

Midwest Perennial Forage Working Group

Conference call notes, 10/14/15

Present:

Terry VanDerPol

Laura Paine

Jane Jewett

Richard Warner

Kent Solberg

Dick Cates

Warren King

Noted that a focus on markets is desirable for this session.

We also talked about having professional development for ourselves – focusing on a topic that is challenging and educating ourselves about it.

Agreement that the economics of integrating crops and livestock is a challenging area for our work generally, and interest in focusing on this area for the conference session.

Potential presenters for the session:

- John Westra. He is a professor of agricultural economics at Louisiana State Univ. and Ph.D. grad from U of MN; and has been working with the Chippewa 10% project. He is already registered for the conference.
- Lance Smith. NRCS in southwest MN; has a good presentation on the economics of integrating crops and livestock. We would probably have to pay his way in order for him to attend. GLBW would waive his registration fee.
- Larry Tranel. Professor in ag economics at Iowa State University; his main focus is on the dairy industry. Does a lot of work with grass-based and organic dairies, and could be asked to give a presentation about economics of raising dairy replacement heifers on grass. This is a business model with great potential.
- Joe Sellers. Iowa State Univ. Extension; Iowa Beef Center. Gave a great presentation on integrating livestock into cropping systems in the Grazing Educator webinar series.
- Gene Schriefer. Univ. of Wisconsin Extension; Dodgeville area. Also a sheep and beef producer. Lots of on-the-ground experience, including with cover crops.
- Jim Munsch. Independent consultant in Wisconsin; beef producer; has good spreadsheets for analysis of grass-based beef production systems.
- Matt Liebman. Professor in sustainable ag at Iowa State Univ. Has expressed interest in economics of integrated cropping and livestock systems and noted a gap in research in this area. He is already registered for the conference.

We have two weeks to pull this together, and no budget to offer travel support to potential speakers except for waiving of registration fee.

Action items:

- Reach out within next 24 hours to potential speakers who were named.
 - Suggest a 10- to 12-minute presentation

Potential Presenter	Person responsible for contacting
John Westra	Terry VanDerPol
Larry Tranel	Laura Paine
Gene Schriefer	Laura Paine
Joe Sellers	Warren King
Matt Liebman	Jane Jewett
<p>***Note: I don't think we specified whether to contact Jim Munsch or Lance Smith, or who would do that. I think it would be useful to contact them – even if they can't come, then they're aware that this group is paying attention to their work and thinks of them as viable presenters to a region-wide conference. Could be a nice morale-booster and lay some groundwork for their possible future involvement. Kent, Dick, if you're willing ??***</p>	
Lance Smith	Kent Solberg
Jim Munsch	Dick Cates

- Respond back to the group via email tomorrow morning (Thursday, Oct. 15) with information about the reaching-out.
- Write up a blurb describing the session, to be added to the conference agenda (Jane will do).

Plan B:

If none of the potential speakers who were mentioned will be available, then we – “we” being those of the MPFWG members who will attend the conference – need to prepare ourselves to discuss this topic of economics of integration of crops and livestock.

- Materials from some of these folks are available; we could review them and prepare presentations for ourselves and others who will attend the session.
[Let's hope it doesn't come to that!!! ☺]