

Picture-Perfect Pastures

In 2020, the Land Stewardship Project hosted a Summer Grazing Photo Contest celebrating the environmental stewardship of managed rotational grazing. Photos were submitted by youth — ages 13-18 — and adults from various grazing operations near and far. We want to send a big *thank you* to everyone who shared their best grazing snapshots of the season. And most importantly, we want to thank them for regenerating our landscapes and nourishing us with the practice of managed rotational grazing. The following pages include the winners, as well as the other entries. ☐



Grand Prize Winner — Youth
Evening Graze
By Jessica Crowley, Enchanted Meadows Farm, La Crescent, Minn.
“The cows grazing in a paddock after evening milking.”



Grand Prize Winner — General
Evening Paddock Shift
By Hannah Bernhardt, Medicine Creek Farm, Finlayson, Minn.
“Farm intern, James, opening the electronet fence to move our flock of 80 sheep and five accompanying livestock guardian dogs to a new paddock on a summer evening.”



2nd Place — General
Early Morning Graze
By Beth Voss, Paynesville, Minn.
“This is a group of Holstein heifers that are custom grazing on our farm. On July 4, we were hauling them to a new field and this was when a group of them has arrived.”



2nd Place — Youth
Smiling Lamb
By Felicity Johnson, Gibbon, Minn.
“This lamb looks like it’s smiling and slightly sticking out its tongue at the camera.”

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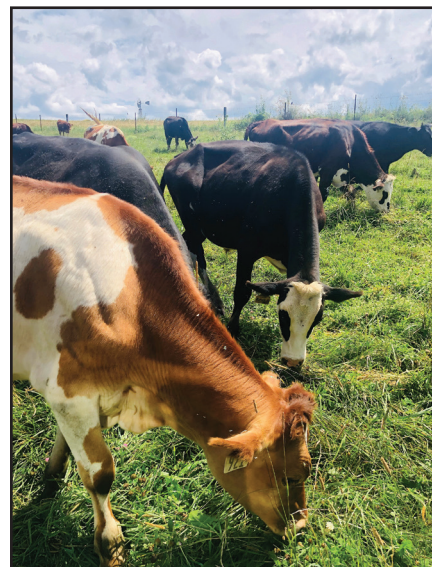


3rd Place — General

Evening Glow Graze

By Haley Nelson, Waupaca, Wis.

“Gorgeous Wisconsin summer sunset glow creates a serene scene. I was able to catch this moment of our daughter’s Targhee sheep peacefully grazing on pasture.”

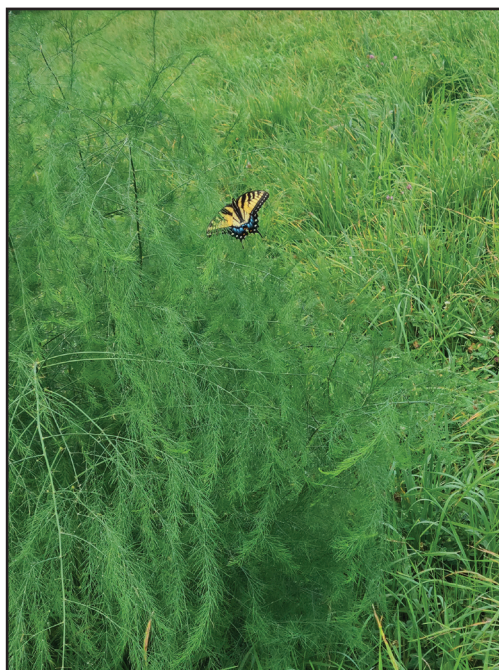


3rd Place — Youth

Sunny Summer Grazing

By Sawyer Mierau, Caledonia, Minn.

“I help with the cattle almost daily, opening and shutting gates, putting mineral out, salt blocks, checking herd health, as well as driving some equipment for making hay for the cattle. I like this photo because it’s colorful, sunny, and you can see the windmill in the far background.”



Wild Asparagus Visitor

By Melissa Crowley,
La Crescent, Minn.

“Spotted this beauty resting on a wild asparagus plant growing in our cattle pastures.”

Cows in the Fog

By Vickie Smith, Lewiston, Minn.

“Certified organic farm.”



We’re Here

By Isaac Voss,
Paynesville, Minn.

“Just moved the cows to a new pasture. Fresh grass and they are very happy. We walked them across the highway.”

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Where Nature and Agriculture Collide
By Jared Luhman, Goodhue, Minn.

“When moving cattle to a new paddock, I came across this sight, which I found humorous and also neat. To see nature and livestock in the same place is exciting. While this specific sight is rare, to find nature in the form of insects, frogs, rabbits, deer, and countless other forms of wildlife sharing habitat with our livestock is common!”



First Day
By Chris Gunderson, Chatfield, Minn.

“It is a beautiful day, especially if it is your first day.”



United We Stand
By Greta Mierau, Caledonia, Minn.

“This is the first entrance to a paddock for this herd, and for us trying paddocks in summer time. An exciting day! These grass-fed cattle are amazing in that they always eat lined-up, head-to-head, shoulder-to-shoulder, until they hit the next fence; then they turn, make a line and go united to the next fence.”



The Little Shepherd
By Keith Johnson, Gibbon, Minn.

“Our daughter has snuggled, hugged, tended, and taken care of the bottle babies since she could walk, taking more responsibility each year. They are her little friends for the summer!”



The Stuff Dreams Are Made On
By Kurt Schulz, McLeod County, Minn.

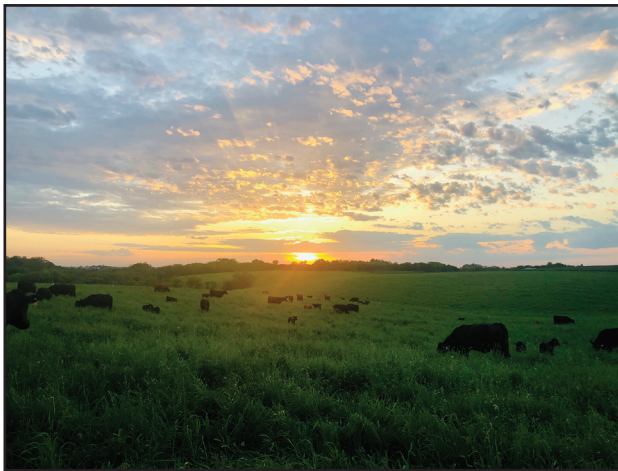
“This photo was taken on a day there was a move to new grass. The cow and her calf are part of my herd of Angus and Shorthorns.”

Pictured Pastures, see page 19...



The Calm Before the Storm
By Linda Rieke, Franklin, Minn.

“The dry cows waited anxiously to be led up to the barn from the pasture as a large thunderstorm brewed in the west.”



Sweet Summer Nights
By Amanda McCabe, Pilot Mound, Minn.

“This photo was taken on a summer night that was absolute perfection! The cows were moved to a new paddock, the sun was setting, and our whole family was sitting in our ATV admiring our beautiful landscape! Blessed beyond words for that ‘Sweet Summer Night!’”



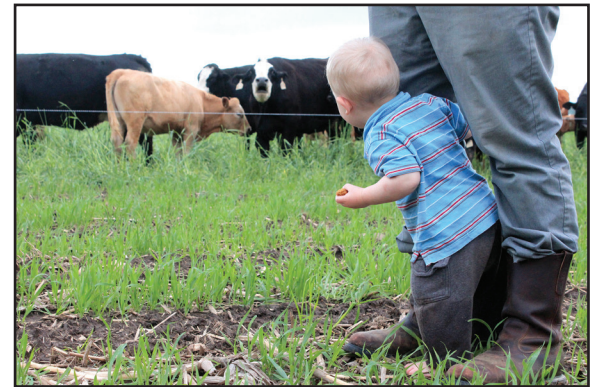
Multi-Species Grazing
By Rylee Nelson, Waupaca, Wis.

“I graze my flock of Targhee sheep in electronet while my family’s herd of cattle grazes on the other side.”



Sun’s Out Tongues Out
By Zach Knutson, Zumbrota, Minn.

“I was trying to get a nice pasture picture of the group, but Ellen apparently decided it was an appropriate time to make a funny face.”



Johann & Cows Grazing Rye
By Cherlyn Beachy, St. Ansgar, Iowa

“Our family walked out after dinner to see how the cows were enjoying the rye pasture they were grazing. Our little 1-year-old-son, Johann, was very interested but he needed to stand securely close to daddy to watch the cows.”

Everybody is Thirsty
By Diane Mosel, Holdingford, Minn.

“My wonderful nephew, Jake, helped move cattle down the lane to a new paddock on a VERY hot summer day. The water was just turned on and all wanted some!”



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Hagen's Herd at Sunset
By Justin Upmeyer, Northern Missouri

"Sunset with cows on horizon."



Early Summer Graze
By Paul & Delores Moechnig, Lake City, Minn.

"We took this picture in the late afternoon. This is our herd of Normande and crossbred Normande cows and calves."

Farm Creatures Calendar Available

Want to gaze at a different farm animal every month of the year? The new "Farm Creatures of LSP" 2021 picture calendar is now available for \$20 from the Land Stewardship Project. See page 31 for details on getting one shipped to you.



Fresh Faces of Spring
By Anna Johnson, Gibbon, Minn.

"We calve our British White cows on pasture, and I caught this early morning view of the newest arrivals and their attentive mothers."

Grazing & Soil Health

Check out the Land Stewardship Project's **Grazing & Soil Health** web page for fact sheets, podcasts, videos, and other resources for farmers and landowners interested in using livestock to build soil resiliency in a profitable way: www.landstewardship-project.org/lspsoilbuilders/grazing.

For more information on pasture walks, workshops, and other events related to grazing and soil health, see www.landstewardship-project.org/workshops. You can also contact LSP's Alex Romano (aromano@landstewardshipproject.org) or Connor Dunn (cdunn@landstewardshipproject.org).



Family Time Looking for Dung Beetles
By John Snyder, Preston, Minn.

"The grandkids and I were flipping over cow pats today and finding all kinds of dung beetles!"