

Plan To Attend The Southern Illinois Rotational Grazing School

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Grazing management is a complex topic and may seem daunting for beginners. Even people who have many years of experience and who are widely regarded as experts readily admit that they learn more each year. Additional confusion arises from overlapping or contradictory terms commonly used in the grazing management area, and sometimes by differing philosophies of people who use these terms.

However, make no mistake about it, grazing management has important impacts on many different aspects of forage and livestock production. To be unaware of, or to ignore, these impacts will result in many lost opportunities as well as lost profitability.

Many producers may question, both in terms of dollars and effort, the benefits of implementing a grazing management program. However, times have changed. There are several reasons why producers should attend a school that focuses on management of intensive grazing. These include the following:

- New Products increasing technology which facilitates usage of more sophisticated grazing management techniques.
- Economic Pressures resulting from both rising input costs and inadequate or erratic prices for livestock and livestock products necessitating a need to increase grazing efficiency.
- Environmental Concerns to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and minimize or eliminate other harmful effects.
- Increased Complexity from enhanced scientific knowledge encompassing grazing manage-

ment and how it can interact in important ways with other influences within the soil/forage crop/grazing animal complex.

The Southern Illinois Rotational Grazing School features topics such as the art and science of grazing, evaluation of farm resources, watering systems, grazer's arithmetic, fencing systems, pasture evaluation, forage diversity and plant growth, matching livestock needs and nutrition, economics of grazing management, plant nutrient management, and grazing system layout and design.

This workshop will combine both classroom lectures with hands-on field exercises that will be conducted in actual pasture settings with grazing livestock. Participants will be divided into several small groups to facilitate learning and foster future networking.

The school will be held at the University of Illinois Extension office in Murphysboro, IL on from 8 am to 5 pm on May 23 and 24, 2012.

Registration for the two-day event is \$70 which covers meals/refreshments, copies of the Missouri Grazing Manual, Forages and Weeds of Pastures, and a Grazing stick. Registration for a second person associated with the same farm is \$20 (with a paid full registration). The deadline for registering is May 11, 2012. Enrollment is limited and late registrations may not be accepted.

Please contact Linda Pressler at 618-684-3064, ext. 3 for additional information. On-line registration for credit card payment is available at <http://web.extension.illinois.edu/fjprw/>. Δ

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