

Conference Registration

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

_____ # people x \$30.00

_____ # additional people x \$20.00

Total Enclosed _____

List additional names this registration is for:

Return this form with check payable to:

LaGrange Co. S.W.C.D.

Attention: Dona Hunter

LaGrange Co. SWCD

910 S. Detroit St.

LaGrange, IN 46761

Send by January 29, 2010

If you need special dietary or disability accommodations, please indicate when registering.

PLAN ON VISITING WITH TRADE SHOW EXHIBITORS DURING THE DAY OF THE CONFERENCE

A complete list of exhibitors and sponsors with contact names, addresses and phone numbers will be provided with materials distributed at the Conference.

EXHIBITORS FOR 2010

AgriEnergy Resources
 Agri-King
 American Organic Seed
 B & H Buildings, Inc.
 Byron Seeds
 The CISCO Companies
 Corland Seed
 Crystal Creek, Inc.
 Dairyland Seed
 Dairy Marketing Services
 Esch Ag Supplies
 Farm & Garden Bookstore
 F.D. Miller Feed & Supply
 Foremost Farms, USA
 Furst-McNess
 Gallagher Power Fence
 God's Helping Hands
 Growers Mineral Solutions
 Hilltop Machine Shop
 Hillview Welding
 Howard Rotavator/Guy Machinery
 Indiana Irrigation Co.
 Indiana/Ohio Agri Service
 Indiana Professional Dairy Producers
 Indiana State Board of Animal Health
 Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health
 Jerry's Organic Supply
 Lord's Grain, Inc.
 (Continued on back panel)

EXHIBITORS FOR 2009 (Continued)

Martin Farm Supplies
 Midwestern Bio-Ag
 Milk Promotion Services of Indiana
 Miller's Ag
 Modreske Fence/Livestock Equipment
 Northern Indiana IBA, Inc.
 Nutritional Blending, Inc.
 Organic Valley
 Shipshe Farm Supply
 Stoney Creek Enterprises
 Sunrise Metal Shop
 Super Gro of Iowa
 Taurus Service, Inc.
 Topeka New Holland
 Truelove Brothers
 The Wright Place

SPONSORS FOR 2010

Dairy Farmers of America (D.F.A)
 Farm Credit Services
 Farmers State Bank
 Michigan Milk Producers
 Metzger Consulting Services, Inc.
 WBZ Feeds

Please be sure to thank all of the Exhibitors and Sponsors for this year's conference by visiting with them at the conference or by stopping by their business locations. Without their continued support, registration fees would have to be increased to cover the conference costs.



NORTHERN INDIANA GRAZING CONFERENCE

"Grazing Management—important to small family farms"

FEBRUARY 5, 2010



8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Registration begins at 7:00 a.m.

Evening Session 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

(By Donation)

Antique Auction Barn

Shipshevana, Indiana

Pre-registration deadline: January 29th

Pre-Registration Fee: \$30 per person with \$20 for each additional family member.

On-site/Late Registration: \$45 per person and \$35 for each additional member

Includes: Refreshments & Lunch

Northern Indiana Grazing Conference

Friday, February 5, 2010

7:00 a.m. - **Registration**—Rolls, juice, coffee, & milk.

8:00 a.m. - **Welcome & Introductions** - Melvin Helmuth, Planning Committee Chairman

8:15 – 9:45 a.m. - **Break Out Session** (Choose 1)

- **“Balanced Soil Fertility - How it affects Plants & Animals”**—Gary Zimmer, Spring Green, Wisconsin
- **“Utilizing Home-grown Grass Based Foods”**—Allen Sexton, Sheffield, Illinois

9:45 – 10:15 a.m.- **BREAK**

10:15 – 11:45 a.m. - **Farmer Panel, “Looking Forward—Looking Back”**

- David Borkholder, Nappanee, Indiana
- John Kuhns, LaGrange, Indiana
- John V. Yoder, LaGrange, Indiana
- Mike & Sue Martin, Wakarusa, Indiana

11:45 – 12:45 p.m. - **Lunch**

12:45—1:15 p.m. - **“Building the Community with Family and Local Foods”** - Gary Zimmer

1:15 – 2:00 p.m. - **Financial Panel Discussion— “Using Your Financial Figures to Your Benefit—**
Dave Forgey, Moderator; Panel—Perry Lehman, Isaac Ramer, Howard & Mary Jo Straub

2:00—2:30 p.m.- **Break**

2:30—3:15 p.m.- **Break Out Session** (Choose 1)

- **Dairy**—David Surprenant, Manteno, Illinois: **“Irrigation—Maximizing Your Grazing Potential”**
- **Beef**—Lee Hitzfield, Seven Sons Meat Company, Roanoke, Indiana: **“Grass Finishing Beef”**

3:15—4:00p.m. - **Multi-Species Grazing**

- Matt Wiley, Schoolcraft, Michigan—**Sheep**
- Vernon Hochstetler, LaGrange, Indiana —**Beef & Horses**

4:00 – 5:30 p.m. - **Supper (On Your Own)**

6:00 – 8:00 p.m. - **Evening Session—Direct Marketing on the Family Farm: Utilizing Personal Strengths**

- Lee Hitzfield Family—Seven Sons Meat Company, Roanoke, Indiana
- Allen Sexton, Sheffield, Illinois

Brief Biographies for Speakers at the Conference

David Borkholder— David & Vonda Borkholder of Nappanee milk 50 cross-bred cows on 100 tillable acres, with 45 acres in pasture and balance in corn silage and hay. David & Vonda took over the family farm in 2001 and started rotational grazing the same year with 30 cows. In 2003 they started crossbreeding with Jerseys. The herd grew to 50 cows by 2006. Besides milking, the Borkholders also produce maple syrup in the spring and raise deer. David & Vonda have 4 children, ages 12, 11, 8, and 6. They also have one dog and a few too many cats!

John Kuhns—My wife Susie and I, along with our 4 sons and 3 daughters, 2 of which are married, operate an organic dairy farm in LaGrange County. We started out on a 5 acre farmette and accumulated small parcels of land adjoining the 5 acres and now own a total of 84 acres and rent another 40. We milk about 50 Dutch Belted Cows seasonally, while preserving and maintaining some off farm enterprises along with the farm. We built our own parlor in our family operated steel fabricating shop and started milking cows in 1995. We have the whole farm in forages and the cows, heifers, and horses do almost all the harvesting by 12 hour grazing shifts.

Lee Hitzfield—Lee Hitzfield, Seven Sons Meat Company, Roanoke, Indiana, operate 1000 acres with 200 acres of row crops and 600 acres of hay and straw. He and his seven sons (2 married and 5 still at home) have a 100 head cow/calf herd and are grazing about 350 acres. Lee started farming in high school and switched completely to natural crops and product. They direct market beef, chicken, turkeys, pork, hay and straw. In 2000 they formed the Seven Sons Meat Company to market their products and right now are marketing ahead of their production.

Vernon Hochstetler— I am 41 years old and married to a sweet gal by the name of Joan for 21 years. I grew up on a farm as a youngster and we currently reside (have for 20 years) on a farm 3.5 miles south of LaGrange, IN. I grew up with hogs, dairy heifers, and Belgian horses. After being married, we continued with more of the same—hogs, heifers and horses, and started raising a few children every now and then as time would allow. Joan and I ended up with 5 altogether, ranging from 21 years all the way down to 3. Two of the children and I do work off the farm.. As for experiences, I have gotten the taste of grazing and I love it!! Currently, we run a Murray Grey beef cow/calf herd. Some of the beeves are sold for breeding stock, with the remainder being sold as feeders and/or finished here on our farm. I have also continued breeding Belgian horses. We own 2 different farms and raise quite a variety of forages.

Mike & Sue Martin— Mike and Sue Martin have 4 young adult children and live on a farm near Wakarusa, Indiana, that Mike’s grandfather had owned. Mike began dairying with a cousin about 1980 with Holsteins. They went out on their own in 1982. Mike and Sue began making the switch to grazing in 1991. Their herd is now primarily crosses of New Zealand Friesen and New Zealand Jersey. They raise their own heifers and clean-up bulls. They have out-wintered their cattle for years. Mike and Sue own 85 tillable acres where they have the milking herd and another 84 acres a couple miles away where they graze the yearling heifers. They also rent 54 acres from Sue’s mother. All the land is seeded to a grass and clover mix. This past summer they began doing some irrigating with a hard hose traveler on the home farm to boost the amount of grass grown. Mike enjoys growing grass and watching soils improve.

Allen Sexton—I grew up on a mixed farm in Ohio and attended Ohio State University, earning a bachelors degree in agriculture and a Dr. of Veterinary Medicine. I then moved to the Chicago area where eventually I had five small animal hospitals, but became disenchanted with conventional medicine when I realized that the more I treated the animals, the more their general health declined. I retired and sought better ways to treat illness that wasn’t detrimental or damaging to health. I studied homeopathy, herbal medicine, acupuncture and other modalities. In 1999, my wife Jeanne and I bought a 210 acre farm in western Illinois. We have five children and twelve grandchildren and raising quality food for the family was a high priority. We became certified organic in 2003. On the farm we raise 100% grass-fed beef, organic pastured pork, and organic pasture-raised broilers, laying hens and ducks, which we direct market to farmers markets, buyers clubs, a few restaurants and health-food stores and at the farm itself.

David Surprenant—Wife Susan and two sons, Brendan age 20 and Christopher, 14. Grazing since 1993 on the family farm consisting of 160 acres of permanent irrigated pastures. David milks 180 cows on a dual seasonal calving system. Grazing a total of 320 cows, heifers, and bulls. Total farm acreage is 415 with 75 rented. David occasionally writes in the *Graze* magazine. “I like to push the envelope and think outside the box!”

Matt Wiley—My wife Caroline and I rotationally pastured 800 ewes during the ‘80s and ‘90s. Pasture mix was 2 clovers and 3 grass varieties. The farm was divided into 56 3-5 acre paddocks. Sheep were moved daily with the aid of two Border Collies. Approximately 1,500 lambs were sold to utilize as food. At times throughout their years’ of grazing, Matt and Caroline have had either a partner or an apprentice working with them to learn about the sheep operation.

John V. Yoder—John and wife Leanna have three boys ages 12, 10, and 8, and two girls ages 13 and 1. They live on their organic home farm of 67 tillable out of 85 acres. John manages 40 Holstein and Holstein-Jersey dairy cattle but is changing over to entirely Friesian. His dairy business is totally grass-based organic and John’s cattle have been grazing his farm for about ten years.

Gary Zimmer—Gary Zimmer, Madison, Wisconsin, is a farmer, author, agri-businessman and educator dedicated to biological agriculture. The Zimmer family’s organic farming operation near Spring Green, WI utilizes the ideas Gary has gleaned over a lifetime spent studying agriculture. Otter Creek Organic Farm is a 150-cow organic dairy, also producing pasture raised hogs and beef cattle, vegetables and farm crops on over 1,200 acres. The farm operates on the principles of “Mineralized Balanced Agriculture;” do everything you can to get the soils healthy and mineralized; do everything you can to get the livestock healthy and comfortable. His focus remains on the soil as the source of nutrients: how healthy soils produce healthy plants for healthy livestock and healthy humans.