



Green Lands Blue Water 2017
Continuous Living Cover: Bridging the Gaps with Livestock
UW Madison Pyle Center
702 Langdon Street
Madison, WI

As Sir Albert Howard said, "*Mother earth never attempts to farm without livestock.*" From cover crops to native grasslands, year-round living vegetation maintains soil health and water quality. The conference will explore how livestock can support and sustain cover crops, perennial grains, agroforestry systems, perennial forages, and bioenergy crops by converting perennial grasses and cover crops to high quality human food, closing nutrient cycles, and stimulating soil biology.

Tuesday November 28

8:00 am – Coffee, light breakfast

8:30 am – Welcome, Bill Barker, UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

9:00 – 10:30 am – Plenary - **Setting the Vision: What do livestock have to do with cleaning up water and building healthy soils?**

How do we make grassland our dominant agricultural system?

Randy Jackson, Professor of Grassland Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

A land of milk and honey: re-connecting food systems with ecosystems in the tallgrass prairie region

Laura Jackson, Biology Professor at the University of Northern Iowa, Director of its Tallgrass Prairie Center, and author of *The Farm as a Natural Habitat*.

10:30 – 11:00 am – Break

11:00 – 11:40 am **A 2025 Vision for Continuous Living Cover Farming:** Jeri Neal, Chair of the Steering Committee and Richard Warner, Director of Green Lands Blue Waters

11:40 – 12:00 pm – Small group exercise

12:00 – 1 pm – Lunch

1:00 – 3:00 pm – Breakout sessions –

- A. Farmer innovations and Farmer-Led Watersheds

Draft Agenda 9.11.17

- B. Agency/NGO innovations
- C. Research Updates

3:00 – 3:30 – Break

3:30 – 4:00 – **Livestock as Economic Drivers of Continuous Living Cover**

Logan Peterman, Organic Valley Cooperative

Rod Ofte, Gene Schriefer, Wisconsin Meadows, grass-fed beef cooperative

4:00 – 5:00 – Break

5:00 – 6:00 pm – Evening Plenary (open to the public)

The Two Faces of Livestock Farming: Solving or Causing Water Pollution – How Do We Move to Regenerative Livestock Systems?

Nicolette Hahn Niman – Author of *Defending Beef: The Case for Sustainable Beef Production – The Manifesto of an Environmental Attorney and Vegetarian Turned Cattle Rancher*

6:00 – 7:00 pm – Reception (cash bar with appetizers), University Club, 803 State Street, Madison, WI

Wednesday November 29

8:00 am – Coffee, light breakfast

8:30 – 10:00 Plenary – **How does Continuous Living Cover Restore our Landscape?**

Steve Apfelbaum, Founder and Chairman of Applied Ecological Services Founder and author of *Nature's Second Chance*, an award-winning book.

Jacob Marty (invited) 6th Generation farmer and co-owner of Green Fire Farm, a regenerative family farm producing organic, grass-fed beef, poultry and pastured heritage pork. Serving the Madison, WI and greater Chicago area.

Chris Kucharik, Professor of Agronomy and Environmental Studies, UW Madison

10:00-10:30 - Break

10:30 – 12:30 pm – **Continuous Living Cover Working Group – Break-out sessions**

- a. Perennial Forage
- b. Perennial Grains
- c. Perennial Biomass
- d. Agroforestry
- e. Cover Crops

12:30 – 1:30 – Lunch (boxed lunches)

1:30 – 4:00 pm – **Agroforestry Farm Tour (optional)**