

POLK COUNTY GRAZIER

March 15th, 2022



*An eNewsletter by the Rich Mountain
Conservation District*

We recently attended the 2022 Arkansas Grazing Conference sponsored by the Arkansas Grazing Lands Coalition (argrazinglandscoalition.org) and heard several excellent speakers discuss grazing management. Dr. Matt Poore from North Carolina State University presented on the benefits on smaller pastures and more frequent rotations and provided an excellent publication called "The Power of One Wire". Excerpts of this publication are below and attached.

"The Power of One Wire"

Source: North Carolina State University – NC State Extension Service (2019)

By: Johnny Rogers and Matt Poore

The tools to improve productivity that farmers and ranchers have at their disposal are quite astonishing. Computers that allow us to analyze our operations, equipment used to plant/harvest crops to produce feed, and the genetic predictions used to select better livestock are just a few examples of tools that have changed livestock production. As managers we must determine which tools to incorporate into our farms and some will prove to be useful while others will be discarded.

In grassland agriculture it is difficult to ignore the value of temporary electric fence. Reels, poly-wire and tread-in posts coupled with a good energizer allow graziers to more actively manage their pastures. However, like with most technology getting started can be a challenge. Even the most advanced graziers started with a single strand (or 2-3 strands for small ruminants) subdividing a permanent pasture at the water source, and all additional improvements in your grazing management journey depend on "the power of one wire".

So, what benefits does adaptive grazing management using smaller paddocks and more frequent movement have on the system? We know that when we only graze for a few days and then rest the grass for a long period the grass stand is healthier and will produce more total forage. Furthermore, this approach alters the grazing behavior of the livestock making them less selective and improve the amount of grass consumed rather than wasted. These and other benefits are well documented, and it is all because of the effective use of temporary electric fence. However, many producers do not fully realize the numerous advantages of using this technology.

So, what are some of the benefits you can expect if you adopt temporary fencing? First, using temporary electric fence gives you the opportunity to observe your livestock as they move to new grass. Cattle producers can use this time to check body condition, udder, feet and leg soundness and fly populations. What about that cow that is moving slowly? You can clearly observe how she walks and determine if she needs treatment for foot rot or needs to be added to the cull list due to age or some other unsoundness. Furthermore, moving cattle more frequently will improve

their disposition and make them easier to handle. Just moving them one to two times weekly can make a big impact as they will learn you most often are there to give them better grass, and they become accustomed to being near you and walking by you without being afraid.

As cattle become familiar with this new management style they are also learning to respect poly-wire and it becomes a powerful psychological barrier. They are content to graze their forage allowance knowing you will return to give them new grass soon. The respect for temporary electric fence also allows it to be used to construct short-term lanes for cattle movement. On many occasions producers must move cattle across pastures without grazing them and a poly-wire lane will keep the cattle going the right direction.

Cattle that are well trained can also be pressured and moved by the use of poly-wire. If you are alone and need to get up a group or an individual animal, you can hook the end of the poly-wire to the gate, and use the poly-wire to direct cattle where you want them to go. You can literally "reel them in"! If you have help, two people holding a long section of poly-wire between them can easily move cattle where you want them to go. This can be helpful when moving cattle from large pastures into lanes or holding pens. In some cases with larger herds, three or more people can spread out and carry the same poly-wire to gently apply pressure to move cattle in the desired direction like a moving fence. It is truly amazing to watch the cattle avoid the poly-wire and flinch when it touches them even though it has no power on it!

In addition, this technique can be used to sort off cattle without gathering the whole herd. Imagine sorting off a group of late calving bred cows from a herd of cow-calf pairs. Moving the entire herd through the corral could risk calf injury. With cows that respect poly-wire and low stress handling you can move them to a different pasture for closer observation while the pairs remain relaxed. Furthermore, those later born calves could have significant scour risk if they stay with the older calves. Also, if you have a cow with pinkeye or foot rot, you can use the poly-wire herding technique to cut them out and get them to the pen without having to

gather the whole herd. These are more examples of how “the power of one wire” can impact Beef Quality Assurance.

Temporary electric fence can also be used to exclude cattle from heavily impacted areas that need rest or protection. Many pastures have limited shade to aid in cattle comfort during the summer’s heat. Even in very large wooded areas cattle will find a preferred location and use it repeatedly. They may continue to use these sites during the winter. These areas will become degraded with excess nutrients, excessive mud, soil compaction/erosion and over time the trees may die. Some progressive graziers use temporary electric fence to subdivide their wooded tracts to prevent this occurrence by rotating/resting their shade. The fence is easy to construct and relocate as management opportunities change. A ruptured waterline or an overturned water tank can cause quite a mess and cattle would love use this area to cool themselves. A section of poly-wire can offer protection while this area stabilizes.

Frequently, severe thunderstorms, tornados or tropical storm systems can knock down trees and damage perimeter fences, requiring a quick response from the farmer when they may have much larger problems to deal with. If your animals are trained to temporary electric fence, you can use those supplies to quickly reestablish the perimeter until permanent repairs can be made. We certainly use a variety of tools in livestock production. Some are very complex while others are quite simple. On the quest for continual improvement we must adopt technologies (tools) that move us forward. On our home farms it is difficult for us to imagine raising livestock without temporary electric fence. It is a tool that delivered a “breakthrough moment” and fundamentally changed our program. But it all started with “one wire” dividing a pasture in half and that’s why it is called “The Power of One Wire”. However, like all technology there is a learning curve and points of frustration. Don’t give up! Stay the course and learn how to use this valuable tool. It changed everything we do and made our farms more productive and pleasurable. Are you ready to give it a try and take the “One Wire Challenge”?



Advanced grazing management often begins with subdividing a permanent pasture using a single wire temporary electric fence. Grazing for only a few days followed by a long rest period provides for a healthier grass stand and more total forage.

***"Take Care of the Land and the
Land will Take Care of You"***

LOOK -----> Poultry Growers: Please register your farm by March 31st each year at the local conservation district office.

Upcoming Grazing Meetings and Seminars:

⇒ **TODAY!** March 15, 2022 – Grazing Management for Soil Health (1PM—online seminar)

You are invited to attend the weekly grazing training sessions by Jeremy Huff, the USDA/NRCS state grazing specialist. He offers these training sessions as a Zoom meeting and the instructions for logging in are

included in attached flyer. If you have the Zoom app on your phone you can just scan the QR code on the flyer. If you want to watch the presentation on your computer there is a link included in the attachment. The sessions are normally every Tuesday at 1pm so **see the flyer below.**

⇒ **March 17-April 7, 2022 – Forage Management from the Ground Up Training (times and location to be announced)** Please call Polk County Extension (479)394-6018 to register or for more information. This training is four sessions. Cost is \$10/session or \$30 for all four. A flyer is below.

⇒ **March 28-April 28, 2022 – Annie’s Project -Empowering Women in Agriculture**
This 6-session course is a discussion—based workshop bringing women together to learn from experts in production, financial management, human resources, marketing, and legal field. Cost \$50/person. Deadline to register & pay March 15, 2022. Program to be

held at 211 De Queen St. , Mena, AR 71953.
For more information contact the Polk County
Extension Office at 479-394-6018 or by email
at sbeaty@uada.edu See flyer below.

⇒ **May 20-21, 2022 – 2022 Beef Stockman & Stewardship**

Topics include: cattle handling and care, nutrition, environmental stewardship, herd health. To be held at the Wickes Community Center 9:30am-2:30pm with a meal provided. For more information contact the Polk County Extension Office at 479-394-6018 or by email at sbeaty@uada.edu See flyer below.

⇒ **The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)** is a national organization started in 1976 to provide sustainable agriculture technology information to small farmers. Their events page includes many online and in-person agriculture training events from around the country:
www.ncat.org/events/. Here is also a link to their very popular sustainable agriculture

training program for military veterans:
www.armedtofarm.org.

Rich Mountain Conservation District

Email: richmountainconservation@gmail.com

Web: www.rmcd.org

Phone: (479)437-6054

Mail: 508 7th Street, Mena, AR 71953

Take a picture with your cell phone to visit the RMCD website —>



DID YOU KNOW?

Archived copies of the "POLK COUNTY GRAZIER" are now available on the Rich Mtn. Conservation District website at:

[Publications - Rich Mountain Conservation District \(rmcd.org\)](http://rmcd.org)

Sent on behalf of the Rich Mtn Conservation District.

Thanks for your interest in grazing management and conservation,

Steve Swall

District Conservationist

USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service

Mena Service Center (Polk & Montgomery Counties)

(479)437-6054

Please reply to unsubscribe if you do not wish to receive this newsletter.

“The Power of One Wire”

Johnny Rogers and Matt Poore

The tools to improve productivity that farmers and ranchers have at their disposal are quite astonishing. Computers that allow us to analyze our operations, equipment used to plant/harvest crops to produce feed, and the genetic predictions used to select better livestock are just a few examples of tools that have changed livestock production. As managers we must determine which tools to incorporate into our farms and some will prove to be useful while others will be discarded.

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As cattle become familiar with this new management style they are also learning to respect poly-wire and it becomes a powerful psychological barrier. They are content to graze their forage allowance knowing you will return to give them new grass soon. The respect for temporary electric fence also allows it to be used to construct short-term lanes for cattle movement. On many occasions producers must move cattle across pastures without grazing them and a poly-wire lane will keep the cattle going the right direction.

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Note: The concepts discussed in this article will work for all types of grazing livestock but beef cattle were used in the examples to simplify the discussion.

The Tuesday Pasture Talk

Learn about Pasture
Topics with us



Anyone is
welcome to join



March 1, 2022 1:00pm CST	March 8, 2022 1:00pm CST	March 15, 2022 1:00pm CST	March 22, 2022 1:00pm CST
Pasture Practices for Managing Barber Pole Worms in Sheep	Barriers to Adopt Grazing Management – An Outside Perspective	Grazing Management for Soil Health	Interactive Conservation Planning Pasture Exercise
Presenter: Matthew Bean, AR NRCS NE Area Grassland Specialist	Presenter: Jeremy Huff, AR NRCS State Grazing Lands Specialist	Presenter: Stan Boltz, NRCS Regional Soil Health Specialist	Presenter: Jeremy Huff, AR NRCS State Grazing Lands Specialist

Expect to Learn:



How to mitigate parasite infestations in sheep through pasture management.



What others are saying on why grazing management isn't used.



Differences in soil health results on land with managed grazing, continuous grazing, and hay fields.



Hear a producer's objectives, determine resource concerns on the site, and discuss alternatives to address resource concerns.

Join by these Methods:

Direct Link:

[Click Here
to Join](#)

Phone:



Website:

Zoom
Meeting ID: 844
4457 0328
Passcode: 592560

Questions or
Comments:

jeremy.huff@usda.gov
or (501) 413-0527



DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH & EXTENSION
University of Arkansas System



MARCH 17 & 29
APRIL 5 & 7
COST
\$10/SESSION OR
\$30 FOR 4
STARTS AT 6 PM
MEAL PROVIDED

2022

FORAGE SHORTCOURSE

March Sessions @ Wickes
Community Center

April Sessions @
Extension Education Bldg

REGISTRATION:
(479)394-6018

Topics will include

**March 17- Weed ID, Poisonous
Weeds, & Weed Control**

**March 29- Soils- Soil type,
Nutrients, Soil Testing, Water
Quality**

April 5-Extending Grazing

**April 7-Forage ID, Forage Quality,
& Pasture Inventory**

The University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture is an equal opportunity/equal access/affirmative action institution. If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate or need materials in another format, please contact your (insert appropriate office) as soon as possible. Dial 711 for Arkansas Relay.

March 28– Human Resource Risk

- * True Color Communication Style
- * Understanding Risk Assessment
- * What is Management

April 4– Legal Risk

- * Land ownership /Leasing
- * How property is titled
- * Agriculture tax issues

April 11– Legal & Financial Risk

- * Estate planning
- * Untitled property
- * Balance Sheets

April 18-Production & Financial Risk

- * Farm Programs
- * Women & Money
- * Financial Documents

April 25– Market Risk

- * Understanding & Using Commodity Markets
- * Cattle Marketing

April 28– Ladies Choice

- * Topic of class choice
- * Wrap-up
- * Graduation



ANNIE'S PROJECT

EMPOWERING WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Our mission: To empower women in agriculture to be successful through education, networks, and resources.

This 6-session course is a discussion—based workshop bringing women together to learn from experts in production, financial management, human resources, marketing, and legal field. Cost \$50/person

Deadline to register & pay March 15, 2022

Program to be held at 211 De Queen St. , Mena, AR 71953

For more information contact the Polk County Extension Office at 479-394-6018 or by email at sbeaty@uada.edu

Sponsored by:



A meal will be served each night starting at 5:45p.m.

Program will be from 6-9 p.m.



The Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, sex, gender, identity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, disability, marital or veteran status, genetic information, or any other legally protected status, and is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.



MAY 20TH OR 21ST

**CLASSROOM &
OUTDOOR
ACTIVITIES**

MEAL PROVIDED

2022

BEEF STOCKMAN & STEWARDSHIP

**Wickes Community
Center 9:30a- 2:30p
Limit 25 people/day
Register by May 11th**

REGISTRATION:

(479)394-6018

Topics will include

**Cattle Handling & Care
Biosecurity
Herd Health
Transportation
Nutrition**

Environmental Stewardship

**Worker Safety
Emergency Action Plan**

**You will be BQA Certified at
completion**