



For Immediate Release – December 11, 2013

Green is the New Gold – The Value of Keeping the Land in Grass

During the past 22 years “Managed Grazing” has gone from being a fringe practice promoted by a committed group of visionaries to a management system that is widely accepted and implemented as a way to reduce costs, build soil and water resources, keep animals healthy, and produce high quality food. This year’s 22nd annual GrassWorks Grazing Conference will be held January 16-18, 2014 at The Patriot Center in Wausau, WI. The event will highlight successful on-farm management practices that will inspire you to make small changes now in order to remain competitive in the future of grazing & agriculture.

“The Grazing conference provides Inspiration for all who attend! New people can learn from experienced, innovative and profitable graziers,” states Paul Daigle, recipient of the 2013 GrassWorks Grazing Advocate award. “Experienced Graziers have the opportunity to come and learn from the Best from all around the world. All of this is done in an atmosphere of learning and sharing with people excited about grazing based agriculture.”

Local graziers who have “been there, done that” will participate in a variety of breakout sessions that include marketing pasture dairy products, Farmland Preservation & AEAs, farm transfer strategies, dealing with stray voltage on your farm, pasture management for upland bird habitat, and so much more.

GrassWorks will welcome nationally known speakers Gabe Brown and Professor Emeritus Fred Provenza. Professor Fred Provenza will start out Friday with a keynote that illustrates how behavior – the diets and lifestyles creatures learn – links soil and plants with herbivores and human beings. Mr. Provenza will follow up this keynote with a session about understanding how animals behave on pasture & how to manage their differences. Gabe Brown will give presentations Friday and Saturday on the tools and techniques he has used on his ranch for the past 20 years to restore soil health and organic matter, such as cover crops, no-tilling and livestock integration.

The event features 30+ workshops, tradeshow, silent and live auctions, delicious locally raised foods, and numerous networking and community building opportunities for a full conference fee of \$150 for GrassWorks members. Not a GrassWorks member or need to renew? Simply fill out the membership form on our website, www.grassworks.org, or add the \$50 membership fee onto your conference registration.

GrassWorks is currently seeking food donors and volunteers. Scholarships are available on a limited basis for farmers in economic need.

Attention vendors – booth space is still available. The Patriot Center can accommodate machinery, so bring your bale-wrappers, 4-wheelers or pest management systems to display. Contact Heather Flashinski, Sponsorship coordinator, at 715-289-4896 or email grassheather@hotmail.com to book your spot.

For more info go to www.grassworks.org (to access full conference schedule and online registration) or contact Conference Planner, Lanice Szomi: 715-965-8324 or grazingrocks@gmail.com.

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