



Gladwin County, MSU Extension
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Volume 10, Issue 3

August 2021

Dear Great Lakes Grazier,

Where has this year gone, I cannot believe it's August already. This is going to be a short and sweet hello, because the content of this newsletter speaks for itself. Its time to get out and see people and network and learn from each other. You will see several face-to-face programs, pasture walks, or field events listed in this edition of the Great Lakes Grazing Newsletter. I hope to see you at one of these events.

Sincerely,

Kable Thurlow

MSUE Beef & Grazing Educator

Michigan Forage Council Summer 2021 Forage and Farm Tours

Wednesday, August 25, 6:30 pm

Tom & Diane Cook

11454 Parks Rd., Pewamo MI 48873

(Farm is located on the west side of Clintonia Rd., just before it curves into and becomes Hubbardston Rd.)

Tom & Diane Cook and their family have a 300 cow dairy on 600 acres. This is a combination of rotationally grazed pasture as well as conventional crops harvested for feed forage for the high production dairy herd. This herd is seasonally calved, to take advantage of good weather and grazing production, as well as having good labor efficiency for calf and young stock raising. This farm tour will focus on double-cropping Sorghum Sudan after wheat, as well as double-cropping Triticale after corn silage harvest, as well as excellent grass rotational grazing. Neighbors Leroy and Steph Schafer will show and talk about Triticale baleage they are producing. Dairy producer Nathan Brearley will show and talk about the double-cropped triticale he has been feeding to his high production cow herd this summer to replace some of the alfalfa previously fed.

Monday, August 30th, 6:00 pm

Rodney Oates, RW Oates, LLC

12580 Meridean Rd, Waldron MI 49288

(The farm is located on US-127, just north of the state line.)

Light dinner included.

This tour features Alfalfa seedlings established both last fall and this spring as well as frost seeded cover crop clover into wheat, to be harvested early September for beef cattle dry forage. Discussion of equipment used on the farm for seeding and forage harvest. Commercial hay and straw production. Alfalfa and Alfalfa-Timothy mixed hay harvested and baled in big squares. Beef herd of 50 Limousin-cross cows, rotationally grazed. Interseed pastures with timothy, ryegrass, or what ever is left in the drill. Farm has seed cleaner so they produce and clean seed for bulk seed sales, as well as retail oat seed sales.

Tuesday, September 14, 5:00 pm

Gary Carmichael

13247 60th Ave., Evart MI 49631

(The farm is located just west of M-66, north of Evart.)

(supper provided)

Gary has been a successful commercial hay producer for 20 years and has made many modifications in soil fertility to increase production. This farm tour will focus on soil fertility with take home fertilization recommendations for participants to guide good alfalfa-grass hay production. Gary's neighbor will give a personal account of his hay production success while following these fertility guidelines. This forage tour will also include a demo/discussion on alfalfa stem size variability. Also, Gary has developed a comprehensive irrigation system, using farm constructed hydraulic driven pivots and miles of underground pipe to effectively double his hay production when water is limiting. This was a huge benefit to his first cutting production during our spring drought.



Gardner & JNelson Farms Pasture Walk

DATE & TIME:

Tuesday

Aug. 17, 2021

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

LOCATION:

Gardner Farm

3490 Gardner Rd.

Roscommon, MI

48653

**Please let Jenny
know if you are
coming.**

**989-426-7741 or
mckilli7@msu.edu**

For Questions:

**Kable Thurlow call
(989)802-3384 or email
thurlowk@msu.edu**



The Gardner & JNelson Farms

Please join Gardner Farms, and JNelson Farms as they work with MSU Extension to host this pasture walk at the farm near Houghton Lake, MI. These two farms are cooperating to produce 100% Grass Finished Beef. They will share their experiences and expertise on finishing beef on an all forage diet, Adaptive Grazing Management, and making high quality baleage for the winter months.

Topics to Include:

Finishing Cattle on an all Forage Diet

Making High Quality Winter Hay/Baleage

Fly Control Experiments



Sweeten Farm Pasture Walk

DATE & TIME:

Monday

Aug. 30, 2021

6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

LOCATION:

Sweeten Farm

12248 S. Bound Rd.

Dafter, MI 49725

To Register:

[https://events.anr.msu.edu/
SweetenFarmPastureWalk/](https://events.anr.msu.edu/SweetenFarmPastureWalk/)

For Questions:

Jim Isleib

Alger County

906-387-2530

Kable Thurlow

Gladwin County

989-426-7741

Frank Wardynski

Ontonagon County

906-884-4386



The Sweeten Farm

Sweeten Farms is a cow-calf operation owned by Jeremy and Michelle Sweeten and family. The Sweetens utilize rotational grazing and fall calve their herd. They sell yearling cattle in October for grass-finishing. Sweeten Farms also sells cash crop hay. One of their main goals is to improve their farm through the practice of bale grazing in winter. Jeremy is employed full-time off farm as a forage agronomist. Michelle is also an Ag professional.

Topics to Include:

- Long term effects of bale grazing
 - Rotational Grazing
 - Fall Calving
- Soil Health Studies
- Soil Water Monitoring

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Cover Crop Pasture Walk

September 30, 2021

TIME:

6 PM - 8 PM

(light refreshments provided)

LOCATION:

Bluemer Farms

**4753 W. Blanchard Rd.
Blanchard, MI 49310**

REGISTER AT:

**Isabella County MSUE
(989) 317-4079**

**Gladwin County MSUE
(989) 426-7741**

**If you have any
questions, contact:
Paul Gross
(989) 317-4079**

**Kable Thurlow
(989) 426-7741**



Agenda Topics

- **Covers for cash crop fields**
- **Using covers and resting fields**
- **Cover crops for fall grazing**

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