

## Grazing Education Webinar Initiative-Meeting Notes

1. Attendees- Terry VanDerPol, Jane Jewett, Laura Paine, Joe Sellers, Nadia Alber, Meghan Filbert, Diomy Zamora, Kent Solberg, Tom Quinn and Warren King
2. Reasons to start with webinar-professional development approach
  - Whatever form collaboration eventually takes will be more grassroots than top-down
  - It will attract those that are interested
  - Has similarities to other PDP initiatives and will be familiar
  - Can be immediately relevant and useful
  - Testing whether this is an efficient/effective route to development of an initiative
3. Discussion and ideas on the ultimate objectives of collaborating
  - Become better at broadly sharing education tools and knowing where to find them
  - Sharing what works in communicating with producers and others interested in grazing
  - Creating a platform to education house materials (Laura & Jane suggested GLBW website would be the place for this since they have already started. Exactly which materials and what design of platform TBD)
  - Assess “the whole package” of education materials-tools in the Midwest, determine what’s missing and fill the gaps
  - Get access to information-materials that are no longer in circulation; e.g. education program formerly run by Dennis Cosgrove
  - Build a network of Midwest grazing educators (educators broadly defined)
  - Involve other established grazing programs; e.g. Dairy Apprenticeship Program and MO Grazing School
  - Actively engage other grazing educators and producers in a network
  - Facilitate cross-pollination of programs/staff/students/apprentices
4. Ideas on valuable and relevant topics for webinars
  - Integrating livestock into cropping systems
  - Defining “good grazing” as relates to conservation and soil health benefits
  - Grazing cover crops
  - Use of culling and fencing to “train” livestock
  - Grazing to manage invasive species
  - Beyond ruminant livestock
  - Grazing to achieve conservation goals
  - Pasture development based on soil types & topography (Gene Schriefer and Joe Sellers are using decision tools)
  - Pasture Project’s Grassfed Beef Decision Tool
  - Grass-based Farm Financials ( Larry Tranel @ IASU has developed management tools and is working with OV members; includes cattle, hogs, poultry and dairy)
  - Adaptive High Stock Density (AHSD) Grazing (why it’s different from “mob” grazing)
  - Use of grazing in cow/calf-to-feedlot systems

- Variety of models for bringing livestock onto a piece of land
  - The really basic info & materials on how to do managed grazing
  - Silvopasture
  - Available Resources Roundtable- panel presents favorite or most useful tool
5. Ideas on others that we need to recruit or include
- Grassworks
  - MO Grazing School
  - Rhonda Gildersleeve
  - Gene Schriefer
  - Larry Tranel
  - Allen Williams
6. Other things to consider
- Majority of Midwest grazers are cow-calf producers, probably close to 90% in states like IA & IL. Grazing education has to focus on their operations.
  - Most pasture is on the worst or marginal farmland. Educating to improve that land is a priority.
  - Financial incentives will influence producer incentives first. These are important materials and tools to change behavior.
  - Who is a grazing educator? Anyone that is writing grazing plans, doing farm planning, farmer education, academics teaching or doing research and farmers themselves should be considered. We want to invite to participate on a very broad basis.
7. Action Assignments
- Warren & Jane will get out meeting notes to all
  - Warren will work with Pasture Project staff to get out a poll to all that:
    - a. Ranks the topic ideas
    - b. Asks for other topic ideas
    - c. Asks for presenter recommendations by topic
  - Warren will work with Wallace staff to poll for next meeting date. Tentatively week of March 9<sup>th</sup> or 16<sup>th</sup>

\* Discussion in March to include publicity planning; who to include on list of webinar invitees; be prepared to push out publicity to that group right after April 7 in-person meeting.

\*Webinar series is set to tentatively begin May 1<sup>st</sup> and follow the first Friday of each month through October for a total of six sessions\*