’ If you come out to this one-day session, it’ll help fulfill your requirements. You get credit for attending the session and you’ll learn a lot too,” says NRCS State Resource Conservationist Richard Hungerford.

To register or receive a program flier, contact the following office:

- Monday, July 14, 8:30 am – 3:30 p.m.,  
SIU Forage Research Plot Tour 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL  
Contact NRCS/SWCD at 618-684-3064 ext 3

- Tuesday, July 22, 8:30 am – 3:30 p.m.

Producer Farm Tour 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Pact Head Start, Camp Point, IL

Contact UI Extension at 217-223-8380

For other school locations and a contact list will be available on the following web sites: Illinois Forage and Grassland Council, IFGC, web site: [www.illinoisforage.org](http://www.illinoisforage.org) ; and the Illinois Beef Association website: [www.illinoisbeef.com](http://www.illinoisbeef.com) .

An early registration fee of \$20 (\$25 at the door) covers cost of the meal, refreshments and handouts. For additional information, contact your local USDA-NRCS office, or call Roger Staff, NRCS Grazing Specialist at 618-664-0555 ext. 108 or Matt Bunger, NRCS Grazing Specialist at 309-452-0830 ext. 112.     Δ