

Managed Grazing and CSP for Farm Biodiversity



Phil and Mary will talk about their on-farm research that examines rotational grazing practices for Bobolink nesting success, including pasture management, pasture productivity and diversity, and soil health. They will discuss how they enrolled in Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) activities that promote livestock grazing for nesting grassland birds and allow planting of native warm-season grasses and prairie forbs in cool-season pastures and along farm borders.

THURSDAY, JUNE 22 • 2 – 5 p.m.

After the program, stay for a potluck and bonfire to celebrate the summer solstice. Meat will be provided; please bring a side dish to share.

Following the bonfire, you are welcome to camp overnight to maximize birdwatching opportunities. Campsites will be primitive. Please indicate if you plan to stay overnight when you RSVP.

HOSTS:

Phil Specht and Mary Damm • Prairie Quest Farm
12082 Iris Ave. • McGregor • 52157

PHIL: (563) 873-2498 • demfarmer@alpinecom.net

MARY: (563) 536-1170 • marydamm@gmail.com
prairiequest.farm

SPEAKERS:

- **Paul Skrade** – Department of Biology, Upper Iowa University
- **Helen Leavenworth** – Clayton County Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

THE FARM:

Phil Specht operates a grass-based dairy in the hills of Clayton County, using rotational grazing to produce high-quality pasture and build the soil. Mary Damm owns the farm of Phil's late brother, Dan, where Dan raised grass-finished beef cattle for many years. Since Dan's death in 2013, Phil and Mary have continued Dan's legacy of caring for the working landscape – producing beef and milk while protecting and



RSVP FOR MEAL AND CAMPING TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Monday, June 19.**



improving the environment, especially for Bobolinks and other grassland birds.

DIRECTIONS:

From Monona: Drive east out of town on County Road B45 / Pleasant Ridge Rd for 6 miles. Turn south (right) on Iris Ave and go 1 mile. The farm will be the first on the left (east) side of the road.

From Marquette: Drive west through Marquette on IA Hwy 18 and turn north on Co Rd B45 / Pleasant Ridge Road for 5 miles. Turn south (left) on Iris Ave and go 1 mile. The farm will be the first on the left (east) side of the road.

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