

Max Alleger is the Grassland Coordinator for the Missouri Department of Conservation. He has coordinated regional-level public and private land management and grassland research programs. Prior to coming to the Department in 1995, Max worked for the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and as a partner in a family farm. He holds Bachelor's degrees in Agricultural Education and Fisheries & Wildlife Management from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a Master's in Wildlife Science from Texas A&M. Currently, Max coordinates a number of programs aimed at meeting the needs of the people and species which share Missouri's grasslands.

Bill Buckner is President and CEO of the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation in Ardmore, OK, which conducts plant and animal science research and sponsors agricultural programs to enhance agricultural productivity regionally, nationally and internationally. Previous to this position, he rose through the ranks at Bayer where he became North American president and CEO of Bayer CropScience LP. During his career, he worked in a series of international locations, including Germany and Canada. He is a 1979 alumnus of the agricultural economics program at University of Missouri, and he has received numerous awards, including the Citation of Merit from MU's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources in 2013.

Sarah Carlson is the Midwest Cover Crop Director with Practical Farmers of Iowa. She has been with PFI since 2007 and helps transfer agronomic research about cover crops and small grains through supply chain projects, articles, blogs and presentation materials while working to improve the support for cover crop and small grains research. Sarah has a BA in Biology and Geography from Augustana College and an MS in Sustainable Agriculture and Crop Production/Physiology from Iowa State University. In between her BA and MS work Sarah was an Ag-Business and Ag Extension Volunteer in the Peace Corps in Ecuador.

Tyler Carlson is a farmer/agroforester raising grass-fed beef in the Hardwood Hills of central Minnesota. In practice, his farm explores the nexus of restoration agriculture, animal-welfare and non-human rights, wildlife habitat, and water quality.

Lauren Cartwright is the State Economist for USDA/NRCS. Current work emphasis includes cover crops economics, forestry economics and grazing economics. Lauren started her career with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Institute for Water Resources in Alexandria, VA. Work there included assessing flood damage reduction projects and collaborative planning for controversial water resource demands. In 2004, she moved to Missouri to begin working for the Natural Resources Conservation Service on the Watershed Staff working on economic analysis of PL 566 watershed projects. Starting in 2007 she began to get more involved in Farm Bill conservation programs administered by NRCS. Current duties include the coordinating the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for Missouri NRCS, serving on the regional payment schedule development team to develop EQIP payment rates, and conservation economic work including the development of user friendly economic decision support tools for conservation planning.

Richard (Dick) L. Cates, Jr., Ph.D., co-owns and operates the Cates Family Farm LLC near Spring Green, Wisconsin, a managed grazing, direct-market grass-fed beef business with his wife. Dick holds a Senior Lecturer position in the Department of Soil Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is director of the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems Wisconsin School for Beginning Dairy and Livestock Farmers, and he co-teaches courses in grassland and agroecology, pasture management, and managed grazing. Dick has worked internationally as a volunteer consultant with farmer-to-farmer assistance projects, most recently in Azerbaijan, China, Honduras, Mexico, Moldova, and South Africa. His book, *Voices from the Heart of the Land: Rural Stories that Inspire Community* (2008; University of Wisconsin Press), is based on conversations with elder rural citizens around their values about character and care for our land and rural community.

Mary Culler is the Regional Watershed and Community Services coordinator for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' northeast region. Mary is a native of Springfield, Missouri, where her love of streams and fishing led her to pursue a degree in biology from Southwest Missouri State. Mary completed a master's degree in Environmental Science at Iowa State University, and then returned to Missouri where she began her career with the state as a fisheries biologist and later married into a farming family. Mary and her husband Courtney live on the family farm in Shelby County, Missouri, where they raise two children, corn, soybeans, wheat, and cover crops.

Lee DeHaan, Ph. D, currently leads the Kernza® (intermediate wheatgrass) domestication program at The Land Institute in Salina, KS. He was raised on a farm in southern Minnesota and has a strong background in the everyday challenges of agriculture. Lee earned a B.A. in Plant Science and Biology at Dordt College in Iowa. He went on to obtain his M.S and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota where he studied Agronomy and specialized in agroecology. His research focused on the development of new leguminous perennial crops. Dr. DeHaan became a staff member at the Land Institute in 2001 after spending the two years prior as a Land Institute Graduate Research Fellow. He has overseen work on six candidate perennial grains and has led the Kernza domestication project full time since 2010.

Chris Eder is Director of Development for the National Wild Turkey Federation. Mr. Eder is a leader in strategic planning and outreach for environmental and natural resource conservation concerns. He was previously Regional Director for Ducks Unlimited in Minnesota, Washington state and northern Michigan, and served as a wildlife biologist for Michigan Department of Natural Resources. He holds a B.S. in Forestry and Wildlife Management, and an M.S. in Forestry and Wildlife Management.

Charles Frahm is a graduate research assistant pursuing a Masters degree in the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics at the University of Minnesota. Over the past 2 years, Charles has been collecting data to better understand the morphological

development of intermediate wheatgrass as a perennial grain. He has also been working extensively with Craig Sheaffer, Jacob Jungers, Don Wyse, and other members of the agronomy department at the University of Minnesota on the development of cropping systems for intermediate wheatgrass in the upper midwest. Charles earned a B.S. in Agronomy from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Felix Fritschi, is an Associate Professor of Plant Sciences at University of Missouri. His main research interests are in the area of plant responses to abiotic stress and the mechanisms by which plants respond to unfavorable environmental conditions in order to enhance plant productivity. In particular, he emphasizes effects of water deficit and heat on plant growth and productivity. He earned his Ph.D. in Crop Science from the Swiss College of Agriculture.

Frank Forcella is a Research Agronomist with USDA-ARS and a Professor of Agronomy at the University of Minnesota. He is based at the "Soils Lab" in Morris, Minnesota. His research specialties are weed science, alternative oilseed crops, and (most recently) the interactions between crops and pollinators. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Agronomy and the Weed Science Society of America. Although he has spent most of his career in Minnesota, he has lived and worked throughout much of the USA as well as Australia, Europe, the Middle East, and New Zealand.

John Hendrickson coordinates research and training programs in organic and sustainable specialty crop production, marketing, and profitability at the Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His work focuses on the economics and profitability of small-scale, fresh market vegetable farming. He is particularly interested in the issues surrounding farm scale, labor, and equipment. With colleagues, he helped develop Veggie Compass, a tool to help diversified vegetable growers measure profitability by crop and market channel. He coordinates the Wisconsin School for Beginning Market Growers, Midwest School for Beginning Apple Growers, and Wisconsin School for Cut Flower Growers. Since 1999, he has operated his own organic vegetable farm in southeastern Wisconsin selling primarily to wholesale markets.

Steve John is co-founder and Executive Director of the Agricultural Watershed Institute, a nonprofit research and educational organization based in Decatur, IL. Mr. John is an environmental planning consultant specializing in watershed management, decentralized wastewater systems, and the links between land use and water quality. From 1987 to 1995, he served on the Decatur City Council where he first became involved in watershed approaches to reduce nonpoint source pollution in Lake Decatur.

Greg and Jan Judy of Clark, Missouri run a grazing operation on 1620 acres of leased and owned land. They own 4 farms and lease 12 farms. They own a 300 head grass genetic cow herd, 200 hair sheep flock and graze heritage breed pigs, and they direct market grass-fed beef, lamb and pork. Greg & Jan have a ranch internship program that brings young folks onto their ranch to teach them how manage their own successful grazing operation when they complete the internship. Greg wrote a book in 2001,

entitled “NO RISK RANCHING, Custom Grazing On Leased Land”, which gives a complete breakdown on the methods they used to build their operation from scratch. In 2008 Greg wrote a second book “COMEBACK FARMS, Rejuvenating Soils, Pastures and Profits with Livestock Grazing Management”. Greg’s new book covers all the methods they use with Holistic High Density Grazing, multi-species grazing, grass finishing animals, eliminating costly inputs. Greg is now a full time rancher. The Judy’s website is: greenpasturesfarm.net.

Shibu Jose is the Harold E. Garrett Endowed Chair Professor and Director of the Center for Agroforestry at the University of Missouri, Columbia. Prior to his current appointment he was Professor of Forest Ecology at the School of Forest Resources and Conservation at the University of Florida, Gainesville. He received his B.S. from India and M.S. and Ph.D. from Purdue University. Current research efforts focus on ecosystem services and ecological sustainability of agroforestry systems and biomass and biofuel production systems. He has authored over 150 refereed publications, edited eight books and secured nearly \$40 million in funding (~\$10 million as PI). He also has served as major professor for 14 PhD students and 32 MS students during the past two decades. He serves as Editor-In-Chief of Agroforestry Systems, Academic Editor of PLOS ONE, and Editorial Board Member of International Journal of Ecology and Forests.

Jerry Kaiser has been the Plant Materials Specialist (Agronomist position) for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service located at the Elsberry Plant Materials Center, for the service area of Missouri, Iowa, and Illinois since 1996. He was previously the District Conservationist at the Jerseyville Field Office from 1989 to 1996 and the District Conservationist at the Metropolis Field Office from 1987 to 1989. He worked as a Soil Conservationist at the Harrisburg Field office after obtaining his Bachelor of Science Degree in 1985 in Plant and Soil Science from Southern Illinois University and has taken graduate level studies from the University of Illinois.

Mark Kennedy was raised on a diversified family beef, dairy, and catfish farm in central Arkansas and received a BS degree in animal science and forages from Arkansas State University in 1977. He was employed by USDA – SCS/NRCS from September, 1978 until January 3, 2014 when he retired. He served at various locations in Arkansas and Missouri. From 1995 until he retired, he was the State Grazing Land Specialist for USDA-NRCS in Missouri, headquartered in Houston, Missouri. Mark served as an instructor at 18 to 20 grazing schools throughout Missouri each year. He is a Certified Forage & Grassland Professional through the American Forage and Grassland Council. In 2004 he received the Missouri Forage and Grassland Council’s Grasslander of the year award. In 2006 he was awarded the NRCS National Pastureland Conservationist of the Year award. He received the Merit Award from AFGC in 2011.

Mike Kromrey is the Executive Director of the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks. Mike joined the staff in May 2006 as the Education Outreach Coordinator. He has previously worked with the James River Basin Partnership, Missouri Department of

Conservation, and Missouri State University while attending MSU. Mike earned a comprehensive biology degree with an emphasis in ecology, evolution, and systematics. Mike completed his masters of science in biology focusing on aquatic ecosystems. While attending school, Mike was also part of several organizations focusing on the environment and experiential education. Mike, wife Mary, and newest addition Eli are Springfield residents, and enjoy spending time in the outdoors (often with a canoe and fishing rod). Mike has grown up in Ozark streams and is enthusiastic about fostering sound watershed principals in the community.

Sean McMahon is Executive Director of the Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance, where he works with key partners to champion farmer engagement and adoption of conservation practices that improve water quality. Sean has more than 20 years of experience in conservation and agriculture including leading diverse coalitions dedicated to improving water quality. He formerly directed The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) North America Agriculture Program. Earlier he directed national land stewardship campaigns with the National Wildlife Federation. Sean has also served in a variety of senior staff positions at the U.S. Department of the Interior. Sean is a member of the Farm Foundation Roundtable and serves on the board of the CropLife Foundation. He is also chair of the Conservation Reserve Program Subcommittee of the Iowa NRCS State Technical Committee and the Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award review committee.

Rob Myers is Regional Director of Extension Programs for the USDA-NIFA North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) program and holds an adjunct faculty appointment in Plant Sciences at MU. He administers competitive grants and state funding for sustainable agriculture projects in 12 North Central states. He has contributed on national committees and councils addressing a number of federal research, education, and agriculture policy programs, including service as Co-Chair of the National Working Group on Cover Crops and Soil Health in 2014-15. His M.S. and Ph.D. degrees are in agronomy from University of Minnesota and he grew up on a family farm in Illinois.

Jim Plassmeyer is an Environmental Supervisor for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources – Soil and Water Conservation Program. Jim manages the program's \$40 million cost-share program that provides assistance to landowners to implement erosion control and water quality improvement practices on their land. Jim leads the program's development of the policies for the available practices. Jim also supervises district coordinators who work directly with the soil and water conservation districts to ensure the practices are being implemented according to policy and provide guidance on district operations. Jim started working for the program as a district coordinator in 1997.

Aaron Reser is the Watershed Initiative Coordinator at Green Lands Blue Waters, and leads organizational strategies around value chain development for perennial crops, particularly Kernza®. Her background is based in leading collaborative networks, linking key elements and individuals along the path from farm to market. She brings 15 years experience in a whole-systems approach to building regional food systems that are equitable, profitable and rooted in land stewardship. Her experience includes several

years of small-scale vegetable farming, managing Mill City Farmers Market in Minneapolis, MN, and National Director of the P6 Cooperative Trade Movement. With a master's degree from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, she has had numerous roles developing local food infrastructure and state and local food policy.

Dusty Schaaf has a cow/calf, yearling operation located in south west Missouri and eastern Kansas, headquartered at El Dorado Springs, MO. He came back to his family's ranch after graduating college in 1991. He runs 800 commercial cows and depending on the year, about 600 yearlings over 7,000 acres.

Tom Schwartz is a certified wildlife biologist and Vice President of Marketing for FDC Enterprises. Tom has a undergraduate degree in natural resource management and a M.S. in wildlife ecology. He has been part of project team leads for numerous Federal grants focused on perennial native grass biomass to be used for energy production through direct combustion and cellulosic ethanol.

Diana Sheridan began her career with NRCS in 2003 holding field office and supervisory positions throughout southwest Missouri. Prior to her career with NRCS she served as Executive Director of James River Basin Partnership and as a Biology Lab Supervisor at Missouri State University. Diana approaches agriculture conservation issues with a passion for water quality. She has a B.A. in Biology from Drury University and a M.S. in Zoology and Physiology from the University of Wyoming. She is interested in the academics and practical application of soil health knowledge
Diane Mayerfeld is the sustainable agriculture coordinator for University of Wisconsin Extension.

Andrew Thomas is Research Assistant Professor in Horticulture / Agroforestry at the University of Missouri's Southwest Research Center at Mt. Vernon. He received his B.S. in Horticulture from the University of Missouri and his M.S. in Agronomy from Iowa State University. Before coming to the Southwest Center in 1996, Andy held a variety of jobs, working for two agricultural "biotech" companies in California and Wisconsin, the Center for Plant Conservation at Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis, and the Rwandan Agricultural Research Institute as a Peace Corps Volunteer. His research projects at the Southwest Center have included black walnuts, pecans, elderberries, grapes, apples, asparagus, wildflowers, medicinal herbs, persimmons, pawpaws, prairie restoration, and a solar-heated greenhouse, resulting in more than 45 peer-reviewed scientific publications. Andy continues to consult internationally on a variety of horticultural projects. He also farms 70 acres, tending a variety of fruit and nut trees, and is co-owner of Rising Creek Nursery.

Ranjith Udawatta, is an Associate Research Professor at University of Missouri's Center for Agroforestry. Dr. Udawatta's primary research objective is to quantify environmental benefits of agroforestry and prairie restoration. He conducts research on influences of agroforestry and grass buffers on water and soil quality, and addresses how tree and grass buffers change surface and subsurface water quality by reducing runoff, nutrients and sediment when intercropped in row crop agriculture.

Richard Warner has more than 30 years of experience building and managing programs related to land management embracing agriculture, forestry, and natural ecosystems. Before coming to Green Lands Blue Waters in 2010, he worked 13 years at The Nature Conservancy, led the formation of NatureServe, and served in various capacities for the U.S. Agency for International Development, The World Bank, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other U.S. and international agencies, corporations, and non-profits. Richard holds a Master of Science degree in botany (1982) and Bachelor of Science degree in Biology & Ethnobotany (1977) from University of Minnesota.

Dusty Walter worked for 11 years with the MU Center for Agroforestry training others to successfully integrate Agroforestry on their land. Currently, he serves as Director of Natural Resources Management for the MU Agricultural Experiment Stations and is Superintendent of the Wurdack Research Center.

Rebecca Wasserman-Olin holds a dual degree in Environmental Studies and Agricultural & Applied Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Before joining the Land Stewardship project she worked for various sustainable agriculture and food access groups in both Minnesota and Wisconsin. As the Economics Researcher as part of the Chippewa 10% Project with the Land Stewardship Project she developed the Cropping Systems Calculator, a tool for farmers to compare the financial returns between two rotations. In addition to improving the Calculator, she is working with other to customize it for other agricultural regions and expand its use within the Chippewa River Watershed Region in west-central Minnesota.

Ray Wright, is a Research Specialist with the University of Missouri's South Farm and Bradford Research Center. A 26-year veteran of MU, he has extensive experience working with crops and cropping systems and variety trials. He also has experience in fisheries & stream research. His efforts are focused on developing systems that promote conservation and production in agriculture, and he has a strong interest in soil health. Mr. Wright is a recipient of several Conservation Innovation Grants over the past 11 years.

Gwen White serves as the Science Coordinator for the Eastern Tallgrass Prairie & Big Rivers LCC. She has a PhD in conservation biology from the University of Minnesota, an MS in zoology from the University of Maryland, and served with the U.S. Peace Corps aquaculture program in Honduras. She grew up working on a dairy farm at the edge of the Flint Hills in Kansas.

Carol Williams is a Research Scientist at University of Missouri's Center for Agroforestry. Her expertise includes landscape ecology and sustainable biomass production systems involving perennial native grasses and other non-woody vegetation. Dr. Williams co-leads a large, long-term native plant biomass experiment near Columbia, MO, examining yield and plant community dynamics over time, and interactions with fertilizer and harvest regimes, and effects on soil health and water quality.

Robert (Woody) Woodruff is the Conservation Associate with Illinois Stewardship Alliance (ISA) and an active farmer, continually shifting his plantings toward more agroforestry, and cover crops, as well as becoming a new Kernza® grower in fall 2016. Woody's background includes the following highlights: 1980s – Worked in Tropical Agriculture and then Arid Agriculture in the Peace Corps, and then started farming; 1990s—Worked in Natural Resource Conservation, started a first of its kind watershed scale best management practices research project with a Soil and Water Conservation District, and started a prairie restoration project on farm; 2000s—Worked in Ecosystem Restoration with oak savanna & prairie projects, and continued restoring the 60 acre Historic Mud Prairie on farm; 2010s—Worked in education of life skills in youth development for University Of Illinois Extension and then started the present position as Conservation Associate with ISA.

Connor Woods is Director of Sustainability for Roeslein Alternative Energy, LLC. He was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri, and earned his Bachelor's degree of Science in Wildlife Conservation & Management from Missouri State University in 2015. He recently celebrated his 1-year anniversary of employment with RAE. Darcy Gordon is working with UMCA this year on a chestnut post-harvest project, evaluating long-term refrigerated storage life of a select number of highly rated Chinese chestnut cultivars. Previously she has studied tree physiology in fruit crops at UC Davis (PhD, 2005), and managed a small diversified farm incorporating agroforestry principles in fruit orchards (www.localitailpiano.it).

Chris Woodson is a Private Lands Biologist stationed in Columbia, Missouri with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. Chris has been assisting landowners with wetland, riparian and upland restoration projects throughout Missouri since 2005. Previously, Chris worked in the Lower Mississippi River Delta as a Private Lands Biologist and Assistant Refuge Manager on the Theodore Roosevelt National Wildlife Refuge Complex and as a Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Forest Service Southern Hardwoods Lab.

Monica Zachay is the Water Resource Steward for the St. Croix River Association. She graduated from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, with a B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Forestry and Environmental Education. She has experience in lake and stream water quality monitoring, GIS mapping and aquatic vegetation sampling. Monica worked for the Pelican River Watershed District in Detroit Lakes, MN where she grew the Watershed District's monitoring program, wrote grants, and designed and implemented a variety of projects ranging from shoreline restoration to water quality diagnostic studies. Monica joined the SCRA team in 2012 to coordinate and build the water resources program. Current initiatives include activities to protect critical forest lands for water quality and to coordinate and leverage local, state and federal resources for phosphorus reduction practices.

Diomy Zamora is an Extension Professor of Forestry at the University of Minnesota Extension, working primarily in the area of agroforestry and bioenergy.