



Green Lands Blue Waters



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Perennial Forage Group Awards Contracts

The Midwest Perennial Forage Working Group (MPFWG), a body of Green Lands Blue Waters (GLBW), announces the following awards of contracts for work that aligns with goals of increasing productive perennials in agricultural landscapes, integrating livestock into cropping systems, improving soil health and water quality, and fostering climate change resiliency in the Upper Mississippi River Basin.

Learn more about these organizations:

Midwest Perennial Forage Working Group
https://greenlandsbluewaters.net/Perennial_Forage/

Green Lands Blue Waters
<https://greenlandsbluewaters.org/>

1. Re-Establishing the “G-Team”

In collaboration with GrassWorks, Wisconsin DATCP, and NRCS, this project seeks to reestablish a series of quarterly meetings within the state of Wisconsin to provide an interagency professional development opportunity for agency staff and technical service providers involved in managed grazing. With large numbers of incoming staff at University Extension, NRCS, and DNR, there is an opportunity to promote managed grazing best practices to these new staff.

2. Student Pasture Establishment & Management

Three acres at the University of Minnesota’s West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris MN have been used as a student organic garden for the last five years, but weeds and grasses are permeating the area. Students at the University of Minnesota Morris want to restore the land with perennial pasture and prairie species with integration of livestock on the land. Dairy cattle (dry cows and dairy heifers) will be used to rotationally graze the area to restore the land. An un-grazed portion of the study will serve as a control treatment.

3. Educating Non-Operating Landowners on Benefits of Grazing

This project provides an opportunity for collaboration between Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI) and Land Stewardship Project (LSP.) Both organizations have identified a need for educating non-operating landowners (NOL) on the benefits of grazing. The resource will help NOL understand that well-managed grazing can improve the value and aesthetic of land while providing extra forage to livestock – a win-win for landowners and livestock owners.

Grazing educators in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin are invited to join the Midwest Perennial Forage Working Group for quarterly conference calls, emailed updates, and opportunities to join research and education projects. Stay connected in the grazing world! Contact Jane Jewett, jewet006@umn.edu