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Upcoming Events of Interest

The St Louis River Valley Livestock Association will be hosting their annual picnic on **Sunday, August 25** at 4 pm at the **Clinton Town Hall**. Please join us for an afternoon of fellowship and good food, and lots of stories. The meat and beverages will be covered by the organization. Please bring a dish to share.

Jon and Carin Stevens have embraced the aspects of soil health, cover crops, and pushes cooperators/ advisors to provide answers. They are also not afraid to try things themselves. Not only do they follow the key principals of soil health, they are also integrating livestock to generate revenue and diversity. It will be very exciting and educational. Look Jon Steven's up on UTube for numerous videos. The program is **Tuesday, September 10th** from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm. There is no cost to attend. Lunch is included. **Jon and Carin Stevens, Maple Grove Farm**; 10815 555th Street, Rush City, MN 55069



5TH FEEDER CALF ROUNDUP

Hosted by the U of M Beef Team and
Pat & Karen Brodeen
at the Brodeen farm
9015 E. Leander Rd, Cook

Come join us for the Fifth annual Fall Beef Workshop 10 am **Saturday, Sept 21** at the **Brodeen Farm at 9015 E Leander Road Cook MN**. This year's topics include: Calf Weaning Nutrition; Deer Fluke Management and Calfhod Health; Agronomics of Pasture Management and Economics of Grazing Season Extension. There will be good discussion and information and great food!

The University of MN North Central Research and Outreach Center in Grand Rapids will be hosting a Crops & Forage Field Day focusing on the research activities of Beef, Forage and Varietal Trials. The program will cover new innovative approaches to raising cattle and crops. Join us on **Thursday, September 26th** from 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Registration 8:30-9 a.m. Crops Research Facility, 31928 Harris Town Road, Grand Rapids. Free to attend! Register by Sept. 17. Call the Outreach Center at 218-327-4490 or online at <https://ncroc.cfans.umn.edu/>

A SMALL EASY STEP TO PROFITABILITY

Comments written by area farmer, Tony Zup

There is still time to improve profit on your farm today. But what it takes is what most farmers hate, it's measuring, and recording, and then using this information. To most farmers this is considered useless time spent, that could be better spent in the field or working in the shop, or just more time on physical work on the farm. Just working hard and spending a lot of money, doesn't mean success. A good thought out plan, and a way to measure your increases or decreases and record your movement, and then make any necessary changes; this will lead to higher profit on your farm.

Just applying fertilizer to your fields or applying greater amounts of fertilizer doesn't mean higher yields or better forage quality and more profit. Test and apply only what you need, not what you don't need.

Steps to take to improve profit. Test your soil, know what realistic yields and quality you can expect in your prospective area do to soil type, moisture, average temperatures, and time frame and equipment you have to cut, bale, and store what you produce. Just because you can cut 40 or 80 acres, doesn't mean you will be able to get it dry and baled before it rains or just because it's baled but still laying in the field in a low spot not good, or if you store it in a poorly drain area not good, or baled loose and subject to rain infiltration not good, or cut in a very late maturity stage not good. Storage of your hay is very important; keep what you work so hard to produce. Unprotected and poorly stored round bales can be very costly, on an average a 4' by 5' bale of hay poorly stored can have losses of 20% to 25%, so what this means if you baled and poorly stored 400 bales of hay, you are throwing 80 to 100 of those bales away. At \$30 per bale that's a \$2,400.00 to \$3,000.00 loss, at \$50 per bale that's a \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00 loss that's not pocket change.

On a 4' x 5' bale 1" thick around is a 7% loss, 2" thick around is a 13% loss, 3" thick around is a 19% loss, 4" thick around is a 25% loss.

We all make good and poor hay, test your rolls of stored hay, to know what roll you should be using to feed what class of cattle, be it dry cows, lactating cows, replacement heifers, back grounding calves, feeders, or bulls. This will make you more profitable. You are free to choose, but you are not free from the consequence of your choice.

The St. Louis Valley Livestock Association has the following for its members to borrow and return: 1 Soil Sampler; 1 Hay/Forage Sampler; 1 Cattle Handling Video; 1 Cattle Marketing Video; and 1 Cattle Load Out Chute. Contact Dale Steel @ (218) 290-9702 for use and availability. You can also contact Dale for use of fertilizer spreaders if you buy your fertilizer from Aitkin Feed.

We also have information on testing your soil and hay / forage, and envelopes to send your samples in with free shipping; you will have to pay for the testing being done. For this and help analyzing samples contact Eric Mousel @ (218) 513 – 0781, Troy Salzer @ (218) 591 – 0478, or Tony Zup @ (218) 744 – 5005.

NORTHEAST FORAGE AND GRASSLAND COUNCIL FIELD DAY



9R RANCH
15496 COUNTY ROAD 575
GOODLAND, MN 55742

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2019 - 9:30AM—3:30PM

Please join the Northeast Forage and Grassland Council for a field day and tour at 9R Ranch, owned and operated by David & Robbie and Neil & Bobbie Radaich. The Radaich family operates a large and successful beef cow/calf operation with many innovative and interesting ideas to showcase and we are excited to be able to tour their farm. You will also have the opportunity to view machinery on site and visit with local equipment dealers.

Field Day Schedule

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| 9:30-10:00 | Registration |
| 10:00 | Welcome and Introductions |
| 10:15-11:00 | Tour and Discussion of Sheep Pastures, Predator Fencing, Cattle Handling Facilities, Heavy Use Areas Surfacing Materials, and Marketing Advantages of a 300 Cow Herd. |
| 11:00-12:00 | View Winter Solar Watering System and Haylage and Silage Storage and Feeding Systems |
| 12:00-1:00 | Lunch and Ag Equipment Viewing |
| 1:00-3:00 | Tour of Farm Including Gas Fired Water System, Pasture Development and Renovation, and Incorporation of Honey Production into a Pasture Based Operation |

The cost to attend the event is only \$5 if you pre-register by September 8th. Registration after September 8th is \$15. Lunch is included. Please RSVP to the Virginia Extension Office at 218-749-7120.

Sponsored By: *Bobcat of Duluth—Carlton County SWCD—Famo Feeds—Farmers Union Hayday Quality Forages—Itasca Farm Service—Northern Star Cooperative—Shaeffer's Lube Widdes Feed—Compeer Financial—Arrowhead Farm Bureau—Lulich Implement Midwest Machinery—Munson Lakes Nutrition—Timmer Implement*

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Silvopasture Workshop/Camp

September 16-17, 2019

Workshop Goal: At this workshop, you will be able to learn the basics of silvopasture establishment and operations, and learn how you can make use of silvopasture as part of your rotational grazing plan, how it can be used to improve and enhance production of your wooded pasture or your marginal crop/pasture land while achieving environmental integrity!

About the Workshop: The workshop will begin Monday afternoon (4 PM), September 16th, with presentations of two silvopasture case studies where we will apply the principles and concepts of silvopasture. Part of the afternoon will also involve networking and a panel discussion composed of practitioners and natural resource professionals to share their experience on silvopasture.



The workshop will continue on Tuesday morning, September 17th, with indoor presentations on silvopasture design, establishment, and management. Tuesday afternoon will feature a tour of two silvopasture case study sites where we will apply those principles.

Chengwatana Farm, operated by Lynn Mizner, is a small, diversified operation based on pasture and forestland. Livestock is rotated around a series of paddocks to enhance the fertility of the soil as well as enhance the health of livestock. Vegetable and fruit production enhance the system and are grown using permaculture, alley cropping between perennial woody borders, and some annual planting for market garden production. Operating on 113 acres of mostly low ground, Willow Sedge Farm's Jane Jewett raises pigs, chickens, vegetables, and cover crops rotated among pens near the house. The remainder of the farm, except for a couple of wooded areas and one very swampy area, is fenced for rotational grazing of beef cattle.



Key Topics:

- Silvopasture Establishment, Design, and Management
- Key considerations of converting existing wooded pastures to silvopasture
- Key considerations of converting marginal pasture to silvopasture
- Silvopastoral examples
- Case Study Exercises

Workshop Location:

Long Lake Conservation Center
28952 438th Ln, Palisade, MN 56469

Registration Cost: \$45, which will cover dinner, breakfast, lunch, and use of the facility. Participants can stay (optional) at the workshop venue at an additional cost. See registration for details. Register at <https://www.regonline.com/SilvopasturePalisade>.

For more information about the workshop contact: Diomy Zamora (612-626-9272; zamor015@umn.edu), or Allison Rian (allisonjrian@gmail.com; 218-831-8890).

Sponsors: UMN-Extension, Happy Dancing Turtle, Sustainable Farming Association, USDA-NRCS, Aitkin SWCD.

