
The Monthly Feedstuff - Resources for a potential drought + Schedule a grazing consultation

From Amos Johnson <amos.johnson@practicalfarmers.org>

Date Thu 4/10/2025 3:29 PM

To Anna Pesek <anna.pesek@practicalfarmers.org>



Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

March 2025



Are you preparing for a dry grazing season?

While planning PFI field days, I've talked with many farmers about what their land is looking like. So far, it seems like this is the mud season that wasn't. As temperatures rise, there isn't enough moisture around to make the ground squishy enough to note. According to the [**U.S. Drought Monitor**](#), most of Iowa is in a moderate drought, so the moisture from the early March storm was welcome for many.

Assuming that the dry trend continues, the University of Nebraska Extension published [an article](#) that recommends feeding out any surplus hay to give pastures as much growing time as possible and planning any annual forages that you may want to plant. They've also released [a guide for adding a drought or disaster clause to pasture leases](#) that may be useful as leases are renewed.

But as always, fingers crossed that all this worry is for naught – the weather will be perfect and exactly what we each individually need.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Receive support through a PFI grazing consultation



PFI's livestock viability manager, **Margaret Chamas**, is offering free grazing consultations for established or aspiring livestock farmers interested in taking their management to the next level.

Consults will vary depending on the situation. Participants can expect one to two phone calls of 30 minutes or more and possibly a site visit. Margaret will work with you to identify some goals and outcomes to achieve.

[Sign up for your consultation.](#)

Research: "Bale Grazing Effects on Soil and Pasture Plant Communities"



Bale grazing is a way of feeding livestock in the winter by providing hay to animals out on the land, instead of indoors.

Adam Ledvina bale-grazes goats on pasture and was curious to learn how animal traffic near the unspooled bales affected the soil and plant community.

Bale grazing offers advantages like introducing nutrients back to the pasture and potentially improving plant diversity by rolling out hay, allowing for reseeding. [See the full trial results.](#)

BEYOND THE GATE

Grow your skills with an online meat marketing course



As you gear up for spring and summer meat sales, take a look at this **free online course** from the Good Meat Project.

The Marketing Fundamentals Course for Good Meat® Producers supports farmers and ranchers who raise livestock for meat and sell meat directly to consumers, retailers or wholesalers. This series helps take the guesswork out of branding and marketing initiatives. **Enroll today.**

New targeted grazing guidebook available



The American Sheep Industry Association has released "Targeted Grazing 101: Starting & Sustaining a Grazing Service Enterprise."

It is designed as a "how-to" book of practical, applied skills gathered from interviews with more than three dozen experienced targeted grazers to help aspiring grazers understand what it takes to thrive in the industry.

[Learn more about this resource.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Webinar: "Watering Systems for Graziers"



Tuesday, April 1 | Noon-1 p.m. |
Online

Based on his popular session at the 2022 PFI Annual Conference, **Dave Schmidt** is reprising his talk for a new and broader audience.

Access to water can be a barrier to grazing – but installing watering systems can seem daunting. In this webinar, Dave will share his experiences with different types of watering systems. Learn what might work for your grazing system during this webinar. **Register today.**

Webinar: "Getting Going With Grazing"



Tuesday, April 8 | Noon-1 p.m. |
Online

It can be overwhelming to start rotationally grazing. **Olivia Pacha** has just reached the end of her "first full-blown year" rotationally grazing cattle, sheep and goats. She's also a participant in PFI's grazing cost-share and Savings Incentive Program.

In this webinar, Olivia will share what she's learned, from what to invest more in and buy less of, to navigating rental agreements and contract grazing. **Register today.**

Upcoming PFI events

All events listed in Central Time.

April 11: Shared Learning Call –
Preventing and Managing
Disease in Oats

Noon-1 p.m. | **Online**

Friends of PFI events

**March 19-20: Conference –
Midwest Grazing & Soil Health
Summit**

*Hosted by: Sustainable Farming
Association*

Willmar, MN

Say hi at the PFI booth

**March 24: Webinar – Selling
Lesser Known Cuts: Tips and
Techniques from Belmont
Butchery**

*Hosted by: Food Animal Concerns
Trust*

Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

**March 26: Workshop & Webinar
– Managing Your Green: The
Experiences of 38 Years of
Managed Grazing and My Hopes
for the Future**

Hosted by: Golden Sands RC&D
3 p.m. | Stevens Point, WI &

[Online](#)

**March 20: Webinar – Advanced
Brooding: Honing in on Your
Skills**

*Hosted by: Food Animal Concerns
Trust*

1-2 p.m. | [Online](#)

**March 24, 27, 31: Webinar –
Calculating Annual Cow Costs
Series**

Hosted by: UNL Extension

7:30-8 p.m. | [Online](#)

**April 5: Field Day – “Silvopasture
by Subtraction” On-Farm
Demonstration**

*Hosted by: Sustainable Farming
Association*

9 a.m.-Noon | Le Sueur, MN

[View our events calendar](#)

[Contact our team](#)

Margaret Chamas

Livestock Viability Manager

[margaret.chamas@practicalfarmers.
org](mailto:margaret.chamas@practicalfarmers.org)

Amos Johnson

Senior Livestock Education

Coordinator

[amos.johnson@practicalfarmers.o
r](mailto:amos.johnson@practicalfarmers.org)

[Donate today](#)

[Join Practical Farmers](#)



© 2023 Microsoft Dynamics. All rights reserved.

1615 Golden Aspen Dr Suite 101

[Unsubscribe](#)