Pasture Walk Focuses on Efficiency

Pasture improvement and rotational grazing are key topics for many beef and dairy producers, but one of the big challenges is getting the most forage out of each acre. Scott Cherne uses intensive rotation, in-paddock water lines, legumes and haying to optimize each acre of pasture on his farm near Guttenberg. Cherne’s pasture will be the feature of a pasture walk on Wednesday, August 29, at 6:00 pm. This pasture walk is co-sponsored by ISU Extension & Outreach, the Iowa Beef Center, Southern Iowa Forage & Livestock Committee, and the Northeast Iowa Grazers.

Cherne has over 1 ½ miles of buried water line providing water access in all paddocks. He also has created his own water tanks from old anhydrous tanks. Cherne usually harvests an early hay crop from most of his pastures to contribute to winter feeds, and also to ensure adequate pasture growth in the peak summer grazing time. Frost seeded legumes also help increase forage growth by fixing nitrogen and reducing fertilizer needs. A light supper will be provided following the pasture walk, provided by the Clayton County Cattlemen and the Southern Iowa Forage & Livestock Committee.

The Cherne pasture is located at 33166 Kiln Rd, Guttenberg, IA. From Guttenberg, take Hwy 52 south to County Rd C7X (Garber Rd), turn right (west) about two miles, then turn left (south) on Osterdock Rd about 3 ½ miles to Kiln Rd. Continue west on Kiln Rd about 2 miles. From Colesburg, go north on Colesburg Rd about 2 miles, then turn right (east) onto Osterdock Rd about 6 miles. Turn left (west) onto Kiln Rd, about 2 miles.

Pasture walks are informal educational programs designed to demonstrate one or two key areas of pasture management, as well as answer any questions you might have. Each has a slightly different focus and producers are invited to attend any that are of interest to improving their own pasture management.

All producers who are dependent on forage production are invited to attend. If you have questions, or need detailed directions to the farm location, contact Denise Schwab at 319-472-4739.

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News Release
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August 22 Field Day on Crop Development and Drought Issues
NASHUA - ISU Extension specialists will discuss 2012 crop production and harvest issues on Wednesday, August 22 at the Annual Fall Field Day of the Northeast Iowa Ag Experimental Association (NEIAEA). The program runs from 1:00 to 4:30 pm and will feature five speakers. Ken Pecinovsky, ISU Research Farm Superintendent will review seasonal weather and crop development on the farm. Terry Basol, ISU Extension Agronomist will provide an update on the drought impacting corn and soybean production. Connie Hardy, Iowa Grain Quality Initiative, will discuss concerns with grain handling and storage of the drought affected crops. Erin Hodgson, ISU Extension Entomologist, will cover insect issues in 2012 and looking ahead to 2013 corn rootworm management. Richard Cruse, Tillage & Cropping Systems Specialist, will look ahead to field management this fall regarding crop residue and soil moisture issues. The field day is free and open to the public. It starts at the Borlaug Learning Center on the ISU Northeast Research Farm near Nashua. Directions: From Nashua at the Jct of Hwy 218 (Exit 220) and Co. Rd. B60, go west on B60 1.1 miles to Windfall Ave., then south 1 mile to 290th St., then east 0.2 miles to the farm. For more information about the event, call Brian Lang at 563-382-2949.

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News Release
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Automatic Milking System Tours Featured Locally August 15-16
Decorah - ISU Extension & Outreach Dairy Team have organized parlor tours this summer to give producers and agri-businesses who serve the dairy industry insight into how different parlor systems can be built to meet the operation's goals in herd management and their building/remodeling budget. This year will feature recent installations for low cost parlor systems and automatic milking systems. An Automatic Milking System Tour featuring a 3 box system installed in Dec. 2011, milking 150 cows will be held on August 15, 10:30–11:30 am, at Matt & Jolene Nierling's farm, 2479 Co Rd A14, Decorah. From 1:00-2:00 pm join Alan & Ruth Hageman, 1688 Co Rd W46, Decorah, to see the 2 robots installed in September 2011, milking 130 cows.

Automatic Milking System Tours will also be held on August 16, 1:00-2:00 pm, at the home of Scott & Nathan Adams, 30324 Unicorn Rd, Waucoma, featuring 2 robots installed in December 2011, milking 260 cows (half in robots, half in stanchion barn currently). That afternoon, from 2:30-3:30 pm, see 4 robots installed in February 2012, milking 248 cows at Kriener Dairy, 2865- 120th St, Fort Atkinson.

A full list of parlor tours can be found at: www.extension.iastate.edu/dairyteam
Each of these tours is open to the public, no pre-registration is required. Contact Jenn Bentley, 563-382-2949 or jbentley@iastate.edu.

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