



Spring pasture in southeastern Minnesota...look at all that grass!

Soil Builders' Network Newsletter



LAND STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

June 2024

The growing season is off to the races, and with it comes soil health and grazing events geared towards farmer-to-farmer learning and community-building.

Join the Land Stewardship Project for a two-day (June 28-29) Driftless Grazing School in the rolling blufflands of southeastern Minnesota. This in-depth grazing school will be led by Jordan and Rachelle Meyer, plus a cohort of regional grazing leaders. Any grazer wanting to take their grazing operation to the next level should attend. Both beginning and seasoned farmers alike will benefit from the comprehensive, in-depth sessions and field experiences that will be provided. Come prepared to network and ask questions. This event is limited to 70 people to allow for the best student-to-instructor ratio.



To learn more about featured topics and speakers, [click here!](#)

RSVP to Save Your Spot!



LSP's Soil Health Team is looking for regional farmers to help lead our [Soil Health Program](#) in making positive, community-based change. We have open positions to fill on our steering committee, which sets goals and strategies — [within LSP's mission](#) — to build out an energetic and engaged network of crop and livestock farmers practicing land stewardship and public leadership.

The on-the-ground soil health work we do is geographically focused on a [Soil Builders' Network](#) that stretches across southeastern Minnesota and northeastern Iowa. This committee occasionally interacts with LSP's soil health-related policy work.

To learn more and to apply, [click here!](#)

Soil Health Resources:

[Small Grains Learning Calls \(Practical Farmers of Iowa\):](#)

Small grains shared learning calls are conference calls where you can listen and talk with other farmers and small grains enthusiasts. Each month PFI speaker(s) share experiences and production practices for 40 minutes, and then they open the floor for questions and discussion for the rest of the hour. Shared learning calls usually take place on the first Friday of the month from noon – 1 p.m. They use Zoom to host these virtual events. To participate in shared learning calls, you can either join by phone or computer.

[Integrating Crops & Livestock Infographic \(Green Lands Blue Waters\):](#) This infographic is intended to illustrate a spectrum of options for farmers wishing to capture the benefits of integrating livestock into a cropping operation. Benefits include availability of a low-cost carbon-dense nutrient source from livestock waste, the potential to stack multiple enterprises, sharing equipment and partnering with neighbors, and reducing soil and nutrient loss from runoff.

Soil Builder Spotlight: Josh Nelson

Josh Nelson's approach to farming means looking beyond the next corn crop and building the kind of soil that generates long-term return on investment. Check out LSP's recent [Ear to the Ground podcast with Josh Nelson, podcast with Josh Nelson.](#)



Upcoming LSP Events

(see [LSP's web page for more events & updates](#))

June 1, 4 pm - 8 pm,

[Boots & Roots: An LSP Celebration of Land & People](#), Wykoff, Minn.

June 28 & 29, 8 am - 4:30 pm, [LSP Driftless Grazing School](#), Caledonia, Minn.

July 13, 9 am - 3 pm,

[Communicating Meat Cuts Workshop: From Carcass to Consumer](#), Spring Grove, Minn.

LSP workshop in partnership with [Practical Farmers of Iowa](#)

Partner Events

June 8, 1 pm - 5 pm, [Women & Soil](#), Dyersville, Iowa

Hosted by *Winneshiek-Howard Women, Land & Legacy Chapter* in partnership with the Delaware, Jones & Dubuque WLL Chapter

June 8, 10 am - 1 pm, [Feed the People Farm Cooperative Event](#), Northfield, Minn.

Hosted by *Clean River Partners & The Regenerative Ag Alliance*

June 24, 1 pm - 4 pm, [Holistic Approach to Weed Management for Specialty Crops](#), Waldorf, Minn. Hosted by *Sustainable Farming Association*

August 9-10, [Wisconsin School of Grazing](#), Stratford, Wis.

Hosted by *GrassWorks, the UW-Marshfield & Lancaster Agricultural Research Stations, the USDA-NRCS, & UW Extension*

September 27-28, [Wisconsin School of Grazing](#), Lancaster, Wis.

Hosted by *GrassWorks, the UW-Marshfield & Lancaster Agricultural Research Stations, USDA-NRCS & UW Extension*

Check out LSP's latest [Ear to the Ground Ear Dirt](#) podcasts [here!](#)



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[Main_LSP_Web_Page](#)

The Land Stewardship Project's mission is to foster an ethic of stewardship for farmland, to promote sustainable agriculture, and to develop healthy communities.

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