23RD ANNUAL

$10.

JANUARY 25-26, 2024

Mt. Hope Event Center · 8076 State Route 241 · Millersburg, OH 44654

Ohio Grazing Conference Resource Guide

Held in conjunction with
MID OHIO SHEPHERDS

Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds.
PROVERBS 27:23

Ohio Grazing Conference
Schedule

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024

8:00..... Registration, Coffee & Donuts

8:25.....Welcome

8:30.....Adapting to Our Decisions
Farm Tour
Ivan Troyer (Room 1)

9:30.....Building Soils and Barns
Low-cost ideas for high margin farming
Nathan Weaver (Room 1)

10:30.....Break/Vendor Show

11:00 .....Dairy Farming in Haiti
at the Good Vision Farm (and other countries)
Matt Steiner (Room 1)

12:00.....Lunch/Vendor Show

1:00 .....Farm Tour
Kerry Estes

For Vendor Info, Contact Vernon Mast
(330) 600-1530

2:00.....BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1. Soil Building Panel
Marlin Newswanger, Ervin Barkman, David Hershberger, John Weaver (Room 2)

2. Using Genetics/Genomics to increase your milk check significantly
Matt Steiner (Room 1)

2:45.....Vendor Show

3:00.....Making Compost
How it works on our farm
Jerry L. Miller (Room 1)

3:45.....Dismiss

WOMEN'S SESSIONS

9:30.....Privileged to be a Farmer's Wife
Why settle for soup when there is steak available?
Ladies Panel: Esther Miller, Rebecca Mullet, Ada Miller, Barbie Schlabach (Room 2)

3:00.....A Week in the Home
of Jared and Kim Miller
Ladies Farm Tour (Room 2)

"And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full."

Deuteronomy 12:15

Ohio Grazing Conference
Schedule

FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024

8:00..... Registration, Coffee & Donuts

8:25.....Welcome

8:30.....Adjusting to the Unknown
Farm Tour
Delmar Kemp (Room 1)

9:30.....35 Years of Management Intensive Grazing
Bill Arnold (Room 1)

10:30.....Break/Vendor Show

11:00 .....Grazing
Feeding Cows
Gene Debruin (Room 1)

12:00.....Lunch/Vendor Show

1:00 .....Family Relationships on the Farm
Kerry Estes (Room 1)

2:00.....Vendor Show

2:30.....Quecreek Mine Rescue
From farmer to being in the spotlight of the world
Bill Arnold (Room 1)

3:30.....Wrap-up

3:45.....Dismiss

WOMEN'S SESSIONS

9:30.....Profitable Farm Management
Couples panel
Benedict & Katie Yoder, Mark & Geneva Miller, Robert & Mary Miller, Mahlon & Edna Yoder (Room 2)

11:00 .....Starting from Scratch
Ladies farm tour
Myron & Naomi Yoder (Room 2)

SHEPHERD'S SESSIONS

This year we will have five sheep focused topics going on at the same time as our regular cow focused topics (Room 3).

8:35.....Parasite Management in Goats
Jason Schneider

9:30.....Break

10:00.....“Indiana” Shepherds’ Panel
David Miller, Kevin Miller, Nelson Yoder, with Myron Yoder as moderator

11:15.....Lunch

12:30.....Training Sheep Dogs
Myron Yoder

1:15 .....Building a Profitable Meat Goat Farm from Scratch
Jason Schneider

2:30.....A Complete Farm Tour of a Grass-based Hair Sheep Operation
Tom Perkins

lodging

Sleep Inn & Suites / Mt. Hope
8050 State Route 241
Millersburg, OH 44654
(330) 294-9977

Berlin Grand Hotel
4787 Township Road 366
Berlin, OH 44610
(330) 403-3050 or (877) 652-4997
www.berlingrandehotel.com

Berlin Resort
5330 County Road 201
Berlin, OH 44610
(330) 893-3000 or (800) 933-5218
www.berlinresort.net

Carlisle Inn Walnut Creek
4949 Walnut Street
Walnut Creek, OH 44687
(855) 400-2275
www.dhgroup.com/inns/carl-isle-inn-walnut-creek

Comfort Inn Millersburg
1102 Glen Drive
Millersburg, OH 44654
(330) 674-7400 or (877) 411-7400
www.choicehotels.com/hotel/oh027

Comfort Suites Berlin
4810 Township Road 366
Berlin, OH 44610
(330) 893-7400 or (866) 999-9339
www.choicehotels.com/hotel/oh243

Hilton Garden Inn / Wooster
959 Dover Road
Wooster, OH 44691
(330) 202-7701
www.wooster.hgi.com

Wallhouse Hotel
2870 Cove Lane
Walnut Creek, OH 44687
(330) 852-6105 or (800) 824-2013
www.wallhousehotel.com

Farmer to Farmer Lodging

If you are **a local farmer** and would be interested in hosting out of the area farmers, please call John Mark Weaver: (330) 674-2069.

If you are from out of the area and would like to stay with local farmers, please call John Mark Weaver: (330) 674-2069.

The Planning Committee

Ohio Grazing Conference: *Dan Gasser (330) 347-4308; Harlan Rissler (419) 896-2234; John Mark Weaver (330) 674-2069; Vernon Mast (330) 600-1530; Jared Mullet (330) 204-1505*

Mid Ohio Shepherds: *Levi Hershberger Jr (330) 600-4851; Andrew Kuhns (330) 439-3140; Brandon Yoder (330) 275-8552; Atlee Troyer (330) 279-3100; Duane Raber (330) 279-9083*

Farm Wives Committee: *Ivan & Esther Yoder (330) 674-7450; Roy L.S. & Wilma Yoder (330) 897-0405*

Educational
Inspirational
Invigorating

Welcome to the 23rd Ohio Grazing Conference!

WHERE: Mt. Hope Event Center

WHEN: Thursday and Friday January 25th and 26th, 2024

WHAT FOR: Good Food, Good Speakers, and Good Conversations

WHY: We know it's not a vacation to spend the beginning of your week getting the manure hauled, and doing extra chores ahead, all so you can get up a few hours earlier, milk the cows, and race to the Ohio Grazing Conference, but it's worth your effort. Not only do you get to listen to some pretty good seminars, you also get to share your farming experiences, joys and woes, over coffee and pastries, chocolate milk and cheese, and a full course lunch.

WHO: This conference is for you if you like to think about farming, or if you do a little farming, or if all you do is farm. And don't just enjoy this by yourself–bring your wife because there will be topics for the ladies. For all the shepherds and goat herdsmen, Friday is your day. There will be vendors with sheep supplies and also great sheep and goat speakers.

WARNING: Here's a fair warning, the vendors are going to have some cool shiny new stuff, and when you walk by, smile, say hi, learn something and then move on before you spend all your money. **On a more serious note:** we value our vendors. They help keep admission costs low, and they have valuable products that we can benefit from.

WRAP UP DETAILS: If you're one of the 70% of people that doesn't turn in their evaluation form, help us out. Check ✓ at least one topic that interests you and write one word that describes the best thing at the Ohio Grazing Conference on your evaluation paper. Once you fill it out, just leave it on your chair, or on the floor, or drop it in the box when you take off your name tag.

Harlan Rissler will be replaced this year but will still be helping plan next year's conference. We need nominees to fill John Mark Weavers place next, so if you can think of someone write it down. A big thank-you to Dan Gasser for his last five years of service. He will be greatly missed by the planning committee.

WONDERFUL: You are one of the few, a dedicated reader who made it to the end of this welcome letter. Welcome to the 23rd Ohio Grazing Conference.

NORWEGIAN RED

BASED ON CDCB AYRSHIRE AND RED BREED PROOFS AUGUST 2023

HEALTH, FERTILITY, AND PRODUCTION WITH NORWEGIAN RED

Here's how proven Norwegian Red sires perform among proven red dairy sires worldwide (excluding red Holsteins):

- **US PTA PRO:** 3 of the top 5 bulls are Norwegian Red
- **US PTA MILK:** 4 out of the top 5 bulls are Norwegian Red
- **US PTA DPR:** Norwegian Red sires claim 84 of the top 100 spots, making them indisputably the most fertile red dairy breed in the world
- **US PTA SCS:** Norwegian Red sires continue to be good for somatic cell score with 8 of the top 25

Our performance during the August Sire Summary:

- **252NR12222 Skoien**, our best-selling bull this year, **improved 5 pounds of CFP**
- **252NR12248 Lyndi-P**, a new release from last proof period, **jumped 11 pounds of CFP**
- New release sire, **252NR12239 Kleiv-P**, offers **223 pounds of CFP** and is a great choice for Holstein herds mating the first generation of their two-way crosses
- With the positive jumps by **Lyndi-P** and **Skoien** and the addition of **Kleiv-P** to the lineup, **our top five NR bulls for CFP average 5 pounds more for CFP** than the top five from April's lineup

NORWEGIAN RED		Sexed/Conventional	Milk	Pro	Pro%	Fat	Fat%	Comb. Fat + Pro	Prod. Rel. %	DPR	CCR	SCS	SCE	Rel SCE %	SSB	Rel SSB %	PTAT Rel. %	UDC	FLC	BWC	ST	Pure Body Weight	Beta Casein	aAa
252NR12139	ALAND-PP**	Both	1410	63	0.09	81	0.12	144	0.64	5.9	5.7	3.01	112	0.47	111	0.32	0.43	1.1	1.1	0.84	0.81	1354	A2/A2	432561
252NR12195	DRAUGSVOLL-P**	Both	1768	68	0.06	86	0.07	154	0.64	2.0	1.2	2.82	83	0.96	79	0.87	0.53	2.0	0.2	1.72	1.38	1400	A2/A2	435261
252NR12164	GANES**	Both	2431	89	0.05	81	-0.08	170	0.65	4.5	4.1	3.18	112	0.98	123	0.94	0.48	0.7	0.3	0.98	-0.04	1435	A2/A2	516342
252NR12218	GRIMELAND**	Sexed	2495	101	0.10	113	0.06	214	0.64	4.4	4.0	2.63	102	0.92	108	0.78	0.53	1.9	1.1	0.44	1.89	1343	A2/A2	342561
252NR12114	HAGEMOEN-P**	Both	2992	97	0.01	105	-0.07	202	0.78	3.8	3.3	2.85	98	0.97	111	0.90	0.62	0.6	0.8	-0.34	0.17	1257	A2/A2	243156
252NR12202	HASSELBERG-P**	Sexed	2605	94	0.05	119	0.07	213	0.72	3.7	3.2	2.79	120	0.68	117	0.48	0.60	1.5	0.0	0.51	1.72	1332	A2/A2	243165
252NR12239	KLEIV-P**	Both	3281	105	0.00	118	-0.06	223	0.61	6.2	6.1	2.84	113	0.47	122	0.34	0.50	0.2	-0.8	-0.32	-0.79	1283	A2/A2	531462
252NR12135	LANGSETH**	Both	2442	94	0.07	106	0.04	200	0.73	3.9	3.4	2.91	91	0.94	107	0.82	0.57	0.8	-1.1	1.90	1.83	1400	A2/A2	135426
252NR12248	LYNDI-P**	Sexed	3087	105	0.03	129	0.02	234	0.60	3.7	3.2	2.74	113	0.44	137	0.32	0.41	1.1	-0.3	0.81	1.27	1316	A2/A2	462531
252NR11919	OFSTAD-P*	Both	2145	70	0.01	72	-0.07	142	0.80	6.6	6.2	2.72	122	0.99	127	0.97	0.98	-0.7	-0.2	-1.34	-1.58	1204	A2/A2	534126
252NR12206	RASET**	Both	2106	88	0.10	105	0.10	193	0.62	3.3	2.7	2.86	98	0.48	101	0.34	0.51	0.6	-0.1	-0.51	-0.05	1376	A2/A2	531462
252NR11690	ROEN*	Both	2509	90	0.05	116	0.07	206	0.82	5.4	2.2	2.94	121	0.99	124	0.96	0.98	-0.1	-1.5	-1.49	-1.44	1252	A2/A2	516342
252NR12188	SKJEFSTAD-PP**	Both	2356	81	0.03	83	-0.05	164	0.63	4.2	3.8	2.81	104	0.96	103	0.89	0.48	0.9	0.3	0.27	-0.09	1332	A2/A2	543612
252NR12222	SKOIEN**	Conv	2718	106	0.09	119	0.05	225	0.66	4.5	4.1	2.73	110	0.92	98	0.79	0.55	2.6	1.9	1.11	2.85	1393	A2/A2	432561
252NR12265	SMENES-P**	Sexed	3140	106	0.03	111	-0.07	217	0.59	4.0	3.5	2.80	85	0.46	98	0.33	0.40	2.9	1.9	1.08	2.27	1369	A2/A2	345216

*Production and health fertility from CDCB Aug. 2023 | **Production and health fertility from CDCB conversations Aug. 2023
CE official geno data Aug. 2023 | SCE > 90 suitable for virgin heifers | All type traits official geno data expressed in US format 0 ave. standard deviation 1
-P = heterzygous polled | -PP = homozygous polled | Red font = red bull

Look to ABS for fertile, productive, and polled Norwegian Red sires to use in crossbreeding.

LANE HISCHKE
Genetic Services Specialist
920.590.0899 | Lane.Hischke@genusplc.com

Profit from Genetic Progress

ABS Global, Inc.
800.ABS.STUD | ABSglobal.com | abs.us.cust.svc@genusplc.com
1525 River Road DeForest, WI, USA 53532

Our Speakers

Bill Arnold

BILL ARNOLD is a 4th generation dairy farmer and owner of Dormel Farms in Somerset, Pennsylvania, a certified organic dairy farm whose history spans over 250 years and is listed on Pennsylvania's Register of Historic Places.

Bill graduated from Penn State University in 1982 with a Pre-Veterinary Bachelor of Science degree. After graduation, Bill decided to use the knowledge he had gained in college to come back to the home farm and reopen the dairy business that had been closed down in the early 70's. He added a new bulk tank and pipeline system, purchased a herd, and began milk shipments in early summer of 1986. Bill built a top-producing herd with a rolling herd average of over 23,000 lbs. of milk and a top producing heifer of 32,000 lbs. 2 X ME.

Bill began grazing his herd in 1998 as a means of saving them from mycotoxin poisoning in his Harvestore silo. Grazing not only saved the dairy herd, but it increased herd health, and his profit margin. In the last twenty five years of grazing, Bill has become one of the leading graziers in the country, along with visionaries like Glen Moyer, and Joel Salatin. With his common sense and profit-minded knowledge, Bill's experience will help both seasoned graziers and those who are considering grazing.

In addition to running Dormel Farms, Bill Arnold is executive director of the Quecreek Mine Rescue Foundation, a museum and foundation dedicated to honoring America's miners and rescue workers. The museum and memorial are housed on his property, the site of a miraculous mine rescue that captured attention around the world and inspired the nation just nine months after 9/11.

On July 24, 2002, with nine miners trapped by flood waters in the Quecreek mine 240 feet below his dairy farm, Bill found himself on the front lines of a rescue operation which would span 78 grueling hours, involve hundreds of rescuers, volunteers, officials, media and suppliers, several hundred tons of equipment, vehicles and technology, and dozens of anxious loved ones.

Bill's contribution to the rescue itself was significant, but in many ways has been eclipsed by his ongoing work as witness to the miracles that occurred on his property during those four days, as host to thousands of visitors a year that want to honor and remember the event, as

caretaker of the memorial site that sits on his property, as international media consultant on the subject of mine rescue, and as a motivational speaker who shares the story of the mine rescue each year. All of this falls after his daily duties managing a significant herd of cattle on his certified organic dairy farm.

Bill is the author of the award-winning book *Miracle at Quecreek Mine*. A visionary, inspirational, and motivational force that captivates audiences of all ages, today Bill speaks about the event and how America came together to pray and watch this thrilling rescue unfold. Bill has appeared on every major television network including CNN, CNBC, NBC, CBS, ABC, The Today Show, Good Morning America, The History Channel, The BBC, and many more, and is a contributing writer for Goal Magazine. Hang on, while this twice-published author takes you on the roller coaster ride of your life. Bill will have two sessions: 35 years of Management Intensive Grazing and Quecreek Mine Rescue.

Ervin Barkman

ERVIN AND SUSAN BARKMAN at Hidden View Farm run a grass-fed dairy farm with the help of their eight children ages 19-4. Hidden View Farm is located in the northern hills of Coshocton County. The farm consists of 140 acres, of which 110 acres are grazeable. They rent another 65 acres plus his neighbor grows hay for them on his 80 acres. Ervin's dad bought the farm in the early 70's and they took over in 2003, started doing rotational grazing in 2004, and have been organic since 2009. They have 75-80 cows with a production of 13,000-14,000 lbs. Their forages consist of hay, sorghum, and sudan. With their focus on increasing soil health, they run a high stocking rate and do frequent moves. Ervin is on the Soil Building Panel.

Gene Debruin

GENE DEBRUIN has been a dairy nutritionist since 1986. He has worked mostly with grazing dairies and focused on organic dairies since 2016. His emphasis is whole farm systems/land use for best financial results. People must be considered first, and dairy farming needs to be a good lifestyle–not a drudgery. Gene's family has owned and operated a spring seasonal grazing dairy since 1989. They have been organic since 2006 and are very excited that the next generation plans to take over next year. Gene will have a talk on Grazing.

Kerry Estes

KERRY ESTES did not grow up on a farm nor was he trained in the field of agriculture, yet that did not deter him from making the choice to raise his family on a farm. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in business operations management. Married in 1997, Kerry began working with his father in his metal fabrication plant located in Indianapolis, IN. He purchased 188 acres in 1999 on contract from a local farmer. He continued working in management for his father while cleaning up the farm and converting it from a conventional row crop farm to a grazing operation. His initial goal was to custom raise replacement heifers. Unsuccessful at procuring a heifer contract, he invested in Holstein heifers of his own. After two disappointing purchases of several free martins, Kerry began buying and raising cross-bred dairy heifers in a rotational grazing format. Experiencing successful growth rates on grass and a longing to work as a family full-time on the farm, he freshened 100 cross-bred heifers to start his seasonal dairy experience in March of 2005. Increasing his herd to 160 cows and their home by 4 children, Kerry is realizing his dream. In August of 2022, Kerry hired his first farm employee–his son, Damon. Accompanied by his new wife, Emma, they constructed a home on the farm. In August of 2023, the third generation was born. These new farm transitions have been a great growing experience for everyone involved. Currently, Kerry operates a seasonal, grass-based dairy, milking crossbred cows and group raising calves. Last May, Kerry gave the coveted bottle of milk to the winner of the Indy 500–Josef Newgarder, who ironically spent several hours at Kerry's farm a year before. Kerry will be speaking on Family Relationships and giving a Farm Tour.

David Hershberger

DAVID HERSHBERGER lives two miles south of Charm with his wife Ada, two boys, and three girls. They farm 150 acres, raising their own feed (corn, hay, and small grains), milk 40 cows (Organic Valley), and have two broiler barns for Gerbers Poultry. David is on the Soil Building Panel.

Delmar Ray Kemp

DELMAR RAY & BARBARA ANN have two sons and seven daughters. Six children are still at home, with ages ranging from 13-25. They were married in 1987. Delmar was ordained a minister in 1992 and bishop in 2004.

They own a total of 245 acres, on four different farms. The home farm has 84 acres, two parcels are 40 acres, and one is 81 acres.

These acres are home to 30 Jerseys and 40 heifers. They also have 18 Belgian mares, 17 bred for spring 2024, plus two stallions.

Direct marketing is the avenue they use to move their dairy, eggs, and beef products. They also have a shop where they sell vinyl windows, siding, and exterior doors. They have many fond memories of working together as a family on the farm and in the shop.

Delmar will have a farm tour: Adjusting to the Unknown.

Ada Miller

ADA MILLER and her husband Robert live four miles northeast of Sugarcreek, Ohio along with their four children, one son and three daughters. They have one married daughter who lives in Dundee, Ohio. The Millers milk 35 Holsteins and raise all their own replacement heifers. They grow mostly hay and corn, and sometimes small grains. Robert and Ada have been shipping milk to Smith Foods for 21 years. They grow their own vegetables, strawberries, and raspberries, and enjoy fishing trips and campfire evenings. Ada is on the Ladies Panel: Privileged to be a Farm Wife.

David Miller

DAVID AND WANDA MILLER have eight children, five girls and three boys, ranging from 17-4 years old. They moved to their farm, Kuntry View Dorsets, in October of 2022. Of their 18 acre farm, five acres is in hay. They make another 20 acres of 50 50 with three different neighbors. They strive to raise breeding stock from their 60-70 purebred Dorset ewes. They also raise contract Angus-Holstein cross feeder calves. David works in a woodworking shop building bedroom furniture, then he farms in his spare time. David is on the Shepherd's Panel.

Esther Miller

ESTHER MILLER and her husband Monroe and their four children (one girl and three boys) ages 7-1 live on her home farm near Walnut Creek, Ohio. They have been farming four years. Their farm has 68 acres and they rent 60 adjoining acres. They milk 40 Holstein cows and ship to Smith Foods. Esther enjoys helping on the farm and working in the garden and flower beds. She will be in the Ladies Panel: Privileged to be a Farm Wife.

Jared and Kim Miller

PLEASANT VALLEY FARM is nestled in a beautiful valley located between Sugarcreek and Baltic. Their family consists of Jared and Kim along with three children: Micah (5), Kaylene (3), and Luke (1). They milk 80 cows with the help of Jared's dad David Miller Jr. and his sister Amy Schlabach. There is plenty of work for everyone. Half of their cows are Holstein and half are Jersey with some crossbreeds mixed in. The goal is to transition to all Jerseys. They farm 115 acres and rent 100 acres from neighboring farms. They graze around 130 acres, but they also graze a few acres of annuals in addition to that. Spare time is often spent playing ball with the children and giving them pony rides. Jared and Kim will be having a Farm Tour for the ladies.

Jerry L. Miller

JERRY L. AND MARY MILLER live on a 140-acre organic, grass-fed dairy farm located between Mt. Hope and Fredericksburg. The farming switched to son Marion and daughter Marianna in 2020. Jerry and son David along with his wife Sharon and two children started a welding shop and do the composting. Compost was just to improve the farm, until this year they bought some manure to be able to sell compost. Jerry will talk about Making Compost.

Kevin Miller

KEVIN AND SARA MILLER, along with their three children, Adra (8), Zachary (6), Liam (3), live on 110 acres in the outskirts of Shipshewana. Being the fourth generation on the farm they are the first to raise sheep. They run 250 Katahdin ewes (some Dorper crosses) on a grass based system. Pastured pigs are also raised on the farm and is something they hope to expand in the future. Chickens, ducks, horses, and Border collies claim their share on the farm too, with the inventory and species changing frequently. Their Border collies are a vital tool to help move sheep to fresh pasture. In addition to managing the farm, Kevin works full time in an RV factory and has part ownership of DKM Hayfeeders LLC. Kevin will be on the Shepherd's Panel.

Mark and Geneva Miller

MARK AND GENEVA MILLER, along with their five children, own and operate an organic grass-fed dairy southwest of Walnut Creek, Ohio. The home farm consists of 65 acres where they milk 40 cows. Additional rented acres are used to graze dry cows, heifers, and to make hay, which usually provides enough feed for their operation. Mark and Geneva have been shipping milk to Organic Valley since 2007. Also included on their farm is a chicken barn on contract with Gerbers Poultry. They are grateful for the opportunity to farm together as a family. Mark and Geneva are on the couple's panel: Profitable Farm Management.

Robert and Mary Miller

ROBERT AND MARY MILLER along with their daughter Rosie own 150 acre farm in southern Holmes County and rent an additional 60 acres. The Millers started farming in 1999 and were conventional till 2017 when they transitioned to organic. Their milk is shipped to Organic Valley. Robert and Mary have 65 Holstein cows plus young stock. They buy all their corn silage and grain, trying to simplify the work. Life is enjoyable on the farm. They will be on the Couples Panel.

Rebecca Mullet

REBECCA MULLET has been married to Paul Mark for 23 years, and they have been blessed with four children, two girls and two boys. They live on a 95-acre conventional dairy farm, milking 50 Holsteins in southeastern Wayne County. She enjoys sewing, gardening, and working on the outside, and helping out whenever is needed on the farm. The farm has been a blessing to them as a family in many ways. She will be on the ladies panel: Privileged to be a Farmer's Wife.

Marlin Newswanger

MARLIN NEWSWANGER lives in Richland County which is north central Ohio. He started grazing in 1994 and tried a few years of seasonal, then settled on bi-seasonal which he still does today. He milks 65 Holstein/Holstein cross cows and raises young stock on 155 acres. Usually, he buys some grain. In 2006 he went organic and continues to farm that way. Marlin is on the Soil Building Panel.

Tom Perkins

TOM PERKINS grew up on his parents dairy farm that later raised beef cattle in Fombell, PA. After high school he left the farm to pursue a music career as a singer and a musician. After traveling the country with a few different bands for several decades, he returned home in 1996 to run the family farm and continued raising cattle. He soon started implementing regenerative practices with a focus on intensive rotational grazing. In 2017, he added Katahdin sheep to the farm and slowly transitioned to an all sheep operation and

enrolled his flock in the National Sheep Improvement Program (NSIP).

Tom runs 150 registered Katahdin ewes on 70 owned acres along with 8 acres that are leased, focusing on production tested breeding stock raised on pasture in a rotational grazing system. Tom grazes 365 days a year. His ewes are broken into 3 groups that lamb at different times of the year to focus on getting lambs off to a good start and collecting data on newborns and mothers. Sheep are only brought off pasture during breeding and lambing times. All ewes are bred to specific rams with the ewe's weakness being bred to a rams strength. This ensures that the lambs are better than the ewes they came from. Sheep are moved to a new paddock everyday and most paddocks are rested in excess of 90 days. His flock is heavily bred for parasite resistance and gain well on just grazing alone. He sells registered breeding stock, a few freezer lambs along with lambs for the ethnic market.

Today, Tom spends his time moving fence, hosting 'The Grazing Sheep Podcast', speaking at grazing events and singing and playing at local churches. He can be reached at: bigtomperkins@gmail.com or by phone at (724) 480-5187.

Tom will be giving a Grass-based Hair Sheep Farm Tour.

Barbie Schlabach

JEREMY AND BARBIE SCHLABACH'S farm is located in the heart of Holmes County between Winesburg and Mt. Hope. Along with their five children they farm 100 acres. Besides milking they raise black angus beef cows, corn, alfalfa, and some small grains. They have plenty of room for spring sap collecting, hunting, berry picking, and enjoying their bee hives. Their family loves to travel so they work in some adventures between farm life! Barbie is on the Ladies Panel: Privileged to be a Farm wife.

Jason Schneider

JASON SCHNEIDER grew up west of Fort Wayne, IN on his family's farrow to finish hog operation. He graduated from Purdue School of Veterinary Medicine in 2000. Jason started a food animal practice while working on the family farm. He and his wife Gena have three children. Kurtis (20) farms full time. Greta (17) plans to work full time on the farm after

graduation. Ingrid (13) loves helping on the farm. In 2007, they purchased 10 Boer goats for a kid's project. The family liked them so well, in 2008, they purchased an additional 80 Boer/Spanish cross goats. They decided to expand their herd by natural growth while phasing out of hogs. Currently they have over 900 does. The does kid on pasture after May 15. All of the older goats are rotationally grazed for parasite management using woven wire fence and electric netting. Jason will be speaking about Profitable Meat Goats.

Matt Steiner

MATT STEINER is the 3rd generation dairy farmer on Easton Road south of Rittman. Matt & Gail's 11 children and 50 grandchildren are the 4th & 5th generation. Matt's dad Alvin was very instrumental in the family's interest in dairy husbandry and especially genetics. Pine Tree Dairy consists of about 75% Holsteins, 22% Jersey, with the remainder mostly Swiss. Non-GMO/A2A2 milk is produced and marketed with some of the herd. Long lasting high component cows are a priority in the breeding program. Numerous bulls bred at Pine Tree Dairy are currently included in several A.I. units. Matt's favorite quote about dairy farming is, "You take care of the cows, and the cows will take care of you!"

Matt's work with missions and dairy training includes working in Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Haiti, Bosnia, Lebanon, Italy, Kosovo, and other countries. If we seriously look in a mirror about life, we will see that all we have and are comes from the Lord! "Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord." Isaiah 1:18.

Matt will be speaking on Dairy Farming in Haiti and Using Genetics/Genomics.

Ivan Troyer

IVAN AND ELNORA along with their four children, ages 10-19, live three miles northeast of Fredericksburg, OH on a busy county road. They graze 45+/- cows on a third generation 65 acre farm and rent an additional 35 acres. Their milk is picked up by Organic Valley since 2012. They raise grass, alfalfa, and corn, and occasionally a little bit of sorghum for grazing. They are

uniquely situated, with 16 adjoining landowners and 4,200' of road frontage. Ivan will be giving a Farm Tour.

John Weaver

JOHN WEAVER grew up on the family farm, thus sparking an interest in agriculture. He is currently working as an agronomist with Greenfield farms. Most days you would find him outside doing field walks or consultations with land owners. He lives on 10 acres just west of Mt. Eaton, OH with his wife and two daughters. John will be on the Soil Building Panel.

Nathan Weaver

NATHAN AND KRISTINE WEAVER along with their four children still at home, nurture a 55 cow 100% grass-fed organic dairy near Cazenovia, New York. Their farm consists of 189 acres of which approximately 150 acres are in permanent pasture and hay with the balance being in woodlands and wetlands. The herd is a medley of crossbreds from which there is a red and white Ayrshire herd emerging. The Weavers have a passion for developing pathways into a dairy farming life. They are in the second year on the third farm they have milked cows on. Nathan will be speaking on how a lifetime of gleaning ideas of dairy farming infrastructure systems from his fellow farmers, were put together into the new, from-the-grass-up facilities they have in place today. Nathan will be speaking on Building Soils and Barns.

Benedict and Katie Yoder

BENEDICT AND KATE YODER with their seven children from ages 18 to 1 year old have been farming for 19 years. They milk 30 Holstein cows and ship their milk to Guggisberg Cheese. Benedict and Katie are located between Charm and New Bedford. They have 95 acres and rent 10 acres. They will be speaking on the Couples Panel.

Mahlon and Edna Yoder

MAHLON AND EDNA YODER along with their four children own Millcreek Valley Farm, 142 acre farm that is certified organic. They milk approximately 45 Fresian-Holstein crosses. They started shipping to Organic Valley in 2019 and in September

of 2022 transitioned to 100% grassfed. Mahlon and Edna will be on the couples panel: Profitable Farm Management.

Myron Yoder

MYRON AND IRENE YODER own Smalltown Farm in Topeka IN. The have four boys and one girl aging from 11-2. Myron works at Millers Feed service. They run stock on 43 acres. Smalltown Farm produces Border collies, Australian White-haired sheep, Kiko goats, and Idaho Pasture pigs. On the farm they also have a milk cow, lowline Angus, Muscovy ducks, turkeys, chickens, and horses. There wish is to bring glory and honor to God in all things. Myron will be speaking on Training Sheep Dogs.

Myron and Naomi Yoder

MYRON AND NAOMI have a family of four children, three boys and one girl. The two oldest boys are married, and they have three grandchildren. In 1997 they purchased 65 acres vacant land, (fourteen acres wooded) and built a house and barn. A little later they bought seven more acres. In 2008 they built the milking parlor and hoop barn and started milking Jerseys. Currently they're milking 45 cows and renting an additional 50 acres for hay and pasture. They will be giving a Ladies Farm Tour.

Nelson Yoder

NELSON AND ANITA YODER along with seven children live on 55 acres of pasture land south of Millersburg, Indiana, just off St Rd 13. Perimeter fences are woven wire with subdivided fences being 12 gauge high tensile and smart fence reels to hold back their flock of 150-200 Suffolk ewes. The flock is generally moved 1-2 times per day. Nelson is also self-employed since 2013 with a woodworking shop and a dog kennel. Nelson will be on the Shepherds Panel.

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What is Grazing?

If you google grazing, the answer is "grassland suitable for pasturage". My answer to that question is more complex. I would say grazing is animals harvesting forage. Let's unpack that a bit more.

Grazing could be zebras on the African savanna. It could be cattle harvesting clover and birds foot trefoil for finishing to slaughter weight. It could be hogs harvesting corn after the combines have gone through. It could be goats harvesting grasses and forbs in a wood lot. Grazing, to me, is harvesting growing forages with animals. For the topic of this discussion let's focus primarily on ruminants harvesting forages.

I'm not sure what grazing looked like when God created the world, but I can imagine that the sun shone down on the earth making the forages grow for all of God's creation to eat. After sin entered the world animals began to eat each other. The carnivores began to hunt and kill the herbivores. This caused the herbivores to band together for safety. A large herd of animals means there are lots of eyes, ears, and noses to discover predators. There is safety in numbers. These large (dense) herds would eat the forage down to the ground, and then move on to "greener pastures". The herds would leave behind the fertilizer for the forage to regrow.

Thankfully, God continues to allow the sun to shine down on us, causing the forages to grow. When I want to impress some of my relatives, I don't say that I'm a Certified Organic Dairy farmer, or even a grazier. I say that I am a solar energy recycler. That is really at the heart of what I do. I use my land to plant seeds on, which the sun will make grow. Since I can't really consume those forages directly, I need to convert or recycle them into something that humans can consume. I choose to use my livestock to convert that forage into milk, which I then harvest and sell for human consumption. You may

continued on next page…

choose to convert your forages into beef, pork, eggs, or wool. When it comes right down to it, we are all just recycling the suns energy.

Now if we strive to maximize the amount of solar energy that we can capture and convert to forage to use, we must manage everything that we can control. Enter "Management Intensive Grazing" (MIG). While I was studying at the Penn State University in the mid 1980's MIG was a brand new "buzz word" that we were being taught. Graziers in New Zealand, Ireland, and Australia had been using MIG for years, but the continental United States had long been using synthetic fertilizers and herbicides for maximum production and we had not yet learned that we were killing our soils because of it. As much as I would like to further discuss how the continued use of those pesticides, synthetic fertilizers and genetically modified organisms (GMO's) are killing our soils and causing the foods that we consume to become toxic, I will save that topic for another time, and focus on MIG. This focus is taking everything that is under your control and maximizing its efficiency.

We can't control the sun, but we can plant a species of forage that grows well in our geographic area. We can't control the rain, but we can control the species of forages that are drought tolerant or choose to use irrigation.

We can't control the sun, but we can plant a species of forage that grows well in our geographic area. We can't control the rain, but we can control the species of forages that are drought tolerant or choose to use irrigation. We don't typically have predators that will cause our herds to stay in a dense formation, but we do have high powered fencers and easily movable poly wire that we can use to create high stocking densities. We can travel to both our neighbors' farms and farms miles away, and learn what has worked for them. Sometimes it's even more important to learn what hasn't worked for them.

And of course, there is no substitute for experience. When I began grazing my cows 25 years ago I had heard the term "grazer's eye". I had no idea what that meant but had read that after some time grazing you begin to develop a grazer's eye. Looking back now, I have to chuckle a bit because my grazier's eye is 20/20. I can look at a field of forage and tell you what stocking rate it can handle, and for how long. I can estimate the tons of dry matter and the amount of plugging damage that may occur. I don't really know how this developed, but I can guess that it has come from making about every mistake that one individual could possibly make.

One of my favorite writers, C. S. Lewis said, "Isn't it funny how day by day nothing changes, but when you look back, everything is different?" That's the way it is with grazing. As you continue to "grow", you learn. The grass teaches you, the cows teach you, and you pick up tips and tricks from friends and neighbors. Every once in a while, you may just learn something from a humble Pennsylvania grazier.

–Bill Arnold

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Delmar Kemp and his family wear many different hats. Marketing all your dairy, egg, and meat products brings on many challenges. Delmar and his family make it all seem simple.

After losing their organic milk market because of logistics they started selling their own dairy products. They now sell raw milk, butter, cream, three kinds of cheese ie. cheddar, colby, and gouda. The milk is sold under a pet store license and bears a sticker that says, "Not for Human Consumption."

Angus beef cattle leave their foot print on his desk. They are processed at a local slaughter house. Four different cuts such as hamburger, roast, ribeye, and t-bone are packaged in 50 pound boxes. It bears a whopping price tag of $14 per pound or $700 a box!

200 laying hens peck at their place, leaving a golden streak with their eggs.

The Kemps have a salesman to help them in marketing. If people want to pick up at the farm they must fax in an order and make an appointment. They work with several in home delivery businesses. One of them delivers to 10,000 homes twice a month, another 500 homes once a month. Some stores carry their products as well, but the milk has to be in the pet foods aisle.

Their primary customers are people of child-bearing age, who are concerned about what they eat. They are willing to pay for quality food.

Hoosier Vinyl Products is a business they started in 1990, the year after they were married. They build vinyl replacement and new construction windows, as well as sell vinyl siding and exterior doors.

The Kemps are no strangers to horse sales. They have 18 Belgian mares, 17 bred for spring 2024, as well as two stallions. Orndorff bloodlines leave a hefty stamp on their herd.

One thing that has stuck in Delmar's mind is what an older man once shared with him. There are few things in life that are as detrimental and undermining as negative talk and attitudes. It has literally uprooted plain communities, churches, and businesses. The Kemps focus on maintaining a positive atmosphere.

Delmar has an interesting history himself. He was the oldest of 11 children. When he was 16, his parents were both killed in a traffic accident while returning home from a funeral. A family who was close friends with his parents moved in with them. This family nurtured and loved them, leaving an impression that lasted a lifetime.

"Adjusting to the Unknown" is one topic you don't want to miss. Delmar is a people person and will have a powerful story to share!

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Fresh Eggs, 1 dz.	$3.95

Dairy Farming in Haiti

In Southern Haiti just a short distance from Les Cayes, the Good Vision Farm is located in a peaceful rural community of Minere. Missionaries Eric & Melanie Stoller from the Marshallville/Orrrville area work with the Haitians in agricultural production and share the Gospel in their everyday lifestyle. The history of Good Vision Farm includes:

2015: Well is dug & developed for the farm and the community
2015: Gazebo is constructed for the community
2016: Hurricane Matthew
2017: Building permits were received
2017: Began building shop, missionary house, feeding area
2019: Build milking facility & started milking Haitian cattle
2021: U.S. cattle imported

Much interaction occurs between the Haitians and our missionaries. The milk is cooled, pasteurized, and bottled in half gallon glass containers. Much of the milk is delivered to orphanages and several small stores. Local Haitians and other missionaries also use the milk. Approximately 30% of the cooled milk is used for yogurt, cheese, and ice cream production. Currently there are 17 cows being milked in the milking facility

Resulting from the often compacted soils, Good Vision Farm also does deep plowing, leveling, and planting for many other local Haitian farmers, Most of the work in caring for the cattle, preparing fields for planting, and milking is accomplished using Haitian employees.

Dairy farming worldwide needs to include four management practices to be a viable farm. This includes:

- Quality forages
- Workable Genetics
- Cow comfort
- Someone (manager) that thinks like a cow

Wherever a dairy farm is established in the world, there are challenges and opportunities in each situation. Often in less developed areas, finding dairy infrastructure can be difficult resulting in the need to be creative. But the above four management practices need to be adhered to if the goal to produce milk is sustainable. Our goal is to look at numerous situations and determine what change needs to happen for improvement.

–Matt Steiner

Good Vision Farm

Cowboy Joe

Cowboy Joe was tellin' his fellow cowboys back on the ranch about his first visit to a big City Church...

"When I got there, they had me park my old truck in the corral," Joe began.
"You mean the parking lot?" interrupted Charlie, a worldlier fellow.

"I walked up the trail to the door," Joe continued.
"The sidewalks to the door," Charlie corrected him.

"Inside the door I was met by this dude," Joe went on.
"That would be the usher," Charlie explained.

"Well, the usher led me down the chute," Joe said.
"You mean the aisle," Charlie replied.

"Then he led me to a stall and told me to sit there," Joe continued.
"Pew," Charlie added.

"Yeah," recalled Joe, "that's what that pretty lady said when I sat down beside her."

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Infrastructure

Building a Barn and Milking Facility on a New Farm

The following article originally appeared in GRAZE, a magazine about managed grazing and family-scale livestock agriculture. Subscription rate is $30 for one year (10 issues), $54 for two years.

For a free sample issue or to subscribe, contact GRAZE at:
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Last January our family moved to our new farm five miles away from the farm where we had lived for better than 15 years. As I described in last month's article, our son Alex and his wife are taking on the old farm while we take on the new property.

This farm has 190 acres, of which about 150 can be utilized for grazing. A few beef cattle had grazed here over the previous couple of decades.

At least half of this 150 is on fairly steep to very steep slopes. The soils are rocky, but with a high-lime, loamy base. Eighty to 100 acres were in permanent pasture/hayfields, with the rest having been in row crops that we have seeded into pasture/hay.

There were more than five miles of high-tensile fence when we bought the property, but a large chunk of the interior fencing is in need of repositioning to accommodate a dairy herd and to allow proper management of the slopes. We want to graze with the slopes, not up and down the hillsides as was the case with too much of the original design.

All of the acres are contiguous and the property is mostly rectangular. The farmstead is situated about two-thirds of the way to the back of the rectangle. Our 3,500-foot driveway gains 200 feet of elevation from the road.

Improvements included a sound house and three pole barns that we use for feed, machinery, horses and a farm shop.

The big project of this startup was the new dairy barn and milking parlor we built over the past 12-15 months with the help of many neighbors and friends.

Our woodlots were recently stricken by the emerald ash borer invasion, so there was plenty of dying ash that we purposely incorporated into our building design. We harvested these trees, milled them on our sawmill, and used them for the framework of the new barn.

The cow housing section of the barn is 42-by-112 feet, enough to accommodate 60 milk cows on a bedded pack. We made a hammerbeam timber-frame truss that enabled us to clear-span the 42 feet. The steel roof sits atop one-inch, solid wood sheathing (I'll explain why in a bit), and the walls are sided with wood.

WINDOWS, NOT CURTAINS

There are no curtains. Instead we are cutting windows into the siding this winter for better natural lighting.

The cows exit the barn to the east. Directly outside there is a 7.5-by-40-foot roofed feed bunk built with ash wood. Surrounding this bunk are 7,200 square feet of grooved concrete. This area slopes east and north at

continued on next page…

one-inch per 10 feet to run water away from the bunk and barn.

At the lot's northeast corner, effluent runs through a 16-by-16 foot pit, eight feet deep and filled with wood chips that filter out the nutrients. At the farthest and lowest corner of the pit, the water flows through a screened cavity after soaking through the wood chips.

The water is drained out onto the nearby fields. At some point we may add some hose to provide flexibility in directing this water.

The wood chips will be scooped out with a skidloader and replaced twice each year, with the old ones and the nutrients they hold spread on pasture. The holding area, milking parlor and milk room are all in a line against the south gable end of the barn.

The parlor is a New Zealand-style swing-eight, with the cows exiting back on both sides of the parlor. The parlor frame was new, but the milking equipment was purchased used from a farm that recently exited the dairy business.

WHY THIS?

Why did we build the facilities this way? We wanted the main barn to act as a windbreak sheltering against the prevailing west winds, which can be brutally strong here. The cows will be eating and loafing on the lee side.

The barn is poorly ventilated by modern agri-engineering standards, but this was done on purpose. We are convinced that in 100% grassfed production the limiting factor in most cases is the amount of energy going into the cows that is ultimately transmitted into milk and meat production.

A cow first uses that energy to maintain her body temperature, metabolism and mobility. It's only then that the remaining energy will be employed for milk and meat production.

That is why we designed the barn to be 20 to 30 degrees warmer than the outside air temperature. The wooden roof boards and siding will do that.

Ventilation? That's why we put a 28-foot tall peak to the barn (there is no haymow). This cavernous space allows room for the warmed air to stay in place due to the slow air exchange without having to worry about ammonia building up enough to cause respiratory problems.

The feedlot/outdoor access area is scraped two to four times per week to the high spot on the concrete. There, the liquid portion drains away into the wood chip leach pit.

Every seven to ten days we carry the semi-solids to windrows in the fields surrounding the barn. They will be spread to as many fields as possible in the spring. This eliminates the mess of handling liquid manure. All the manure in these windrows and the bedded pack is partially composted.

The project used 200 yards of concrete and more than 28,000 board feet of lumber. About 9,300 square feet are under roof.

Cost from excavation to being fully equipped and cow-ready was $142,000.

This is substantially more infrastructure than I would have deemed necessary 10 or 20 years ago. I question why we have moved away from a barebones philosophy to one that is more heavily invested in infrastructure.

Some of it may be that as one gets older, bad weather and otherwise adverse conditions become more noticeable. They seem to negatively affect our psyches.

I think this change in philosophy has more to do with 100% grassfed production. Without the option of throwing a few more pounds of grain in the rations, there is a far more noticeable decrease in milk production and a very noticeable increase in forage consumption during times of cold, wet weather.

We expect 10-20% less feed will be needed for well-sheltered animals compared to outwintered cattle. Winter feed is our costliest feed. The more of it that can be used to make milk instead of maintaining body heat and condition, the more profits it will produce.

Outwintering can be effective in bringing high concentrations of fertility to areas that need it. Being on a new farm, we have plenty of those areas. We plan to utilize the heifers and dry cows to address these areas over the next few years.

But as the farm matures, and pasture quality and soil fertility rise to more optimum levels, outwintering's problems start to outweigh its benefits.

The problems can include too much fertility, poor distribution of fertility, soil compaction and opening up swards to weed pressure. Housing cows with a bedding/leaching system allows us to control and manage the farm's nutrient cycle much more to our liking.

Well-planned barns can also decrease equipment needs. We live in an area where seasonal snowfall frequently reaches 200 inches or higher, and in years with less snow we have an abundance of mud.

This makes transporting feed to outwintered animals difficult and sometimes even impossible without a substantial four-wheel drive tractor. If a $10,000 barn can eliminate a $30,000 tractor, I will always opt for the barn.

–Nathan Weaver

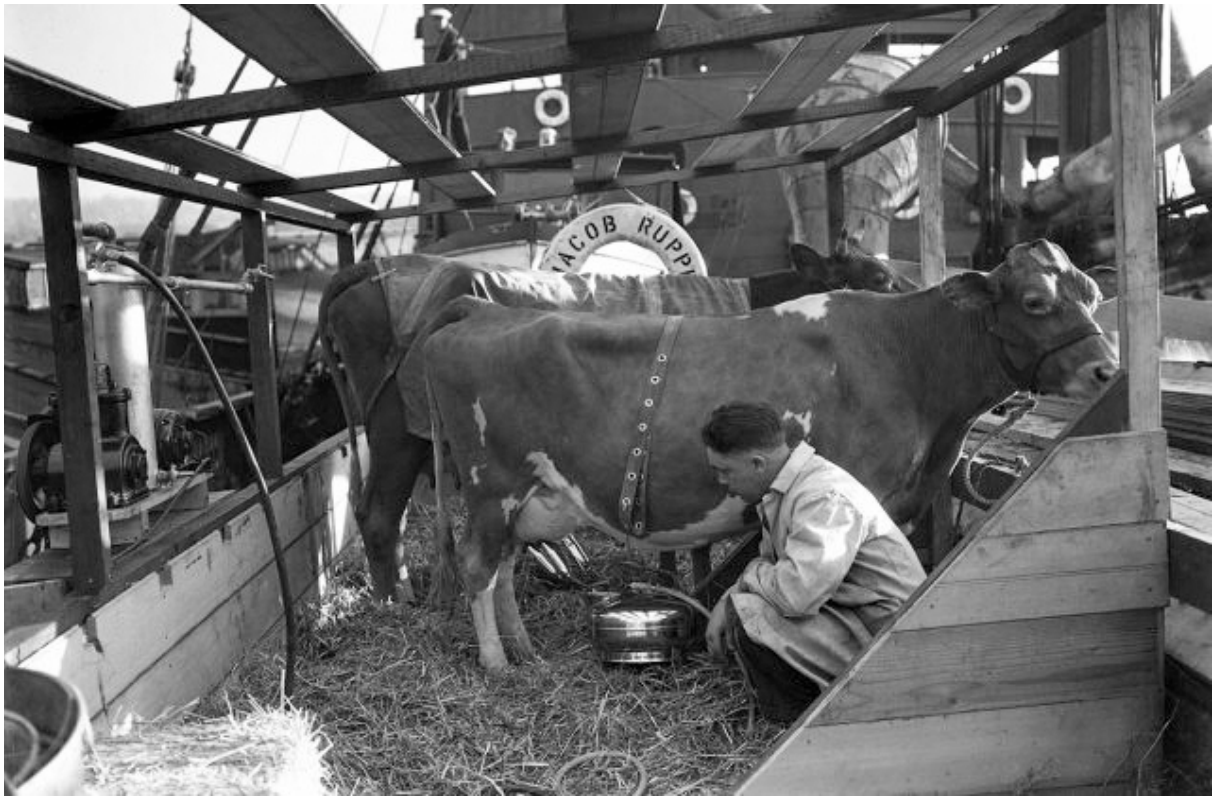
Guernseys in Antarctica

Domestic animals are rarely associated with Antarctica. Perhaps, the most curious case occurred in 1933, when US Admiral Richard E. Byrd's Antarctic expedition took with it three Guernsey cows.

The cows, named Klondike Gay Nira, Deerfoot Guernsey Maid, and Foremost Southern Girl, plus a bull calf born en route, spent over a year in a working dairy on the Ross Ice Shelf. They returned home to the US in 1935 to considerable celebrity.

The man who oversaw keeping the animals healthy in Antarctica was Edward Cox. And it took a lot of doing. Hauling the materials for a barn including Jamesway stanchions, a huge amount of feed and a Surge milking machine across the ocean and then the ice.

The cows' ostensible purpose was to solve the expedition's so-called "milk problem." By the 1930s, fresh milk had become such an icon of health and vigor that it was easy to claim it was needed for the expeditioners' well-being. Just as important, however, were the symbolic



On board the ship.

associations of fresh milk with purity, wholesomeness, and US national identity.

The novelty value that the cows brought to the expedition was an asset, but Byrd hedged his bets by including a pregnant cow – Klondike was due to give birth just as the expedition ship sailed across the Antarctic Circle. The bull calf, named "Iceberg," was a media darling and became better known than the expeditioners themselves.

Although the unfortunate Klondike, suffering from frostbite, had to be put down mid-expedition, her companions made it home in good condition. They were feted on their return, meeting politicians in Washington, enjoying "hay cocktails" at fancy hotels, and making the front page of *The New York Times*.

It would be easy, then, to conclude that the real reason Byrd took cows south was for the publicity he knew they would generate, but his interest in the animals may also have had a more politically motivated layer. Taking cows to Antarctica relates to the geopolitics of the period and the resonances the cows had with colonial settlement. By the 1930s several nations had claimed sectors of Antarctica. Byrd wanted the US to make its own claim, but this was not as straightforward as just planting a flag on the ice.

According to the Hughes Doctrine, a claim had to be based on settlement, not just discovery. But how do you show settlement of a continent covered in ice? In this context, symbolic gestures such as running a post office—or farming livestock—are useful.

Domestic animals have long been used as colonial agents, and cattle in particular were a key component of settler colonialism in frontier America. The image of the explorer-hero Byrd, descended from one of the First Families of Virginia, bringing cows to a new land and successfully farming them evoked this history.

The Antarctic Guernsey cows are not just a quirky story from the depths of history. As well as producing milk, they had promotional and geopolitical functions. On an ice continent, settlement is performed rather than enacted, and even Guernsey cows can be more than they first seem.

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Smart Genetics

Using genetics/genomics to significantly increase your cwt price

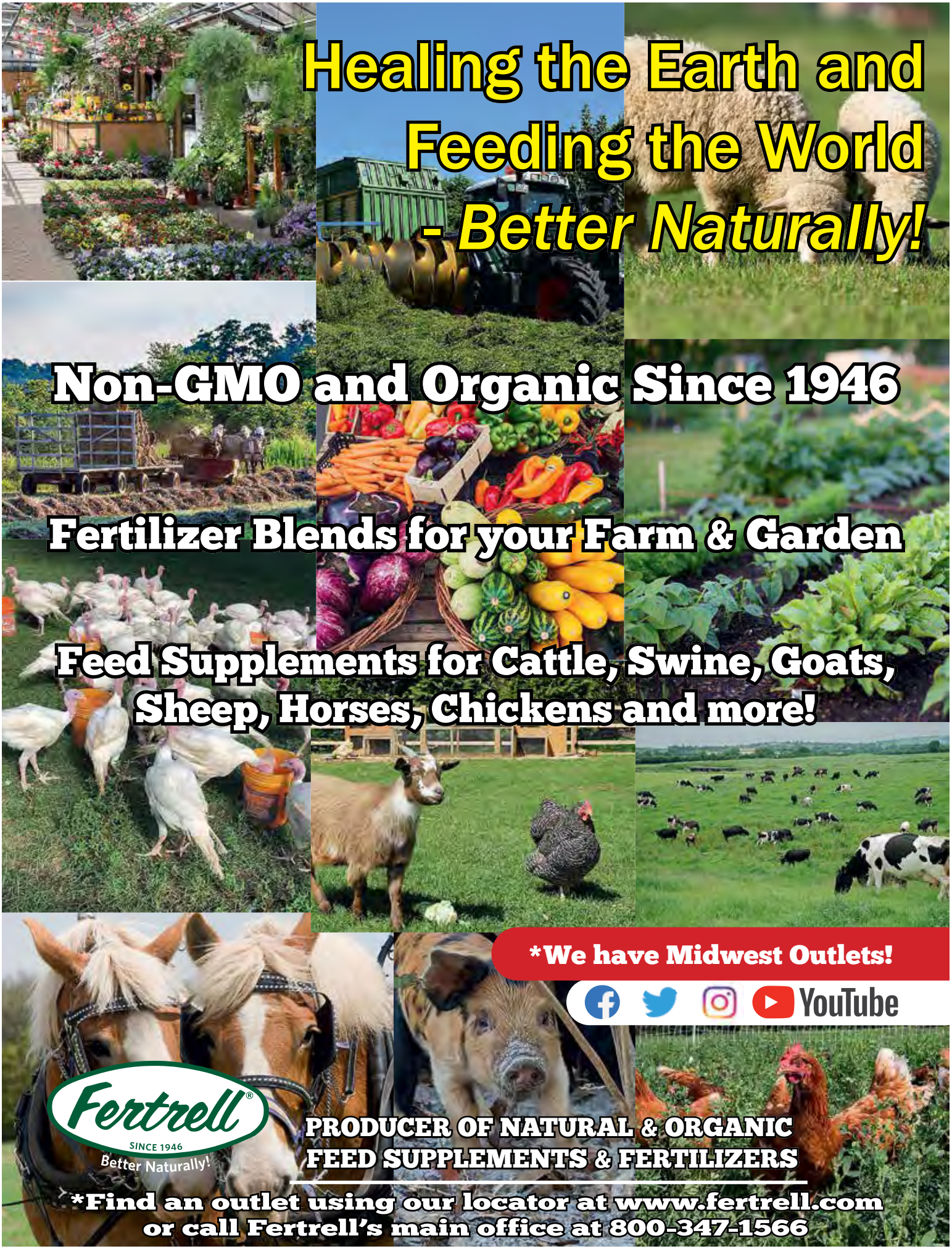
Dairy farmers/breeders can use many different avenues to determine their breeding goals. They can use bulls for natural breeding, use A.I. using their own criteria or they can use an A.I. company suggestions or computer formulated matings. Or they can use a breed organization computer mating system. Some farmers want to use triple AAA in matings, some want just specific traits, some want to use high type sires, some want to use formulas like cheese merit, some want to use sires from generations of excellent scored dams. All of that is possible, but without a goal in mind and sticking to the goal economic progress can be limited. There are certain highly economic traits that need to be considered within any successful breeding program—specifically being mastitis (somatic cell), reproduction factors, and calving ease. Whatever avenue a farmer uses for sire selection, these three traits can be screened for.

Using genomics can help a farmer achieve his goals faster than pre-genomics. Genomics goes a step beyond just using parent averages to determine breeding values. Genomics are helpful to get a better vision of a sire before he has actual daughter information. So young unproven sires are used to speed up genetic advancements in each breed much faster than pre-genomics.

Selection of females and males using genomics in a breeding program can greatly increase the value of each cwt of milk we ship. Butterfat and protein % are possibly the two easiest traits to select for improvement. How much more value is Holstein milk with 4.4% fat and 3.5% protein rather than 3.6% fat & 3.1% protein per cwt? It is significant. We will look at female and male genomic information to determine how improvement can be achieved within several generations without much additional cost to the farmer.

We are expecting a lively two way discussion that will stretch each of our preconceived thoughts.

–Matt Steiner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Haymaking

Highs, Lows, and Hilarity

When writing about highs and lows of hay making, there are a wide variety of things we could write about, like gully washing downpours just before you get the hay baled, or the gut wrenching feeling of baling nice hay and then two weeks later opening a bale in the haymow and realizing it turned musty.

After 18 years of farming, I have come to the conclusion it's really an art to make really good quality hay. I have not mastered this art yet, but know enough to get us by. Making hay is always a memorable experience and a few of these memories come to the top. Two years ago, we had one of our biggest harvest failures in our farming career.

I get these bright ideas occasionally that simply don't pan out. We had 19 acres of corn ground that was ready for a new seeding of hay and at the same time we got a chance to rent 11 acres from a neighbor giving us a total of 30 acres. Our circle of farmers had some talk on chopping hay instead of baling and wrapping, thinking it was more labor and cost efficient. We seeded a nice mix of alfalfa, grass, and clover, with forage oats for a nurse crop. Anticipation was high to mow all the oat nurse crop at one time, just the right time, before it heads out and then chop and bag it for a nice insurance feed. As most springs are, we had a nice mix of sunshine and rain with the crops pulling for new life.

Monday, June 13th rolls around and it's obviously time to mow our nurse crop. With warm temperatures, new seeding fields solid, and a chance of a thunderstorm Monday night we mowed all 30 acres Monday thinking we'll have the field and the nurse crop dry at the same time to chop later in the week. We had our planning done right, we thought, but the good Lord had other plans. That night it started raining and it rained and rained an then it literally poured, giving us three inches in a short time. The creeks came up fast, overflowing into the 11 acres of rented ground and washing about three acres of the freshly mowed nurse crop up against the neighbors woven wire fence, some even going through. In another eight acre field the creek overflowed, flooding another 3½ acres, floating the mowed crop to the edges and piling it into eventually stinky rows. The fields were a mushy mess with no chance of getting in for 2-3 days. And wouldn't you know it on the third day nature struck again, dumping another 1¼" of rain, flooding things again. Finally, 11 days later after tedding 3-4 times we harvested 22 round bales of dusty straw from a dryer six acre field. All the rest was mulch in the fields and fence rows. That's the low.

Neighbors have always been a big part of our success in our farming career. Countless times have we been carried through because of good neighbors. Broken machinery, run away horses, animals breaking loose and getting into neighbors' yards, crops, gardens, barns, eating away on whatever satisfied their taste buds. Never once did we have anyone come running with a tight fist or slashing, harsh words at us because of our mistakes or carelessness. It was neighbors who created the highlight of my hay making career. But it came on the heels of an accident that send good neighbor and friend William Miller to the hospital.

continued on next page…

Morning of June 14th, 2021, I was cultivating corn across the road from our house, a fresh clear morning with a good forecast for making hay. My field has an uphill slope towards the southeast giving me a good view of Willie's farm from the top. I had noticed him heading to the field with a haybine and didn't pay attention till I heard the sirens from our prompt first responders coming up Honeytown Road. Closer and closer to where Willie was mowing, and then stopped. I couldn't see Willie because of a row of trees between us. I noticed a strip of hay had been flattened cattie-cornered down the field and knew something wasn't right.

Countless times have we been carried through because of good neighbors. Broken machinery, run away horses, animals breaking loose and getting into neighbors' yards, crops, gardens, barns.

Willie had got caught in the hay-bine and ended up having a broken leg and a puncture above the knee and was done with farm work for the rest of the summer. He told his wife, "Let Vernon take care of the hay making," since we had been farming together a lot beforehand. That's when the neighbors started to shine. We hadn't even gotten out of the field where the accident had been till a tractor farming neighbor said he would mow the rest of the field. By noon, I had received more calls from people that wanted to mow hay. It was obvious there wasn't going to be a shortage of help, so we gave them the green light. By night fall 57 acres of really nice alfalfa/grass mix hay was on the ground in the curing process.

By noon, I had received more calls from people that wanted to mow hay. It was obvious there wasn't going to be a shortage of help, so we gave them the green light. By night fall 57 acres of really nice alfalfa/grass mix hay was on the ground in the curing process.

The next couple days neighbors tedded as needed and by Wednesday afternoon we knew Thursday would be the big harvest day. We had so many people ask if they could help that we decided we'll have a hay raking rodeo. Eleven teams and rakes showed up Thursday forenoon and waited till all the dew was gone. Most of the time we only get 35 to 60 minutes of perfect conditions to rake alfalfa hay till we lose those precious leaves. We had roller bar rakes, two big 8-wheel V-rakes, and the old style with two big wheels at the front and two small wheels in the back. There were teams of blonde and red Belgians, pulling bred, Percherons, and those things with long faces and long ears that they call mules. Every teamster was visibly content with their assignment and having a ball.

I'm absolutely convinced if we're a good neighbor our efforts will be returned in a like fashion when we get in a time of need. Tractor farmers had offered the baling part and by sundown 155 large square bales were stacked in the barn. Third and fourth cutting hay were also done in like fashion. That's the high.

As a young, married farmer with small children and a work load greater than we could bear, we had a few neighbor boys help with chores and field work as needed or age appropriate. We had a lot of good times with all of them, but little Amos Mast was at the reins of one of those incidents that make you chuckle for years and years.

Amos was always quiet with a shy little grin, dark slightly curled hair, and always curious and looking for that next adventure. At that time, we owned a 30-acre bottom field a half mile north of our farm and raised mostly hay from it, in round bales. We were using our neighbor's wagon on this day. This wagon was designed to pull a hay loader in the back to load loose hay, with the wagon bed set back on the running-gear. Unknown to us there were no bolts in place to hold the bed to the gear.

Amos had the team and wagon and was standing up on the front upright with his head and arms over the top exactly where little boys love to be, his head being 9' above the bed of the wagon. I was on the skid loader loading bales. It's early afternoon, after lunch, and one of those hot dry summer days. We slowly bumped towards the back end of the field, turned around, then started loading towards the front. I put one round bale on the back of the wagon. I felt my eyes were getting heavy. Amos moves on up the field, and I went for the next bale with eyelids bobbing open and shut. I approached the wagon slowly, probably because my brain was half asleep, and just as I nodded off I bumped into the wagon a little bit, snapping my eyes back open. Amos perched on top, looks down with his shy little grin and silent chuckle.

This field was all flat except one little steep knob about three wagon lengths at the southwest end. Amos moves on up the field, taking this little hill head on with two round bales on the back of the wagon, having his full attention on the team of horses in front of him. He was on cloud nine with this pile of power in his very own hands. As life takes us all in unknown directions, with the rear end of the wagon starting up the hill, the front of the wagon bed starts to lift up, kicking poor little Amos mind, hands, and feet in full gear, scratching, clawing to keep a hold on the upright, unreeling reins at lightning speed, whoaing the horses, gasping for breath, and then swallowing his heart again, all in one motion—playing the part to perfection.

The front of the wagon bed starts to lift up, kicking poor little Amos mind, hands, and feet in full gear.

Again, little Amos was up there looking down with his shy little grin. But this time he was way up there, with big eyes, looking like Curious George. "Please, man with the yellow hat, can you get me down from here?" That's the hilarious.

–Vernon Mast

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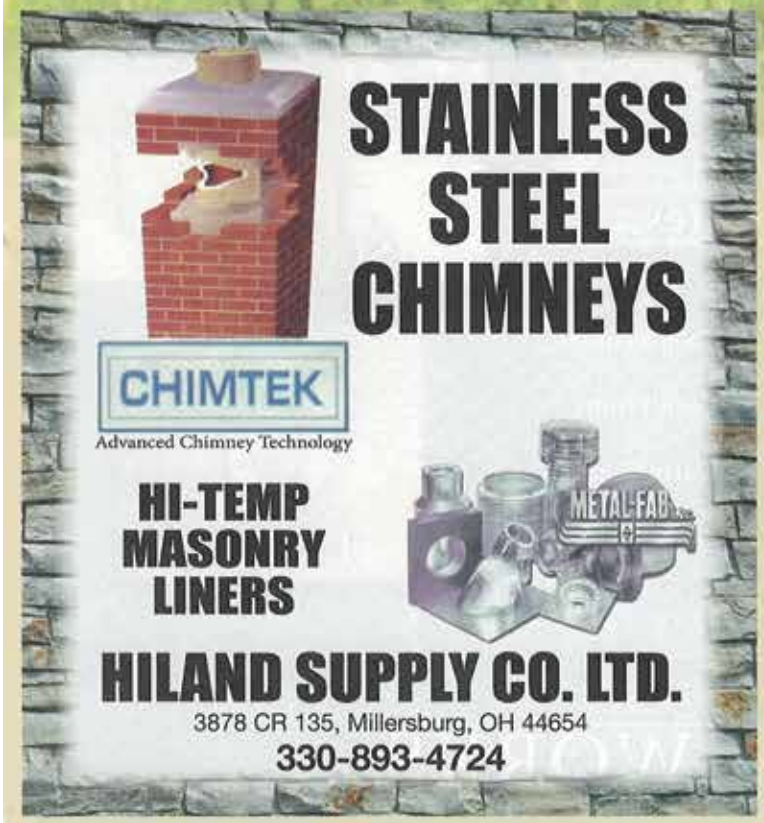

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Kid's Corner

1. What did the lost calf say to the silo?
2. What do you call a meat thief?
3. Which state do sheep like best?
4. Two lookers, two crookers, four standers, one switch about: what is it?
5. What is a pony's favorite drink?
6. What has four legs, a tail and goes oom, omm?
7. What happened when the dog swallowed the clock?
8. What do you call a pig who is never fun to hang out with?

See answers on page 67.

When the Bull Got Out

Milan (age 9) and Lori (age 7) were out in the field hauling in small square bales when suddenly Lori shouted, "The cows are out!" Milan was standing on the upright and saw a movement. It was the bull! Daddy was walking behind the wagon, picking the bales when they fell off. He yelled to the children, "Just drive the load in the barn, we can unload later!"

Milan quickly drove into the barn and tied the horses. Lori jumped down from the wagon. As she hit the floor, she tripped and fell and hit her head hard against the cement floor. Immediately it started to bleed. She heard Daddy yell for help so she jumped up dizzily and ran out to the yard with Milan at her heels. Lori stopped short—the cows were in the garden, trampling the almost three inch high corn, smashing the beautiful flowers, and crushing the potatoes. There were cows in the yard and running out the lane. Mom was trying to block them so they wouldn't go on the road. Daddy was trying to chase the cows out of the garden.

Milan quickly went to open the gate that was beside the garden. Lori started to run after the nearest cow. It was the bull! It whirled around and charged at her. Lori was so afraid she just stood there. The next thing she knew, she was lying on the ground with a throbbing leg. Daddy came running and shouted, "Are you hurt?" She didn't answer, she was unconscious. Daddy picked her up and carried her to the house, then went back outside and helped chase in the rest of the cows. After they had them in he told Mom about Lori. He then quickly ran to the phone shanty and called a driver. Soon the driver came rattling in the lane and off they went to the nearest hospital to put a cast on a very badly broken leg and put quite a few stitches on the gash that was on her head.

–Written by the 8th Graders of Maple Leaf School

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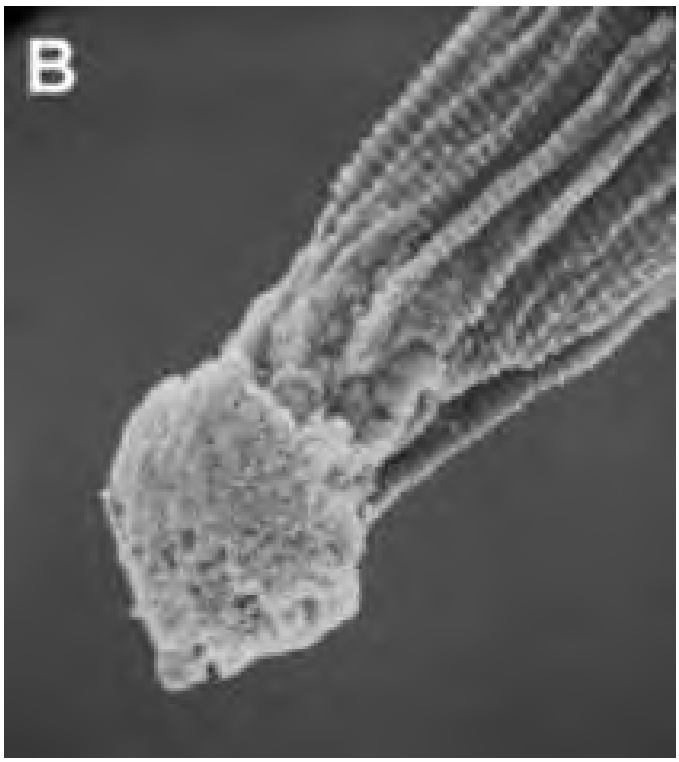
Thinking Outside the Box

The Use of Plant Compounds as Natural Anthelmintics (De-wormers)

By now, most producers should be aware that as of June 11th, all over-the-counter antibiotics will require a veterinarian prescription. Although anthelmintic or de-worming products are not classified as an antibiotic and will still be available for purchase at your local retailer, I can't help but think about the relationship between these two categories of livestock products. Many animal health products available on the marketplace today are easily accessible and easy to use. However, because of this ease and without the detailed knowledge of a veterinarian, unfortunately, these products have been over and/or improperly used, thus leading to resistance. Resistance towards whatever we may be treating for is one of the main drivers for removal from retail shelves and being placed back into the hands of our veterinarians. Thinking a bit further as we begin our fast approach into peak grazing and parasite seasons, I can't help but wonder what will happen to our currently supply of anthelmintics in the near future. Now hear me out, I'm not suggesting that these products also be removed from producers easy reach, but what I am pointing out is the need for judicious/calculated/careful or targeted used of these products.



With this being said, there are several management practices that can be implemented on-farm to reduce the losses associated with internal gastrointestinal parasitic infection through management or natural means. Of these management strategies, the use of plant bio-actives or secondary compounds have been shown to decrease the losses associated with parasitic infection by acting as a natural anthelmintic in addition to supplying the host with supplemental protein (Waller et al., 2001; Hoste et al., 2012). Among these secondary compounds, condensed tannins (CT) in the form of water soluble polyphenols, have shown to have a positive effect in combating parasitic infection (Hoste et al., 2006) and can be found in temperate forges such as birdsfoot trefoil, chicory, and sericea lespedeza (Domingo et al., 2019; Peña-Espinoza et al., 2017; Burke et al., 2012; Joshi et al., 2011).

According to Hoste et al. (2012), high tannin forages have two possible modes of action, direct and indirect. The direct mode of high tannin forages as a natural anthelmintic is supported by Brunet et al. (2008). In

their experiment, the authors demonstrated that when comparing two groups of goats experimentally infected with a known amount of parasitic larvae, goats that were offered feeds that were tannin-rich (Lysiloma latisiliquum) demonstrated lower total larvae counts when slaughtered 5 days after larvae dosing when compared to controls. Furthermore, Hoste et al. (2006) demonstrated that when challenged in vivo with extracts from Lysiloma latisiliquum, larval and adult stages of Haemonchus contortus developed a covering over the anterior end (as shown in the image above), covering the buccal tooth, thus resulting in a reduced ability for the parasite to lyse and attach to the abomasal wall.

Indirectly, condensed tannins aid in providing supplemental protein to the host in the form of by-pass protein. In her doctoral dissertation, Martin (2016) outlines the complexity of tannin and protein binding, emphasizing that some proteins within high quality tannin forages may not be able to be used by the animal. In general, because of the high biding affinity between proteins and tannin polyphenols (Hoste et al., 2006), these bound protein complexes avoid ruminal degradation and by-pass to the abomasum. Once in the abomasum, Hoste et al. (2012) further explains that these protein complexes dissociate due to a low pH and amino acids from the previously bound proteins are passed to the small intestine where they can be absorbed. It is well known that parasitic infection results in blood loss leading to protein deficiency (Sykes and Coop, 2001). Supplemental protein, regardless of its form, has shown to aid in supporting the function of erythropoiesis (Shaw et al., 1995). In addition, Coop and Kyriazakis (2001) indicate that an influx in supplemental protein allows animals to better cope with parasitic infection due to the many functions that proteins support in developing and maintaining the function of the immune system.

This is just one of many strategies that a producer could implement to reduce the use of anthelmintics. Further investigating other natural means of parasite management, anecdotally, many have suggested the use of other natural products such as diatomaceous earth, oils, herbs, and seeds or various plants, vegetables, and fruits. I'm not here to either support or discount the use of these strategies; however, I am hesitant on recommending any of these strategies at this time as there is an extremely limited amount of supporting evidence that suggests that these outlined natural remedies significantly reduce parasitic populations. Of the few papers I have been able to identify, da Silva et al. (2021) investigated the use of orange essential oil as natural method to reduce the severity of parasitic infection. Through their work, the authors noted a decrease in overall parasite numbers, but were unable to recommend this strategy as a sole treatment method and suggested that this strategy be used in conjunction with additional control methods. If there is additional supporting evidence that these natural products reduce parasitic nematode populations within the host, please share! I find this area of research to be quite intriguing and see the benefit of their potential uses within our production systems in the near future.

As always, Happy Shepherding!

–Brady Campbell, Ph.D.,
State Small Ruminant Extension Specialist

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Comparison of Wool/Meat, Hair, and Dairy Sheep

Wool/Meat Sheep

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Wool/Meat type sheep are the most common types of sheep raised in the United States.
- Wool/Meat breeds of sheep produce meat, milk, and wool/fiber.
- Some wool/meat breeds are heavily muscled (terminal) whereas other are lighter muscled and exhibit great mothering abilities (maternal).

BENEFITS:

- Wooled meat breeds of sheep produce heavier and more consistent carcasses.
- Wool may be used as a supplemental income source if a niche market is established.

CHALLENGES:

- Wool sheep must be shorn at least once per year. Shearing costs are often greater than the value of wool.

COMMON BREEDS:

Meat (Terminal):

- Hampshire, Suffolk (blackface)
- Texel, Ile de France (whiteface)

Meat (Maternal):

- Dorset, Cheviot (whiteface)
- Polypay, Finn (multiple offspring)

Wool:

- Merino, Rambouillet (fine wool)

Hair Sheep

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Hair sheep are gaining popularity in the United States because of their ease of management.
- Hair sheep are primarily used to produce meat and tend to have good maternal attributes.
- Hair sheep produce light weight carcasses that are highly valued by the ethnic market.

BENEFITS:

- Hair sheep do not require shearing as they naturally shed their hair coats each year.
- Hair sheep tend to be hardier and more tolerant to parasitic infection.

CHALLENGES:

- Hair sheep producer smaller, more inconsistent carcasses which may result in a lower value when compared with wool meat breeds.

COMMON BREEDS:

- Katahdin
- Dorper (black or white headed)
- St. Croix
- Barbados Blackbelly
- Royal White

Dairy Sheep

GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Sheep dairying is not a common practice in the United States but does offer the ability to produce sheep milk and milk by-products for a premium.
- Sheep milk has a greater concentration of solids, fat, protein, calcium, and calories when compared with cow or goat milk.

BENEFITS:

- Work well in a crossbred commercial operation producing heavy weight lambs at weaning.
- Capitalize on maximizing profit per individual (meat, milk, wool).

CHALLENGES:

- The nutritional requirements for dairy sheep are often higher than any other sheep to maintain milk production; therefore, supplemental feed in the form of grains may be required.

COMMON BREEDS:

Traditional breeds:

- East Friesian
- Lacaune
- Awassi

Non-traditional breeds:

- Dorset × Polypay × Finn (crossbreds)

– Brady Campbell, Ph.D.,
State Small Ruminant Extension Specialist

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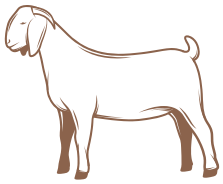

Marketing Lamb and Goat for Holidays

Throughout the year, lamb and goat is often the main course at holiday celebrations for many people.

Because lamb and goat are served for holidays, this creates an excellent opportunity for sheep and meat goat producers to plan their breeding seasons so that they can market their lambs or kids at the proper size for these holidays. The American Sheep Industry has worked with the Department of Agricultural Economics at Texas A & M University and Agribusiness Food and Consumer Economics Research Center to study the non-traditional lamb market in the United States, which includes ethnic consumers. These researchers estimate that "minority populations account for about 58% of the total US lamb consumption and nearly three quarters of minority lamb consumers prepare lamb at home." The Lamb Resource Center now prices information on marketing to ethnic consumers on their website.

If you want to sell lambs to ethnic markets, important considerations include the weight and sex of the animal and the method in which the meat is harvested. For Islamic markets, the meat must be harvested according to halal dietary laws. For Jewish markets, the meat must be harvested according to kosher dietary laws. For both traditions, the animals must be well cared for and treated with respect.

Lambs designated for the ethnic market can be sold at auction or they can be sold directly to the consumer. Keep in mind that state laws prohibit a producer from selling meat unless the animal was processed in a USDA inspected facility. Therefore, the producers should sell lambs live and the customer would make cutting arrangements with the processing facility. Many producers also provide the service of delivering the lambs to a local processing facility. Some buyers may request halal- or kosher-certified processing facilities for their lambs.

Producers who choose to sell for ethnic holidays should plan to sell "intact" lambs in order to garner the highest prices. Intact refers to lambs that have not been altered. The lambs are marketed with tails and males should have their testicles.

HOLIDAYS

The dates on which many religious holidays occur vary each year, often depending on the calendar they follow.

- The Gregorian calendar is internationally the most widely used civil calendar. Western Christian holidays follow this calendar.
- Orthodox Christians follow the Julian calendar, which is slightly different than the Gregorian calendar.
- Muslim holidays follow a lunar calendar, which is dictated by the moon. This calendar is about 11 days shorter than the Gregorian calendar.
- Jewish holidays occur at the same time each year on a Jewish calendar. This calendar is also of a different length than the Julian calendar.

The following information discusses some of the holidays that feature lamb and points out the sizes and sexes that should be sold for these markets. A table with holiday dates can be found after the holiday descriptions.

continued on next page…

CHRISTIAN HOLIDAYS

Western or Roman Easter

This holiday is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ three days after his death from crucifixion. Lambs marketed for this holiday should be milk fed and weigh between 30 and 45 pounds. They should also be nicely conditioned, but not excessively fat. The preferred size of goat for this holiday is a milk fed kid that weighs between 20 and 40 pounds: 30 pounds is considered optimum. These kids should carry some condition or fat to reach the prime price categories. Kids that weigh 40 to 50 pounds are often acceptable, but may have a price discount for their larger size. Kids that weigh less than 20 pounds are often thin and are not as acceptable to buyers.

Eastern or Greek (Orthodox) Easter

This holiday also celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ, but the time is calculated a bit differently and so the holiday often occurs about one to two weeks following the Western Easter celebration. Ideal size for lambs and goats is slightly heavier than the Western Easter at 40 to 55 pounds for lambs and 25 to 50 pounds for kids. Both should also be milk fed.

Thanksgiving

Many religions give thanks after the harvest through special ceremonies. Thanksgiving began in the New England area of United States with the Protestants praying and giving thanks after the fall harvest. Today, Thanksgiving is now observed as a public holiday that features ham or turkey. However, some families prefer a leg or rack of lamb as an alternative meat option. Finished weight lambs, 110 lbs. and heavier, are appropriate to market for this holiday.

Christmas

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Lambs and kids should both be milk fed. At this time of year, milk fed lambs and kids are at a premium because ewes and does must breed outside of the typical breeding season. Ideal weights for lambs are 40 to 60 pounds and under 50 pounds for kids.

ISLAMIC HOLIDAYS

Eid ul Adha - The Festival of Sacrifice

Eid ul Adha is a celebration that commemorates the Prophet Ibrahim (renamed Abraham) who was willing to sacrifice his son Ismail for Allah. Animals that are sacrificed for this celebration must be Halal. The sacrificed animal is often shared with extended family members and some may be given away to the needy.

Many Muslims will look for an animal that is blemish free. In other words, the animal should not have been docked or castrated and if the animal has horns, the horns should not be broken. In addition, the animal should not have open wounds, torn ears, or be lame. Some Muslims find animals acceptable if they have been castrated with a burdizzo or if the castration wound has completely healed.

Heavier lambs and goats are preferred for this holiday since the meat is shared. Yearling lambs and goats are preferred, but older sheep and goats are also acceptable. Weights of lambs and goats should be heavier than 60 pounds.

Muharram: Islamic New Year

The Islamic New Year is the first day of the Muslim calendar. Mutton is often served as the main course for this holiday meal. There is no preferred weight for this holiday, although animals should appear healthy.

Mawlid al Nabi

Mawlid al Nabi celebrates the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam. There is no specific recommended size for lambs and goats for this holiday.

Ramadan

Ramadan is the start of a month of fasting. It occurs in the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. During this holy month, Muslims will fast (do not eat or drink) from sunrise to sunset. This holiday is in celebration of the revealing of the Qu'ran. It is based on the sighting of the new moon and occurs when the "White Thread Becomes Distinct From the Black Thread," a poetic description of the coming of a new moon. Based on the lunar calendar, this holiday moves backward 11 or 12 days each Julian calendar year. Ramadan is a time for Muslims to renew themselves spiritually, devote time to Allah, and practice self control. The ideal lamb and goat should be weaned and have all their milk teeth. Lambs should weigh 60 to 80 pounds while goats have an ideal weight of 60 pounds, but weights of 45 to 120 pounds are acceptable. It does not matter if male goats have been castrated. Animals should not be too fat for this holiday.

This holiday is also an excellent time to cull older animals. Both sheep and goats may bring very good prices at this time. However, these animals need to be unblemished.

Eid al Fitr - The Breaking of the Ramadan Fast

The end of the Ramadan fasting period occurs when the next new moon is sighted. For the next three days, Muslims celebrate Eid al Fitr. The celebration is a time for families to be thankful for their many joys and blessings. Consistent with the month of Ramadan, lambs should weigh 60 to 80 pounds and goats should weigh 60 pounds.

JEWISH HOLIDAYS

Pesach - Passover

Pesach or Passover occurs on the 14th day of Nissan, which is the first month of the Jewish calendar. The holiday represents God passing over the houses of the Jews when the firstborn Egyptian sons were killed. Pesach also refers to the lamb that was sacrificed in the Temple. Therefore, lamb is often served for this holiday. Lambs should be milk fed, fat, and weigh between 30 and 55 pounds.

Rosh Hashanah - Jewish New Year

Rosh Hashanah means head of the year in Hebrew and occurs on the first and second days of Tishri. Tishri is the seventh month of the Jewish calendar. During Rosh Hashanah, Jews will review their past year and make plans for changes in the coming year. This would be similar to how Americans make New Year's resolutions. The front quarters of lambs weighing 60 to 100 pounds are preferred for this holiday celebration.

Chanukkah

Chanukkah (also spelled Hanukkah) is an eight-day festival that is often known as the festival of the lights. It begins on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev. It is known as a celebration that marks the rededication of the Temple when it was taken back from the Greeks. Tradition says that at that time there was very little oil left to burn in the candelabrum known as the menorah. Most of the oil had been defiled and was not usable. Only enough oil was available to burn for one day, although the menorah burned for eight days, the length of time that it took to produce new oil for the menorah. Therefore, the eight-day festival of Chanukkah commemorates this miracle.

Meat consumed during this festival should be prepared through Kosher slaughtering. Young milk-fed lambs and kids are preferred.

Melanie Barkley, Senior Extension Educator, Livestock, PennState Extension

HOLIDAY CALENDAR FOR MARKETING SHEEP AND GOATS

Holiday	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Eid ul Adha - Festival of Sacrifice	June 28-29	June 17-18	June 6-7	May 27-30	May 16-19
Islamic New Year	July 19	July 7	June 26	June 16	June 5
Passover/Pesach	April 5-12	April 22-30	April 12-20	April 1-9	April 21-29
Western Roman Easter	April 9	March 31	April 20	April 5	March 28
Orthodox Easter	April 16	May 5	April 20	April 12	May 2
Ramadan - Month of Fasting	March 22 - April 20	March 10 - April 8	February 28 - March 30	February 17 - March 18	February 7 - March 8
Eid-al-Fitr - Ramadan Ends	April 22-22	April 9-10	March 30-31	March 19-20	March 9-10
Rosh Hashanah - Jewish New Year	Sept. 15-17	October 2-4	Sept. 22-24	Sept. 11-13	October 1-3
Mawlid al-Nabi - Birth of the Prophet	September 27	September 15	September 4	August 25	August 14
Thanksgiving	November 23	November 28	November 27	November 26	November 25
Chanukkah	December 7-15	December 25 - January 2	December 14-22	December 4-12	December 24 - January 1
Christmas	December 25	December 25	December 25	December 25	December 25

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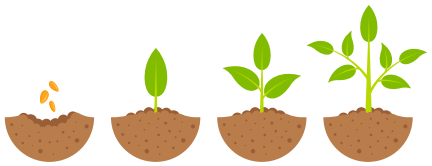

Growing Soil Fertility for the Next Generation

TODAY'S RESEARCH

Most of today's research in the agronomy world is post World War Two information. This was the start of the industrial revolution and the chemical industry in main-stream agriculture. Most of today's research on soil fertility comes from salesmen and companies selling soil amendments and foliar applications for a high dollar.

Another source of information is information that has been passed down from one generation to the next. Most of this information is very valuable for a young farmer starting out, however it can also create an obstacle or stumbling block if farming practices have been carried out without having the next generation in mind. In the old days if the family had enough to feed themselves for the year and they were able to make payments on the farm all their needs were met. Today life is different for the young farmer. Not only is the farmer of today feeding his family, profitability and retirement are part of the vision. The measure of success and profitability includes being able to pass on the farm in better condition than what he received it.

Farming practices should be based on what moves the whole farm in the direction the farmer envisions the farm to be. On my farm my vision is to grow soil fertility. This is not only a goal for me today, I feel it is my responsibility to do this for the next generation.

Many young farmers start out their farming career on depleted soils since the generations prior to them were not concerned or didn't understand soil fertility.

GROWING SOIL FERTILITY

Lets start out by exploring a few questions. Do your crops stay green until the grain is finished, or do they brown off before the grain is ripe? Are you able to reach above average yields for your state? Today's plant genetic potential yields should be well above the Ohio average. If they are not, you probably have a fertility issue. Hay and alfalfa yield should be above 3.5 tons of dry matter per acre. Corn should be above 21 tons per acre.

SOIL/TISSUE TESTING AS A REFERENCE POINT/WHERE TO START?

One of the most common dilemmas a farmer is faced with especially when transitioning to organic practices is high potassium levels, with most of the other nutrients being low, including organic matter.

Initially I like my soil pH to be around 6.5-7. I have found that unless soil pH is in this window things tend to get bogged down and not work as well. Potassium levels go up, sulfur is tied up and biology is extremely hard to maintain.

Once pH is within this window, biology starts increasing creating life in the soil. Carbon sources such as straw manure, chicken litter, humates, biochar allow sulfur to increase which increases organic matter. As organic matter increases potassium drops.

When you see a high potassium, you are seeing a soil with poor nutrient scavenging ability. High potassium levels mean that carbon sources are low, therefore CEC will be low since potassium crowds out all the other minerals. Potassium doesn't leach it needs to be used up.

This brings us back to my carbon source of choice- straw manure.

SULFUR THE GAME CHANGER.

Sulfur is a mineral that is seldom recognized as a mineral that can be "grown" in the soil. Most of the time, attempts are made by agronomy consultants to increase sulfur levels by amending with sulfates, including gypsum. This often creates a soil that is "hot" and fast, which further inhibits organic matter and gases off rather than promoting protein synthesis.

In contrast sulfur that is "grown" by biology by organic matter is a reduced sulfur. Reduced sulfur is the deciding factor in plant hormones, protein synthesis, enzymes, and biology to name a few areas of importance.

SOIL OXIDATION

How do I know if my soil is oxidized? Oxidation can be identified by closely watching organic matter increases or decreases as well as watching CEC (cation exchange capacity) increasing or decreasing. Chemical fertilizer application and herbicide cause soil oxidation. When organic matter increases CEC will follow. Both need to be on an upward trend. When organic matter increases, naturally occurring sulfur increase is distinctly appreciated. Carbon sources are the cornerstone to keeping nutrients from leaching out as well as maintaining organic matter.

By achieving optimal levels of carbon, and optimal sulfur levels in the form of reduced sulfur, the soil becomes more resilient to extreme temperatures, weather conditions and stress. For every percent that is gained in organic matter levels, the ability to hold onto an inch of rain per acre is also gained.

SOIL AMENDMENTS

As you noticed I mentioned didn't mention many soil amendments. I believe soil fertility can be grown with few soil amendments. In the last couple of years I have appreciated the following by using these practices and without applying any amendments. Organic matter has increased 5% per year which leaves me with an organic matter at 5% across the farm. Most of the fields are showing an 8% organic matter. Sulfur increased by 100%, Boron increased by 2%, Manganese increased 2%, Potassium reduced by 50%.

Most of it was done with growing cover crops. Time and timing crop harvest. An example would be timing of plowing under rye cover crop in dough stage which provides sugars and nutrition for optimal biology to bloom, as well as carbon for building organic matter.

–David Hershberger, Flat Ridge Holsteins

SHEEP HANDLING EQUIPMENT

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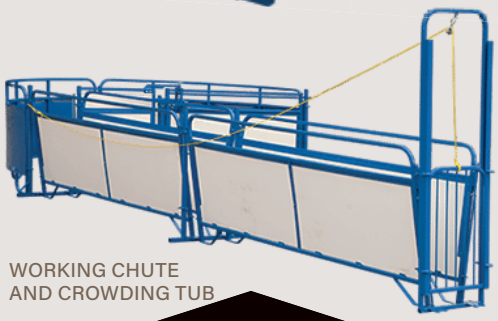

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Mostly Grass Fed
Low Heat Vat Pasteurized
Not Homogenized
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Outlook for American Lamb

The American sheep industry has been on quite a rollercoaster ride since the COVID-19 pandemic turned the country upside down just weeks before the 2020 Easter holiday. What followed in the ensuing years was an exercise in feast or famine as lamb prices plummeted, then soared and eventually plummeted again.

Heading into the fall of 2023, lamb prices were once again on the rise. While prices aren't expected to reach the record levels of 2022, there were plenty of reasons for sheep producers to be optimistic in the final quarter of the year.

"Through 2023, slaughter has stayed relatively on pace with 2022. The largest difference in total supply of lamb is due to the average slaughter weights being well below last year," wrote Charley Martinez, Ph.D., of the University of Tennessee in the October 2023 issue of the *Sheep Industry News*. "Through 2023, average slaughter weight has been approximately 125 pounds, which is 7 pounds lower than the 2022 average. But, through the summer (July through September), the average slaughter weight dropped to 119 pounds, and hit a low of 114 pounds per head in August. The combination of relatively similar slaughter numbers compared to a year ago and smaller slaughter weights has yielded tighter supplies of total product. The smaller total supply also influences the lamb cutout value, and provides support for the increased prices seen in the cutout.

"The lamb cutout represents the estimated gross value of a lamb carcass based on prices paid for individual items (primal cuts) derived from a lamb carcass. Slaughter lamb prices were starting to trend upward and the trend held through the summer as slaughter lamb prices reached $202.08/cwt., which is the highest slaughter lamb prices and first time over the $200 per cwt. threshold since June 2022. Given the market signals from the retail and cutout values, there seems to be real reason to be bullish on slaughter lamb prices as 2023 comes to a close. Additionally, with expected tighter supply of feeder lambs, slaughter lamb prices could really ramp up moving forward."

Martinez offered a positive outlook in his summary for the article.

"For American producers, the continuation of higher prices throughout the lamb supply chain is a welcomed sign. The inputs have been high for extended periods of time throughout the last year due to drought and other factors. With low import numbers, and tighter supplies, prices seem to really have some longevity on the positive side for producers, which hopefully turns into increased profit margins for producers, as well."

SHEEP INVENTORY

Slight declines in the American sheep population have become the norm in the past decade, with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service reporting a 0.9 percent drop in total population as of Jan. 1, 2023. NASS put the American flock at 5.02 million head, with a 40,000 drop in ewes 1 year old and older accounting for much of the 45,000-head decline from 2022.

While the national lambing percentage – 106.9 percent – was in line with historical averages during the past decade, the American lamb crop fell by 1.6 percent due to the smaller breeding flock. Some of the largest sheep-producing states (California, Texas and Wyoming, for example) saw the biggest declines in their lamb crops.

States in the Great Plains went against the norms and recorded lamb crop increases, including Iowa, Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri. Minnesota joined the list from the Midwest. Ohio saw a decrease in total sheep population from 127,000 to 125,000, with a drop of a thousand head each in the breeding ewes and replacement lambs categories.

Oklahoma posted the largest percentage gain – 10 percent – as the state's total sheep population increased to 57,000, while Texas continued to hold down the top spot in total sheep population – 675,0000 – despite a loss of 25,000 head from 2022 to 2023.

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK

In February of 2023, the Livestock Marketing Information Center offered an in-depth look at the inventory data, as well as a market outlook. The three main factors LMIC expected to influence the forecasts for sheep and lamb inventory levels and prices were: drought and feed; lamb demand; and lamb imports.

Fortunately, drought conditions eased in much of the United States after above average snowfall in the winter turned into above average rain in the spring. This led to generous feed in pastures throughout many parts of the country. Parts of the Midwest, however, have experienced drought conditions in 2023. This forced producers in those areas to take the unprecedented step of feeding flocks through the summer. Many of these states, though, have not been affected by drought in the last three years, and these pastures should recover with rain quite quickly if the drought breaks after one year.

While it took a step backward in 2022, the strength of wholesale and retail prices this year suggests demand for lamb has improved. Consumers continue to adapt to the inflationary environment. Lamb consumption soared to 1.36 pounds per person in 2021 as Americans adapted to meat shortages and restaurant closures post-COVID. The number dropped to 1.28 pounds per person in 2022. Prior to COVID, Americans consumed less than a pound of lamb per year, per person on average. LMIC forecasts this fall have that number to dropping to 1.08 pounds per person in 2023 in response to tighter supplies.

Imported lamb—mostly from Australia and New Zealand—accounts for more than half of the lamb consumed in the United States most years. The product is often lower priced than American lamb and competes for limited shelf space at the nation's meat counters. Softer demand in the U.S. market relative to 2022 has constrained lamb imports so far this year Heading into the fall of 2023, imports at 130.3 million pounds were below the five-year average of 133.5 million pounds and 21 percent smaller than 2022 levels, as well.

The sheep industry has endured a lot the last few years. While the economy has been more resilient than forecasted, inflation remains above pre-pandemic averages and the economic outlook is uncertain. But there is a great sense of optimism for the American sheep industry in 2024.

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The Circle of Community

People working together in a strong community with a shared purpose can make the impossible possible. -Tom Vilsack

The simplicity of growing up in rural Holmes County sometimes causes me to take this peaceful life for granted. It's easy to get wrapped up in my family's life- we get up in the morning and begin our day without spending much time thinking about our community. It is only when storm clouds gather that our community shines like silver lining through the oppressive darkness. That is when I feel the strength of our community's love embracing me. That is when I feel the prayers of fellow believers lifting me up to heights beyond reason and understanding. That is when the offers to help, meals, gifts, and mail come pouring in, all evidence of the power of a united community.

Our family has felt its share of this community's love through the years, so why do I neglect to appreciate it when the sun shines again? I don't forget the efforts, the prayers, or the love- but my deep awareness fades into the distance like clouds after a rain.

As I pondered the reason why, I concluded that I cannot fully appreciate our community until I've lived somewhere else for a while. Moving isn't an option, so if I really want to fathom our community, I'll have to look at it through another set of eyes, such as the eyes of the neighbor who moved seven times before settling in our community. Or through my step-aunt's eyes. She lives out of state amidst some rough characters who have taught her never to trust anyone. And through the eyes of my step grandpa who grew up in abusive foster homes, taught high school students overseas, and eventually joined the Amish church to marry my widowed grandma.

Charles Knowles was seventy-six years old when he became my grandpa. He didn't understand much of our language, but he gave up his car and moved in with my

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aunt's family. Then he joined our church to become an Amish grandpa. At first it felt strange to have him around all the time, but it wasn't long before he became part of the family.

Grandpa refused to dwell in the past, so he never shared much about his childhood. But for the sake of making my point, I want to share a few stories. Little Charles was only two years old when his mother died. His father didn't want to be tied down with a toddler, so he gave young Charles to his cousin, Florence Tilton, to care for. Florence poured all her love into her young cousin, and Charles was well cared for during the next four years of his life.

When Charles was six years old, his father remarried, and Charles moved back home. Life was miserable in his father's household. Charles' stepmother disliked him and treated him with less cordiality than she treated the family dog. Charles wasn't allowed to sit at the dinner table with the rest of the family, so he sat on the basement steps and ate cold leftovers.

During his school years Charles was shuffled between homes and families. He lived with his own family at times, but because of his abusive home life, he also spent a lot of time living in foster care. During one of his stints in foster care, he lived with a family of flower farmers. There Charles developed his love for gardening and gladiolus.

Charles wasn't allowed to sit at the dinner table with the rest of the family, so he sat on the basement steps and ate cold leftovers.

I wish I knew more of Charles' story after he graduated, but the details are vague. I do know he was a history professor at JFK High in Guam during WWII, and later taught French in a college. He also married and fathered a daughter and two sons.

The last twenty years of his life are the ones I know best. Charles and his wife Ruth were family friends, and frequently came to visit. He was a flower grower then

and raised and delivered thousands of gladioli each year to local florists as well as his Amish friends. He taxied my aunt on her grocery runs and escorted my mom to and from the hospital when I was born.

I was five years old when Charles' first wife, Ruth, died in a vehicle/pedestrian accident. Almost two years later Charles married my grandma. We learned so much during the next fifteen years. Despite his rocky beginning, Grandpa chose to rise above the circumstances and stand on his own two feet. He embraced our way of life and our community with grace. He accepted our language even when he couldn't understand many of the church sermons. Someone once asked him how he could sit and listen to a three-hour message without understanding the language. His reply was priceless. "I don't need to understand the words to receive the message," he said. "I just sit there and feel the love." Grandpa was always amazed at the power of our community.

"I don't need to understand the words to receive the message," he said. "I just sit there and feel the love."

Grandpa's life was orderly, and he was set in his ways. He went to bed early and awoke at four every morning. By six o'clock he was working in the garden, and by nine, he was ready for a break. His afternoons were spent taking care of Grandma's quilt shop or sitting on the patio swing-where he and Grandma spent hours feeding mealworms to the birds.

Grandpa Charles took over the gardening, continued to raise his gladiolus on the family farm, and blessed hundreds of people with his beautiful bouquets. When he heard about my upcoming marriage, he handed me a catalog from Summerville Gladiolus and let me choose several new varieties for my wedding. My own love for flowers flourished right then and there; I was delighted. Of course, he expected me to help him plant the bulbs that summer, and I was eager to learn.

Eighteen years later, I still remember the beauty of that summer morning. I parked my bike beside the fence and shivered in the crisp, pre-dawn air. My breath puffed out in little white clouds, and I rubbed my hands to ward off the chill. The scratching of Grandpa's hoe greeted me as I walked to the garden, and I picked up my pace. "Good morning, Grandpa!"

"Good morning, dear," he glanced at his watch. "You're fifteen minutes late." His good-natured tone lessened the scolding. "Come help me cover this row."

I grinned. It was 6:15, and I had just biked three miles. I grabbed a hoe, and for the next three hours, we planted, watered, and covered row after row of gladiola bulbs. Grandpa shared his knowledge as we worked, and I absorbed all the wisdom I could get.

Before I was ready, he pulled out his watch. "Time to quit. It's 9:00 and the sun is hot. Come, let's sit for a while before you leave." I picked up the hoes and headed for the garden shed. Grandpa was a stickler with his tools. They all had to be cleaned and oiled after each use. That taken care of, I met Grandpa on the patio, where we shared company and cold drinks. He came out of the house with two tall mugs of Dr. Pepper, and not for the world would I have told him that I hate Dr. Pepper. I felt so special, and I sat there until not a drop of that soda was left. Then I hugged him, and with my heart in my throat, I thanked him for the quality time, the bits of wisdom, the wedding flowers that promised to grow, and most of all for his love.

Not for the world would I have told him that I hate Dr. Pepper.

That was my Grandpa. Tall, broad shouldered, and distinguished, he blessed our lives with his quiet presence. Unwanted and cast out from his own family, Charles could have become a bitter old man. But he didn't. He could have complained and begrudged his parents for their actions. But he didn't. Instead, he focused on community and family, and with God's help, proved to us that it is possible to rise above difficult circumstances.

He never understood why anyone would leave the Amish church for a less conservative lifestyle. "I know what's out there; you don't. There is nothing out there

continued on next page…

that is worth walking away from this community. Nothing." He shook his head. "Community, community, community—you don't know what you have, because you've always had it."

"Community, community, community—you don't know what you have, because you've always had it."

We called him Grandpa for fifteen years, and we weren't ready to say good-bye when God called him home. He was working in his garden one evening and bent to start the tiller, then the rope tore. He fell and broke his hip. During the next few weeks he suffered several massive strokes. Grandpa was ninety- three years old, and he was tired, but his death was still too soon for us.

While we prepared for his funeral, one of his former students scanned the Akron Beacon Journal online and found Grandpa's obituary. Charles Knowles, he mused. He was my favorite college professor! He purchased a plane ticket and flew out of Miami the next morning to attend the funeral. We had no idea who he was when he arrived, but that afternoon, he explained his connection. "I had no idea Mr. C.R. Knowles joined the Amish church, and I was in complete shock when I walked in here this morning. But I got a good picture of your culture today, and I understand why he wanted to be a part of it. I have never attended such a beautiful funeral before—from the sermon to the burial, everything was done with so much love."

The afternoon of the funeral, I set my purse on a cedar chest on Grandma's porch and turned to chat with some friends. The next thing I knew, my step-aunt, Sally, was at my elbow. "I'm going to set your purse on the attic stairs so no one steals it."

"Oh, Aunt Sally," I was startled. "We don't have to worry about that happening here."

"And you have no idea how blessed you are," she said. "In my world I would never, ever let go of my purse in a crowd like this."

Our community is special—the love, the caring, the commitment—it is something that is not found everywhere in the world. We live in peace among people of all walks of life and church denominations, and as members of the Amish community, we are allowed to embrace our way of life.

There is room to take our buggies and bikes on the road, even if it is inconvenient for motorists. We can gather to worship our Lord whenever we want to, and we are permitted to have our own schools. We are an accepted part of the community, and we dare not take it for granted.

The important thing is that we treat the rest of society with the same respect. It is crucial that we teach our children to uphold the laws of the community, that we teach them to love others as themselves. And most important of all is that we let our lights shine for the God we serve.

Community is about more than being Amish and Mennonite. It is about accepting imperfections, respecting each other's opinions, and serving together as one body in Christ Jesus. It is about kindness and helping each other when it is needed. It is about lifting each other in prayer. It is about love.

Community is about more than being Amish and Mennonite. It is about accepting imperfections, respecting each other's opinions, and serving together as one body in Christ Jesus. It is about kindness and helping each other when it is needed. It is about lifting each other in prayer. It is about love.

Our community is precious, and I wouldn't trade it to live anywhere else in the world.

–Sue Weaver

Adapting to Your Decisions

Wind Crest Farm is a third generation dairy farm, with its roots deeply embedded in the Troyer family, looking back four generations. My great-grandfather bought the adjoining farm to the north in the mid 1920s, with his family at the time consisting of one girl and a baby boy. His local community wished him the best, but with shaking heads and wagging tongues they fussed about his move "west," past the rest of the community.

A little over a decade later this teen-aged daughter (my grandmother), started dating a Troyer boy from about two miles east of their farm. They married in November of 1940, and bought the adjoining 50 acre farm from George Brown. Starting out with a small dairy, laying hens, and a custom threshing rig, the Troyer homestead started coming alive.

After great-grandfather died, the two farms were evenly split between the two children, with the Troyer farm gaining some additional acreage. The Miller farm faded out in the past three decades and sold quite a few lots off its acreage, as have many other family farms. The final punch came in recent years. It makes you wonder if the small family farms should be put on the endangered list!

It makes you wonder if the small family farms should be put on the endangered list!

Back to the Troyer homestead. I was born in the middle of 10 children, in the later part of the 20th century. We milked Guernseys by hand on a typical Amish farm of the ’80s and ’90s. We had 12-18 dairy cows, pigs, horses, lots of pets, and my favorite—chickens.

In the mid 1980s my sister, 1½ years younger, was in and out of the hospital with leukemia. In ’88 my youngest sister was born. She ended up in the hospital for awhile, joining her older sister who was having a second bout with leukemia. With two children in the hospital, bills piled up. Dad started a part-time job off the farm.

In the early ’90s the hard decision was made—Dad had to start working off the farm full-time. Cows started fading out at that time, with the last of the cows leaving in 1997. We had switched to heifers as the dairy cows faded out. I had a part-time job at local shops and did most of the farming. We switched to beef in the late ’90s and rented all our fields to neighbors.

I started working full-time off the farm in 1998, doing interior trim carpentry. Fast forward the next 12 years:

2000: had three knee surgeries, crutches for eight months.

2001: started dating; back doing trim carpentry.

2002: married, bought the farm, beef cows, equipment.

2003: bought interior trim carpentry business.

2004: spring, our oldest child Heidi Ann born.

2006: started manufacturing countertops in our shop, son Daryl born in the fall.

2008: son Keith born in spring, neighbor started renting all fields and barn, sold beef cows to him.

2009: more responsibility, neighbor moved to New York, I bought 40 yearling crossbred heifers, sold countertop business in spring, trim carpentry business in fall.

2013: our youngest son Carl was born.

In the summer of 2009, we had five senior farmers out for advice. Started remodeling our bank barn, building a swing 6 parlor underneath the southwest section of the barn, with hopes of being done by March of 2010, when the heifers were supposed to start freshening. We were definitely setting the stage for a “farmer’s nightmare.”

continued on next page…

The relentlessness of working on a parlor and milkhouse while still being involved with the trim carpentry created some special moments that winter.

The heifers started freshening with one side partly done in the parlor. We had quite a few heifers fresh by the time milk could be sent. Our milk went to Smith's (Chipotle) during those first years.

Cash flow was really low and we struggled financially those first years. I was under pressure—I had told my wife that I'd quit if in five years the farm didn't match the yearly net income of the trim carpentry business.

I was under pressure—I had told my wife that I'd quit if in five years the farm didn't match the yearly net income of the trim carpentry business.

I had gone into this farming adventure thinking low input, mostly grass dairy, three horses, some hay equipment, feed some grain and silage. Then 2012 came around, "The Year of the Drought." We were feeding purchased feed by December of that year. I was transitioning to organic at the time. It took us over a year and a good line of credit to recover.

We knew change was imminent! Looking back some of the most important changes were: dairy nutritionist and managing the farm with a business mindset. We have benefited a lot from having an independent dairy and forage consultant. Gaining 12# per cow with a balanced ration, it was rewarding to feed cows again and make more milk, without feeding more stored feed.

We started renting more acreage, focusing on growing more cover crops. With two consecutive years of corn and cover crops, we reseeded some permanent pasture.

We have been blessed with a wonderful, supportive farmer circle. Their encouragement and advice have helped us in numerous ways. The numbers we share at the end of the year is probably a huge part of the business mindset. DHI records is also something I watch quite a bit. Is the individual cow profitable this lactation? Did her SSC spike any month? What was the reason? Are there more negatives than positives? Does it cost me the same to feed that high producing cow as the average or low producing cow? How much more grazing tonnage will I get off that pasture, versus corn then cover crop, then a new seeding? With limited acreage, every acre has to produce.

Hired hands have also been a huge factor in the success of our farm. We have been blessed beyond words!

We averaged around 30-35 cows until 2021, with not having enough area on bedded pack for more. In the fall of 2020 we started pushing dirt for a 70x120 building. The barn was finished in the fall of 2021. Currently we milk around 45 cows, 80% fall freshening. We usually start freshening August 20, with most of the cows fresh within three weeks.

At one time we rented as much land as we owned. Currently we rent about 35 acres, with the farthest field being 1½ miles from the farm.

It's been 13 years of a learning experience, but with thankful hearts that God has blessed us with good health and a wonderful opportunity to be stewards of His creation.

God bless,
Ivan, Elnora, and family

Farmers: as you can see, they've made a lot of changes as they adjusted to the reality of dairy farming. So come and be encouraged and listen in on some of their struggles and triumphs. Some of the experiences he will expound on are:

- **Adaptive Grazing**
- **Extending your Grazing Season**
- **Community! Community! Community!**
- **Say No to Sorghum (Chopped or Baled)**
- **The Importance of a Hired Hand**
- **Five Years! Not Profitable (Quit Farming)**
- **$2000-$2500 Net Income per Cow**
- **From 3 Horses and Mostly Grass Dairy to Eight Mules and Row Crops**
- **Financial Support Groups**
- **Importance of Mentors**
- **The Year of the Big Hurt**
- **Straw/Fertilizer**

Answers to Kid's Corner (page 38):

1. Is my fodder in there?
2. Hamburglar.
3. Alabaaama.
4. A cow.
5. Lemon neighed.
6. A cow walking backwards.
7. It got ticks.
8. A boar.

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Zook, Ervin L. 740-454-2490
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aAa Breeding Guide (weeks Analysis) *Greg Palen*	6672 Taft Rd, Ovid, MI 48866	989-277-6031	29
ABS Global *Nate Fair*	5720 Township Road 264, Millersburg, OH 44654	330-466-3091	4
Ackerman's Equipment & Rental *Milan Wengerd*	PO Box 126, Mt. Hope, OH 44660	330-674-0495	16
Alpine Dairy LLC *Susan Schlauch*	US Rt 62 East (PO Box 209), Winesburg, OH 44690	330-359-6291	–
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Bridgeway Farm *Owen Schlabach*	1525 S Millborn Rd, Apple Creek , OH 44606	330-698-0527	–
Buckeye Poultry *Harlen Rissler*	400 Baseline Rd W, Shiloh, OH 44878	419-896-2468	14
Bunker Hill Cheese	6005 CR 77, Millersburg, OH 44654	330-893-2031	–
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COBA/Select Sires *Joanna Frankenberg*	1224 Alton Darby Creek Rd, Columbus, OH 43288	614-878-5333	30
Coburn Company, Inc. *Eric Baehler*	1170 Universal Dr, PO Box 147, Whitewater, WI 53190	262-473-0320	6
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CVS Suppy LLC *Daniel M Yoder*	2455 CR 200, Dundee , OH 44624	330-354-6260	8
D x L White Dorpers *David Miller*	3237 CR168, Millersburg, OH 44654	330-231-7694	50
DHI Cooperative Inc *Brian Winters*	PO Box 28168, Columbus, OH 43288	614-560-9689	73
Doughty Farm Service *Henry E Miller*	5805 CR 19, Millersburg, OH 44654	330-674-0130	–
E-M Equipment *Emanuel Yoder*	1964 TR 178, Baltic, OH 43804	330-897-6006	9
E-Z Trail Mfg *Mose or Eli*	9721 Saltcreek Rd, Fredericksburg, OH 44627	330-695-2315	22
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Farm Concepts *Andrew Coblentz*	4991 Township Road 419, Sugarcreek, OH 44681	330-407-9578	67
Farm Credit *Jon Norman*	1050 Dover Rd NE, Sugarcreek, OH 44681	330-466-0125	–
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Merit Seed *Danny Gingerich*	PO Box 205, Berlin, OH 44610	330-893-3196	77
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Small Town Farm *Myron Yoder*	6670S 500W, Topeka, IN 46571	260-593-2411 ext. 2	15
SmithFoods *Mary Barnum*	230 N Vine St, Orville, OH 44667	440-309-7821	8

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Walnut Hill Feed *Buck Henry*	buck.henry@whfeeds.com		–
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