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Eastern Kansas Grazing School

Any successful livestock producer that relies on grazed forages knows that grazing that forage crop is more difficult than it looks! In fact, most successful graziers would contend that their management has to be part art and part science. In other words, it doesn't always work like the book says it should work!!

Understanding how the science of forage production fits with the art of making it efficient and economical is the base of the Eastern Kansas Grazing School which makes its way to northeast Kansas on September 13-14 at the NEK Heritage Complex south of Holton. Day one will kick off with a discussion about the balance between art and science and give participants an overview of grass growth and development before putting that information to work using a real world pasture allocation exercise. After the cattle are turned out for the start of their 24 hour grazing period, we'll discuss weed and brush control (Walt Fick, KSU Range Management Specialist), the economics of varying grazing systems (Wesley Tucker, University of Missouri Extension Ag Economist) and touch on animal behavior (Jody Holthaus, Meadowlark Extension District Agent, Livestock and Natural Resources), stocking rates, and a number of other topics that help producers build a base for a new grazing system – or improvement of an existing one.

Missouri NRCS District Conservationist Mark Green will give presentations on his extensive experiences on two topics of particular interest to graziers: fencing and watering systems. Mark's knowledge of these two topics will be a great asset to producers trying to enhance their grazing system. Kansas NRCS Range Conservationists Dustin Schwandt and Doug Spencer will lead presentations on resource inventory, stocking rates, and forages to fill the gap to give producers a baseline for doing a thorough inventory of the forage crops they have available – and how to use them! We'll put this information to work during the school using a hands on demonstrations and in the field discussions. Day two will include a return visit to the pasture allocation exercise to see if what we knew on day one was enough to help us allocate our forage effectively! We'll discuss potential layout and design options and wrap up the two-day program with a brief exercise to get you thinking about where to go next!

The EKS Grazing School is limited to a maximum of 35 farms on a first registered basis. Registration is \$60 for the first person from a farm (includes lunches, snacks, and handouts). Additional registrants from the same farm are \$30 (includes lunches/snacks). Make registration payable to: Meadowlark Extension District, Holton Office, 114 W. 5th St., Holton, KS 66436 (registration forms are available online at: <http://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/livestock-natresource/eastern-kansas-grazing-school.html> or by contacting a Meadowlark Extension District Office. Please send questions to Jody Holthaus at jholthau@ksu.edu or 785-364-4125.