



WORKSHOP:

GRAZING & PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Tuesday, September 8 || 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. || Bedford, IA

HOSTS:

Paul and Nancy Ackley

3018 Maryland Ave.

Bedford, IA 50833

(712) 523-3362 – (home); (712) 621-1040 – (cell)

pnackley@unitedwb.coop

WORKSHOP DETAILS:

Join Paul Ackley for a special workshop on grazing and pasture management that will precede the “Integrating Cash Crops, Cover Crops and Livestock” field day Paul is hosting later in the day. Paul has invited Doug Peterson, Missouri’s state soil health conservationist, to lead the workshop, which is primarily intended for beginning or would-be graziers.

Space is limited to 20 participants for the workshop, so register now!

TO REGISTER: Contact Lauren Zastrow, (515) 232-5661 or lauren@practicalfarmers.org

COST: Free

FOOD: Lunch provided (for workshop participants only)

WORKSHOP AGENDA:

9 a.m. – Check-in and introductions. Bring your questions! Paul will adapt the program to address your biggest pasture management and livestock grazing questions.

9:30 a.m. – Workshop begins. Learn about:

- Why it’s important to leave at least 50 percent ground cover in pastures, and have a goal for 20-plus percent to be trampled by livestock
- The constant tension between what is best for the grass and what is best for the cattle
- Viewing spots in the pasture where cattle stayed too long, resulting in some pugging.
- Putting a polywire across a ditch that is 20 feet deep and 40 feet wide at the top but the banks are climbable. (The point? Most barriers are just in our minds.)
- Using the available pasture by restricting the area cattle have to graze – and learn how to handle fescue

- Eliminating hay, mass spraying, mowing and fertilizer.
- Where hair sheep fit in

11:30 a.m. – LUNCH – (for workshop participants only)

1-4 p.m. – Field Day: “Integrating Cash Crops, Cover Crops and Livestock” – **(Open to anyone!)**

FIELD DAY DETAILS:

Stick around after the workshop and learn about small grains production, cover crop mixes and grazing cover crops. Paul and Nancy raise corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle and hair sheep. They are also enthusiastic users of cover crops, and follow their wheat crop with a mix of species that their cattle eventually graze before rotating to corn.

See an up-close view of this mix – both above the ground and below! – with the help of a soil pit. Learn how the wheat + cover mix + grazing is a soil-builder that has also reduced phosphorous and potassium applications and herbicide use. End the day with snacks, refreshments and a chance to network with fellow attendees.

THE FARM:

Livestock on the Ackley farm includes a 90-animal cow-calf operation. Cows calve in May through July; calves are home-raised and heifers are retained for replacements. Currently, bull calves are also retained for herd sires. Cattle are rotated daily through about 380 acres of pasture during the grazing season. Cattle have been pesticide- and implant-free for the last four years. A small flock of hair sheep was added about four years ago.

DIRECTIONS:

Visit practicalfarmers.org

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