

Green Lands Blue Waters Conference, November 28-29, 2017 Pyle Center, Madison, WI

Conference agenda, Tuesday, November 28	
7:30 am Third floor	Registration, coffee, light breakfast
8:30 am Room 325-326	Welcome , Bill Barker, UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
9:00 am Room 325-326	<p>Setting the vision How do we make grassland our dominant agricultural system? Randy Jackson, Professor of Grassland Ecology at the UW-Madison</p> <p>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 <i>The Farm as a Natural Habitat</i></p>
10:30 am Room 313	Break and exhibits
11:00 am Room 325-326	<p>A 2025 vision for continuous living cover farming Jeri Neal, Chair of the Steering Committee and Richard Warner, Director of Green Lands Blue Waters</p>
11:40 am Room 325-326	Small group exercise
12:00 pm Main dining room (basement)	Lunch
	<p>Breakout sessions: Participants can choose from three different tracks in both of the 1-2 pm and 2-3 pm time frames. The farmer innovation and agency/NGO innovation sessions are repeated. Presentations in the research update sessions are different for each time slot.</p>
1:00 pm Room 309	<p>Breakout session I:A Farmer innovations and farmer-led watersheds (repeats at 2 pm)</p> <p>Integrating livestock into cropping systems using cover crops Kent Solberg, Livestock and Grazing Specialist, Sustainable Farming Association <i>Explore the value of integrating livestock into cropping systems from the standpoint of soil health and benefits to the farm. Kent will discuss examples of how livestock are effectively being integrated into cropping systems will be presented.</i></p> <p>Conservation in the Iowa County Uplands Watershed and at Seven Seeds Farm Michael Dolan, Owner/Operator, Seven Seeds Farm and Farm Leader of the Iowa County Uplands Watershed Group. <i>Michael will share the goals and outcomes of the Iowa County Uplands Watershed Group, one of 14 farmer-led watershed groups, funded by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. A seventh generational beginning farmer operating on organic, diversified livestock and crop farm, Michael will take an in-depth</i></p>

	<p><i>look at Seven Seeds Farm conservation including silvopasture and livestock management</i></p> <p>Green fields, clean water, and cows Dave Bishop, PrairiErth Farm <i>Hear examples of how integrating livestock in a diverse farming system both increases farm income and improves water quality.</i></p>
<p>1:00 pm Room 226</p>	<p>Breakout session I:B Agency/NGO innovations (repeats at 2 pm)</p> <p>NRCS dedicated EQIP funding for agroforestry and woody crops Lauren Cartwright, Agricultural Economist / EQIP Program Coordinator, Natural Resource Conservation Service - Missouri <i>This presentation provides an overview of the path that led to the development of the NRCS EQIP Agroforestry and Woody Crop Establishment dedicated funding. Lauren will focus on the importance of key partners, internal process to make the funding pool a reality, how it works and what we hope for the future.</i></p> <p>Targeted changes to agriculture practices result in cleaner water: Lessons from the Pecatonica River Steve Richter, Director of Conservation Programs, The Nature Conservancy - Wisconsin Chapter <i>Steve will share results of a nine-year effort to improve water quality in the Pleasant Valley watershed of the Pecatonica River in southwest Wisconsin. Results showed that targeting conservation practices on specific agricultural lands, rather than randomly throughout a watershed, resulted in cleaner water.</i></p> <p>The Minnesota buffer law: What is it? What is working? What are some challenges? Tom Gile, Buffers and Soil Erosion Program Coordinator, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil <i>Tom will provide an overview of the law's requirements and where to find additional information including brief discussion on what is working, how the program is developing and what are some of the challenges faced to this point.</i></p>
<p>1:00 pm Room 325-326</p>	<p>Breakout session I:C Research updates (continues with new speakers/topics at 2 pm)</p> <p>Grazing Wisconsin's public lands: A win-win for farmers and grassland habitats? Jacob Grace, M.S. Candidate in Agroecology, UW-Madison and Greta Landis, M.S. Agroecology, Ph.D. Candidate in Environment & Resources, UW-Madison <i>This research project takes a broad approach to evaluating the opportunities and challenges of rotational grazing as a conservation tool on public access grasslands. Working with land managers, cattle producers, and grazing specialists to investigate the environmental and socio-economic impacts of grazing on public lands, the project asks the question: is there a win-win scenario in which rotational grazing can be an effective management strategy for both livestock producers and WI-DNR land managers?</i></p>

	<p>Intermediate wheatgrass (Kernza) perennial grain and forage crop: Wisconsin updates Valentin D. Picasso, Assistant Professor, Agronomy Department, UW-Madison <i>This talk summarizes recent results from research on Kernza as a dual purpose grain and forage crop in Wisconsin. Valentin will discuss grain and forage yields, weed management and weed suppression ability, intercropping with various legumes, grazing and forage harvest, and farmers' perceptions on this crop.</i></p> <p>Cover crops as forage Liz Binversie, Agriculture Educator, UW-Extension Brown County, Heidi Johnson, Crops and Soils Educator, UW-Extension Dane County <i>Using cover crops as a feed for dairy cattle allows a way to offset feed costs but it is not without challenges. This presentation will share what farmers, nutritionists and agronomists had to say while participating in four focus groups about the challenges and benefits of using cover crops as forage for cattle.</i></p>
2:00 pm Room 309	<p>Breakout session II:A Farmer innovations and farmer-led watersheds (repeated from 1 pm)</p>
2:00 pm Room 226	<p>Breakout session II:B Agency/NGO innovations (repeated from 1 pm)</p>
2:00 pm Room 325-326	<p>Breakout session II:C Research updates (continues with new speakers at 2 pm)</p> <p>Organic no-till production Erin Silva, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Organic Agriculture, UW-Madison <i>One of the primary guiding principles of organic agriculture is to build soil quality and health. This presentation will discuss how organic no-till practices provide farmers with a tool to increase soil quality while managing weeds without the use of herbicides.</i></p> <p>Oilseed "cash cover crops" for ecosystem services and economic return M. Scott Wells, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics <i>Cover crops offer a range of ecosystem services to corn and soybean cropping systems, but adoption has been lower than what is needed to address the externalities associated with annual row crop production in the Upper Midwest. Winter annual oilseeds, most notably pennycress (<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>) and winter camelina (<i>Camelina sativa L.</i>) provide plant-based solutions to nutrient and soil losses, pollinator refuges, weed suppression, and economic return through the harvest of the oilseed grain. This update will introduce the production systems and provide data on a few of the oilseed driven ecosystem services.</i></p> <p>Integrating prairie strips on working farms Seth Watkins, Pinhook Farm <i>Research has shown that planting prairie strips in crop fields can significantly reduce soil erosion and nutrient runoff, but what are the challenges to implementing this practice on working farms? Seth Watkins will describe his experience with establishing</i></p>

	<i>and grazing prairie strips on his Iowa farm.</i>
3:00 pm Room 313	Break and exhibits
3:20 pm Room 325-326	Livestock as economic drivers of continuous living cover Organic Valley and pasture-based dairy products, Logan Peterman, Organic Valley Cooperative Creation of the Wisconsin Grassfed Beef Cooperative, Rod Ofte, Willow Creek Ranch, and Gene Schriefer, UW-Extension Ag Educator and Rolling Hills Stock Farm
4:00 pm Room 313 Film: Room 309	Break, exhibits and poster session Documentary film screening: <i>Searching for sustainability</i>
5:00 pm 1 st floor Alumni lounge	Ecologically based farming and the indispensable animals (open to the public) Nicolette Hahn Niman – Author of <i>Defending Beef: The Case for Sustainable Beef Production – The Manifesto of an Environmental Attorney and Vegetarian Turned Cattle Rancher</i>
6:00 pm University Club	Reception (cash bar with appetizers), University Club, 803 State Street, Madison, WI

Conference agenda, Wednesday, November 29	
8:00 am Third floor	Registration, coffee, light breakfast
8:30 am Room 325-326	How does continuous living cover restore our landscape? Steve Apfelbaum, Founder and Chairman of Applied Ecological Services Founder and author of <i>Nature's Second Chance</i> , an award-winning book Jacob Marty, 6 th Generation farmer and co-owner of Green Fire Farm, a regenerative family farm producing organic, grass-fed beef, poultry and pork. Chris Kucharik, Professor of Agronomy and Environmental Studies, UW-Madison
10:00 am Room 313	Break and exhibits
10:30 am A: Room 325-326 B: Room 225 or distance ed room C: Room 226 D: Room 309 E. Lussier Center	Continuous living cover working group breakout sessions A. Perennial forage B. Perennial grains C. Perennial biomass D. Cover crops E. Agroforestry: Defining an agroforestry agenda for mid America The GLBW/Mid-American Agroforestry Working Group (MAAWG) annual Agroforestry break-out session will be joining forces this year with Savanna Institute's Perennial Farm Gathering! The Agroforestry breakout will be held offsite at the Lussier Family Heritage Center (3101 Lake Farm Road, Madison)

	<p>in conjunction with that event. If you are interested in attending the Agroforestry breakout session, directions to the Lussier Center will be available at the GLBW conference registration desk. If you're interested in attending the entire Perennial Farm Gathering, registration and details are available at http://www.savannainstitute.org/perennial-farm-gathering.html. Questions can be directed to kristy@savannainstitute.org.</p>
<p>12:30 pm Room 325-326</p>	<p>Closing exercise and evaluation</p>
<p>1:00 pm</p>	<p>Lunch (boxed lunches)</p>

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