

Missouri Dairy Grazing Conference

2015

July 7-8, 2015 · Springfield, Missouri

Schedule of Events and Topics

Tuesday, July 7 - Dairy Tours

(Transportation provided, buses leave hotel at 7:00 a.m.)

Dairy Farm Tour #1 – Edgewood Dairy LLC, Purdy, Missouri

Discussion: Farm Overview, Traveling Irrigation/Grazing Alfalfa, Edgewood Creamery, Employee Management.

Located in Purdy, Missouri, Edgewood Dairy is owned and operated by the Fletcher family. Charles Fletcher will discuss his multigenerational dairy and how the farms' success has enticed his son and daughter-in-law back to the farm. Three hundred and twenty cows are milked twice daily in a swing 22 parlor. A portion of the production will soon be processed on site for cheese. Participants will tour the cheese plant, in its infancy, which is scheduled to open in the summer of 2015. Nearly seventy percent of the 320 acre farm is planted annually (both summer and winter) while the majority is in permanent pasture in novel endophyte fescue and perennial ryegrass. Heifers are raised off site.

Dairy Farm Tour #2 – Meier Dairy, Monett, Missouri

Discussion: Farm Overview, K-line Irrigation, Grazing Milk Production, Grazing Crabgrass

Mike and Janan Meier own and operate a seasonal 100 cow herd just 4 miles south of Monett, Missouri. Once the Meiers' adopted the grazing model, they begin to evolve their breeding program from purebred Holstein to Holstein-Jersey cross and has recently began to bred back to Holstein. This 178 acre farm prefers perennial ryegrass while also utilizing novel endophyte fescue and double cropped warm season grasses to support the needs of the milking and heifer herds. Mike uses a K-line pod-line irrigation system to irrigate crabgrass. This farm uses a double 6 herringbone.

Noon *Box Lunch will be provided to participants during travel between farms.*

Dairy Farm Tour #3 – VanDalfsen Farms, Reeds, Missouri

Discussion: Farm Overview, Center Pivot Irrigation & Cow Cooling, Paths to Entry & Expansion, Forages

Bernie VanDalfsen owns and operates VanDalfsen Dairy located in the bottoms of the Spring River near Reeds, Missouri. Using his center pivot irrigation, he is able to support the forage needs of 445 cows. About 160 acres can be irrigated of the 330 total acres. The center pivot is equipped with cow misters, which allows Bernie to strategically cool cows during the hottest of grazing conditions. The herd is milked twice daily in the swing 25 parlor equipped with automatic take offs.

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Dairy Farm Tour #4 – Grasslands White Oak #4/Fortuna Farms, Avilla, Missouri

Discussion: Farm Overview, Sharemilking, Facilities, Heifer Arrangement

Craig and Kelsey Zydenbos have been sharemilkers for the past eight years with Grasslands LLC, who owns the farm. The operation is a 630 cow herd in two mobs on a base of 350 acres. Approximately 138 acres are novel endophyte fescue and the poor paddocks are planted to turnips or millet for renovation and summer forage. The herd is milked in a swing 50 parlor. Heifers are custom raised off site.

6:00 pm **Social Reception and Trade Show at Hotel**
Drinks and appetizers provided

8:00 pm **Social Reception Ends**

Wednesday, July 8 – Conference

Morning Moderator: Ted Probert

7:30 am **Registration and Trade Show Open**

8:30 am **“Conference Welcome”**
David Baker, Assistant Dean, University of Missouri Extension

8:40 am **“Choosing the System that Works for You – Risks and Rewards”**
Stacey Hamilton and Rob Kallenbach, University of Missouri Extension

10:00 am Morning Break

10:30 am **“Forage Energy and Digestibility”**
David Combs, Professor of Dairy Science, University of Wisconsin

11:30 am Lunch and Trade Show Open

Afternoon Moderator: Reagan Bluel

1:00 pm **“Innovative Traits and New Technologies for Forage Plants”**
Mike Trammell, Plant Breeder, The Noble Foundation

2:00 pm **“Breeding to Beef Bulls: Costs and Benefits”**
Colten Green, Genex Cooperative, Inc.

2:45 pm **Break and Trade Show**

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Breakout Sessions

Track 1

Moderator: Reagan Bluel

Track 2

Moderator: Ted Probert

3:15 pm

“Accelerated Heifer Feeding and Lactational Influence”

*Scott Poock, Dairy Veterinarian,
University of Missouri Extension*

“Missouri Novel Endophyte Fescue Trials”

*Sarah Kenyon, Regional Agronomy
Specialist, University of Missouri
Extension*

4:00 pm

“Risks and Rewards of Synchronization”

*Matt Lucy, Professor of Animal
Sciences, University of Missouri*

“Missouri Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship Program”

*Duane Kaiser, Education Coordinator,
Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship*

4:45 pm

“Closing Remarks”

Ted Probert, Dairy Specialist, University of Missouri Extension

5:00 pm

Conference Ends