



# Amazing Grazing

## Enhancing Management Opportunities for Kansas Graziers & Livestock Producers

a collaborative project of the Kansas Graziers Association and Kansas Farmers Union with funding from the North Central Risk Management Education Center & USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture

### ABOUT THE AMAZING GRAZING PROJECT

Amazing Grazing programming includes a conference, six workshops and two field days across the state. The project will tap both Kansas experts and nationally-known educators to assist producers in enhancing grazing management. More than 300 graziers are expected to participate in events covering diverse topics such as range and drought planning, low-stress livestock handling, improved soil health and forage development.

The grant is a collaboration between Kansas Farmers Union and the Kansas Graziers Association, a grassroots producer organization formed in 2000 to support Kansas ranchers with educational activities including workshops, tours and networking opportunities. "The beauty of this group is the way in which members share their experiences and wisdom with each other—the good, the bad, and the different," explains Mary Howell, KGA Board Secretary and KFU Member Specialist.

"We're extremely excited to organize and offer this high quality programming," states Howell, who will serve as Project Director. "The upcoming year of activities are open to anyone involved in the ranching and livestock industry and will be very worthwhile!"

"I'm really happy that Kansas Farmers Union can offer the livestock producers of Kansas availability to these great resources, especially as drought affects our management decisions more all the time," says Donn Teske, KFU President.

Amazing Grazing project collaborators include Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Kansas State Research and Extension, and Kansas Center for Sustainable Agriculture and Alternative Crops.

The North Central Risk Management Education Center, supported by USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, awards grants through a competitive application and review process.

### Livestock Water and Electric Fencing

Mark Green, NRCS-MO

September 10, 9:00 a.m. to mid-afternoon

Abilene Civic Center, 201 NW 2nd Street, Abilene

\$20

Mark Green, NRCS Specialist, from Missouri will return to Kansas for a workshop that is always in high demand. Water availability is the number one limiting factor in grazing possibilities. Fence is also extremely important. The use of electric fence offers many more options for managed grazing that in turn benefits the health of the soil and range, as well as improved production and profitability.

What makes Mark such an enjoyable speaker, is that he brings his many years of ranch experience to share with his audience. Mark also has two big wooden boxes of fencing and water equipment options with him. During the presentation Mark will go through his boxes and share the good, the bad, and the ugly of those parts and pieces of equipment. Producers always enjoy his cowboy humor and expertise as he tells it like it is! Nothing like having been there, done that to make one a good teacher! In the afternoon the group will go to the country for some actual fence building exercises. *Bring your lawn chair!*

#### Topics to be covered include:

#### Water Development for Serious Graziers

- Livestock water requirements
- Water Sources: wells, streams, springs & ponds
- Siting water for improved grazing distribution
- Permanent and portable tanks
- Above and below ground pipeline

#### Fencing for Serious Graziers

- Pros and cons of various electric fence construction materials
- Permanent & temporary fencing installation techniques

#### Demonstrations

- Fence building
- Floating corner post installation

### Short Grass Prairie Grazing Basics & Research

Keith Harmoney & John Jaeger

September 17, 9:00 a.m. to mid-afternoon

KSU Western Agricultural Research Center, 1232 240th Ave, Hays \$20

Keith Harmoney, KSU Western Agricultural Research Center-Hays, has extended the invitation to tour the station and learn from various research trials that have been conducted in the short grass prairie area of Western Kansas. Keith will team the education for this tour with John Jaeger, also of the center.

Registration will start at 8:30 a.m. with the workshop/tour starting at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the Auditorium at the center of the station.

#### Topics to be covered include:

- Perennial Cool-Season Grasses for Grazing in Western Kansas
- Stockpiled Native Rangeland for Winter Grazing
- Distillers Grains Supplementation for Late Season Stocker Production on Native Rangeland
- Precipitation Effects on Animal Production and Forage Yield from Native Rangelands
- Early Weaning of Calves as a Drought Management Strategy
- Results of the Early Weaned Calf Performance Studies
- Tour stockpiled forages & cattle at KSU Ag Research Center-Hays

## How Animal Selection and Grazing Management Improves Productivity, Profitability and Personal Satisfaction

Jim Gerrish

October 28–29: Salina, Ramada Inn - or - October 30–31: Pratt Community College \$80

Jim returns to Kansas to share his knowledge of managed grazing, animal production and performance, as well as planning the ranch to provide profit and satisfaction. His workshops are always well attended with producers leaving with a different way of looking at why they do things the way they do, and perhaps explore ways that make less work and more profit.

### Topics to be covered include:

- What really matters in grazing management
- How to build a better solar panel (for forage growth)
- The dollars and sense of grazing
- Using winter annuals and swath grazing to extend grazing
- Managing beef cow costs
- The cow's job description, defining the functional cow
- Why should the cow work for the ranch and not the other way around
- Cow size, feed efficiency & genetics: breed differences effecting health & performance
- Selecting for disposition
- Setting goals for the individual ranch operation
- To hay or not to hay: Why one should be out of the hay business.
- Mob grazing sericea lespedeza: Turning a "noxious weed" into \$\$

Take the opportunity to learn from the many years of research and experience that Jim brings to Kansas from serving as Director of the Forage Research Center, Linneus, Missouri as well as experience with livestock production and ranch management.

## Fall Forage Tour: Converting Sunlight, Soil and Water into Beef

Dale Strickler

Nov. 1 -or- Nov. 2 Courtland \$0

Every year Dale—a passionate agronomist that loves to teach people about soil, plants and the environment—has a test plot demo-ing a wide variety of forages used for grazing.

Dale's 2012 tour attracted 108 attendees, who were able to walk out across the test plot, among his herd and visualize the grazing results. Cattle know what tastes best and vote accordingly with their consumption. The results were stunning. Some forages were eaten to the ground while others were avoided until all other offered forage had been consumed. Dale will have another test plot this year and invites all producers to come take a look.

The tour will be offered on two days: Friday November 1st and Saturday November 2nd and will start at his farm 1 mile south of Courtland at 1:00 p.m. No cost to attend, but please RSVP!

Register *online* for Amazing Grazing events at: [kansasgraziers.blogspot.com](http://kansasgraziers.blogspot.com)

If you prefer to register by *mail*, please use the form below.

	event	# of attendees		total
Mail your registration slip and check to: KFU Amazing Grazing P.O. Box 1064 McPherson KS 67460	Livestock Water and Electric Fencing		x \$20	
	Short Grass Prairie Grazing Basics & Research		x \$20	
	<i>Gerrish: How Animal Selection and Grazing Management Improves Productivity, Profitability and Personal Satisfaction in SALINA</i>		x \$80	
	<i>Gerrish: How Animal Selection and Grazing Management Improves Productivity, Profitability and Personal Satisfaction in PRATT</i>		x \$80	
	Fall Forage Tour: Converting Sunlight, Soil & Water into Beef <b>NOV 1</b>		RSVP	\$0
	Fall Forage Tour: Converting Sunlight, Soil & Water into Beef <b>NOV 2</b>		RSVP	\$0
Please make your check payable to: Kansas Farmers Union				\$

Name:			
Mailing Address:			
City:	State:	Zip:	
Email:			
Phone:			
Names of Additional Attendees:			