WARSAW, Mo. – Many livestock producers have developed managed grazing systems over the years, but interest in this forage management strategy continues. There are many advantages to managed grazing, and there is sound science behind why these strategies are effective. Additionally, new fencing and watering systems have been developed which ease the burden of moving livestock from place to place.

The University of Missouri along with USDA and local partners have been instrumental in developing and conducting grazing schools throughout Missouri for many years. The purpose of these schools is to teach the biology of why managed grazing systems work, showcase fencing and watering equipment designed for use in grazing systems, explore the economics of operating a managed grazing system, and assist producers with the design and operation of a managed grazing system.

The information presented at the schools is designed to help producers understand how to better manage their pasture and forage resources. Attendance at an approved grazing school is required for cost-share assistance for a managed grazing system through local SWCD offices. However, producers who want to learn more about managed grazing systems or those who would like a refresher course are invited and encouraged to attend.

Two grazing schools have been scheduled in upcoming weeks in central Missouri. The first of these is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13 and Thursday, September 14 in Lincoln, MO. The second school is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20 and Thursday, September 14 in California, MO.

For more details or to register for the school in Lincoln, call the Benton County SWCD office at (660) 547-2353. Contact the Moniteau County SWCD office at (573) 796-2010 for more information about the school in California.

Managed grazing systems provide several benefits to pasture-based livestock production systems. These schools will help producers begin to understand how and why these benefits occur. If you have additional questions on grazing system management, contact me at
schmitze@missouri.edu or at the Benton County Extension Center in Warsaw at (660) 438-5012. I hope to see you at one of the above schools.

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