



Green Lands Blue Waters Conference 2017

Conference Program

Continuous Living Cover: Bridging the Gaps with Livestock

November 28- 29, 2017

UW Madison Pyle Center • 702 Langdon Street • Madison, WI

Hosted by the

UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS)

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Conference planning committee

Thank you to Eric Allness, Dick Cates, Mike Gold, Keefe Keeley, Diane Mayerfeld, Ruth McNair, Laura Paine, Pam Porter, Aaron Reser, Gene Schriefer and Richard Warner.

About the host

The **Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems** (CIAS) is a research center for sustainable agriculture in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Madison. CIAS fosters multidisciplinary inquiry and supports a range of research, curriculum and program development projects. It brings together university faculty, farmers, policy makers and others to study relationships between farming practices, farm profitability, the environment and rural vitality.

Schedule at a glance

Conference agenda, Tuesday, November 28		
7:30 am	Third floor	Registration, coffee, light breakfast
8:30 am	Rm 325-326	Welcome: Michael Bell and Bill Barker
9:00 am	Rm 325-326	Plenary: Setting the vision, Randy Jackson and Laura Jackson
10:30 am	Rm 313	Break and exhibits
11:00 am	Rm 325-326	A 2025 vision for continuous living cover farming, Jeri Neal and Richard Warner
11:40 am	Rm 325-326	Small group exercise: What is your vision for continuous living cover farming?
12:00 pm	1 st floor Alumni lounge	Lunch
1:00 pm	Rm 325-326 Rm 309 Rm 226	Breakout sessions (1-2 pm and 2-3 pm) Farmer innovations and farmer-led watersheds (repeats at 2 pm) Agency/NGO innovations (repeats at 2 pm) Research updates (new presentations at 2 pm)
3:00 pm	Rm 313	Break and exhibits
3:20 pm	Rm 325-326	Livestock as economic drivers of continuous living cover Organic Valley and the Wisconsin Grassfed Beef Cooperative Logan Peterman, Gene Schriefer and Rod Ofte
4:00 pm	Rm 313 Rm 309	Break, exhibits and poster session Short film: <i>Follow the (Nutrient) Flow: Connecting Wisconsin Farmers and Gulf Fishermen</i> , followed by documentary film screening: <i>Searching for Sustainability</i>
5:00 pm	1 st floor Alumni lounge	Keynote: Ecologically based farming and the indispensable animals, Nicolette Hahn Niman Followed by <i>Defending Beef</i> book sale/author signing
6:15 pm	Univ Club	Reception (cash bar with appetizers), University Club, 803 State Street, Madison, WI

Conference agenda, Wednesday, November 29		
8:00 am	Third floor	Registration, coffee, light breakfast
8:30 am	Rm 325-326	Welcome: Laura Paine Plenary: How does continuous living cover restore our landscape? Steve Apfelbaum, Jacob Marty, Chris Kucharik
10:00 am	Rm 313	Break and exhibits
10:30 am	Rm 325-326 Rm 226 Rm 225 Rm 309 Lussier Center	Continuous living cover working group breakout sessions A. Perennial forage B. Perennial grains C. Perennial biomass D. Cover crops E. Agroforestry (offsite at Lussier Family Heritage Center—transportation on your own/join carpool list at registration desk)
12:30 pm	Rm 325-326	Closing exercise and evaluation
1:00 pm	Rm 325-326	Lunch (boxed lunches)

Diagram of facility

Pyle Center

Third floor

Room 309: Breakout sessions, film screening

Room 313: Breaks, exhibits, poster session

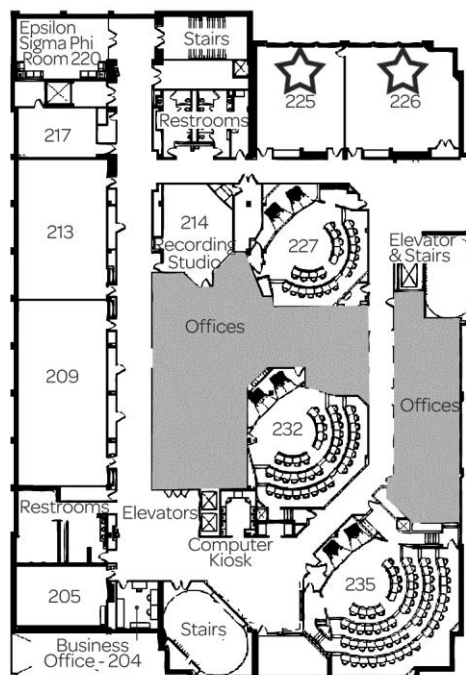
Rooms 325-326: Plenary sessions, breakout sessions



Second floor

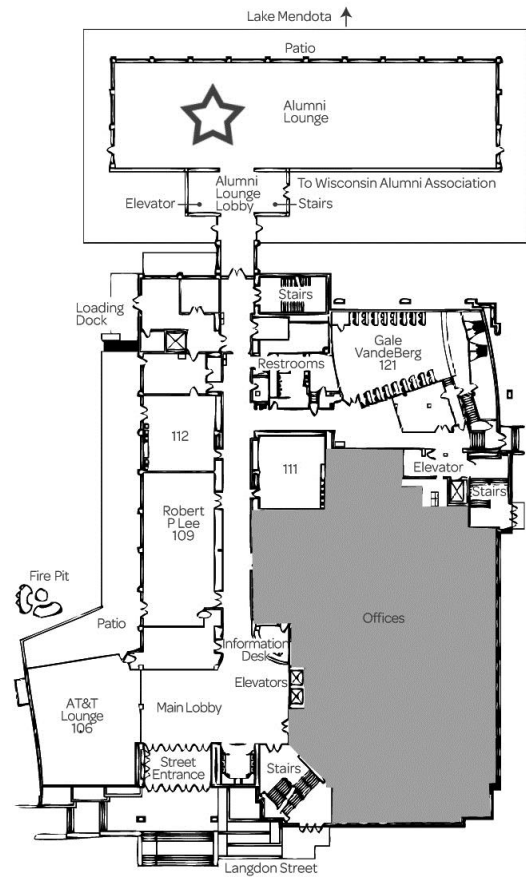
Room 225: Breakout sessions

Room 226: Breakout sessions



First floor

Alumni lounge: Tuesday lunch and evening keynote

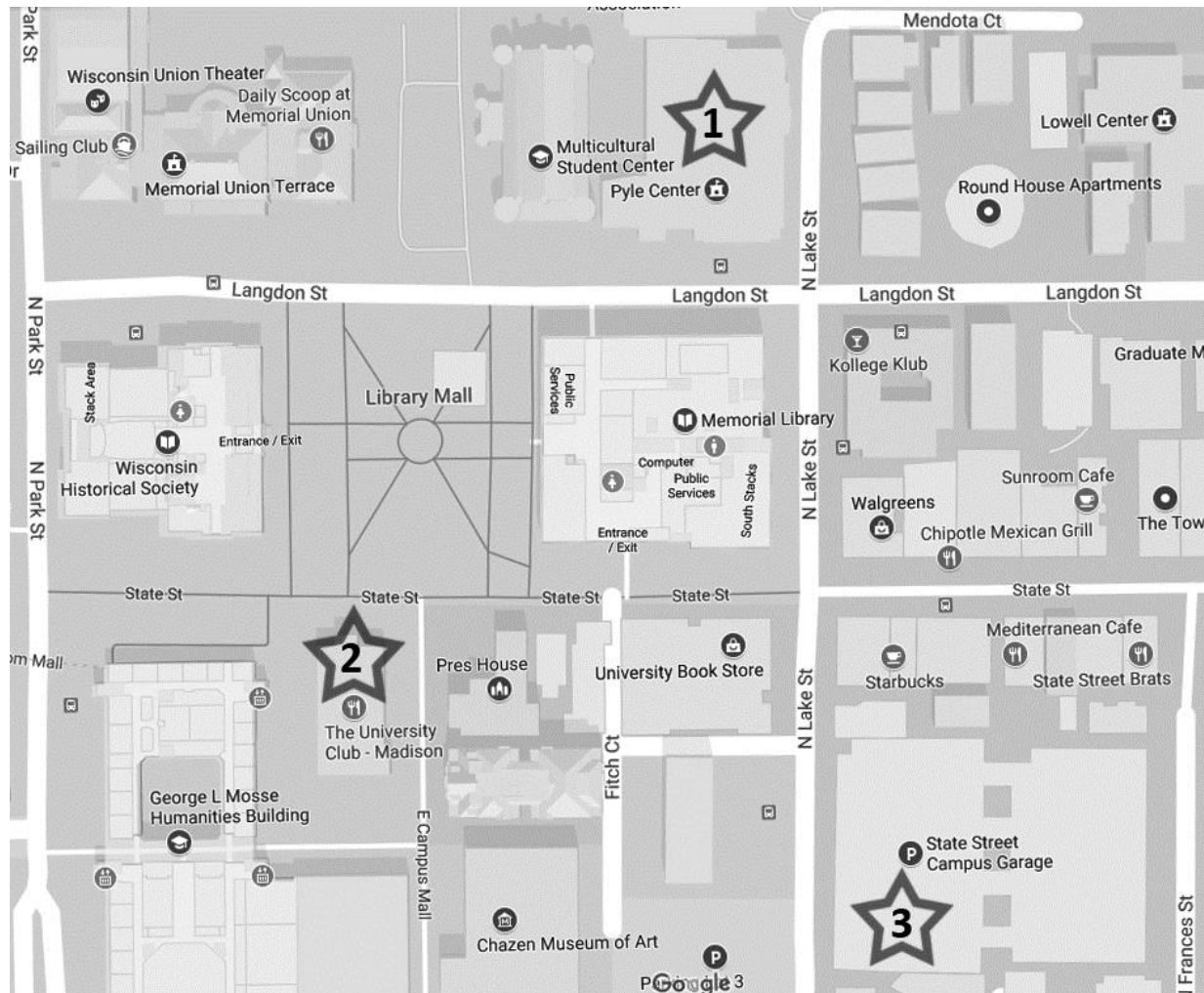


Map of area

Campus detail map

1. Pyle Center, 702 Langdon Street
2. University Club, 803 State Street – location of reception on 11/28 at 6:15 pm
3. State Street Public Parking ramp, 415 N. Lake Street

Other downtown Madison parking: <https://www.cityofmadison.com/parking-utility/garages-lots>



Full agenda

Conference agenda, Tuesday, November 28	
7:30 am Third floor	Registration, coffee, light breakfast
8:30 am Room 325-326	Welcome , Michael Bell, Director, UW-Madison Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems and Professor, Community and Environmental Sociology Bill Barker, Associate Dean of Research, UW-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
9:00 am Room 325-326	Setting the vision How do we make grassland our dominant agricultural system? Randy Jackson, Professor of Grassland Ecology at the UW-Madison A land of milk and honey: re-connecting food systems with ecosystems in the tallgrass prairie region Laura Jackson, Biology Professor at the University of Northern Iowa, director of its Tallgrass Prairie Center, and author of <i>The Farm as a Natural Habitat</i>
10:30 am Room 313	Break and exhibits
11:00 am Room 325-326	A 2025 vision for continuous living cover farming Jeri Neal, Chair of the Steering Committee and Richard Warner, Director of Green Lands Blue Waters
11:40 am Room 325-326	Small group exercise: What is your vision for continuous living cover farming?
12:00 pm 1 st floor Alumni lounge	Lunch
	Breakout sessions: Participants can choose from three different tracks in both of the 1-2 pm and 2-3 pm time frames. The farmer innovation and agency/NGO innovation sessions are repeated. Presentations in the research update sessions are different for each time slot.
1:00 pm Room 325-326	Breakout session I:A Farmer innovations and farmer-led watersheds (repeats at 2 pm) Integrating livestock into cropping systems using cover crops Kent Solberg, Livestock and Grazing Specialist, Sustainable Farming Association <i>Explore the value of integrating livestock into cropping systems from the standpoint of soil health and benefits to the farm. Kent will discuss examples of how livestock are effectively being integrated into cropping systems will be presented.</i>

<p>1:00 pm Room 325-326</p>	<p>Breakout session I:A, farmer innovations, continued</p> <p>Conservation in the Iowa County Uplands Watershed and at Seven Seeds Farm Michael Dolan, Owner/Operator, Seven Seeds Farm and Farm Leader of the Iowa County Uplands Watershed Group. <i>Michael will share the goals and outcomes of the Iowa County Uplands Watershed Group, one of 14 farmer-led watershed groups, funded by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. A seventh generational beginning farmer operating an organic, diversified livestock and crop farm, Michael will take an in-depth look at Seven Seeds Farm conservation including silvopasture and livestock management.</i></p> <p>Green fields, clean water, and cows Dave Bishop, PrairiErth Farm <i>Hear examples of how integrating livestock in a diverse farming system both increases farm income and improves water quality.</i></p>
<p>1:00 pm Room 309</p>	<p>Breakout session I:B Agency/NGO innovations (repeats at 2 pm)</p> <p>NRCS dedicated EQIP funding for agroforestry and woody crops Lauren Cartwright, Agricultural Economist / EQIP Program Coordinator, Natural Resource Conservation Service - Missouri <i>This presentation provides an overview of the path that led to the development of the NRCS EQIP Agroforestry and Woody Crop Establishment dedicated funding. Lauren will focus on the importance of key partners, internal process to make the funding pool a reality, how it works and what we hope for the future.</i></p> <p>Targeted changes to agriculture practices result in cleaner water: Lessons from the Pecatonica River Steve Richter, Director of Conservation Programs, The Nature Conservancy - Wisconsin Chapter <i>Steve will share results of a nine-year effort to improve water quality in the Pleasant Valley watershed of the Pecatonica River in southwest Wisconsin. Results showed that targeting conservation practices on specific agricultural lands, rather than randomly throughout a watershed, resulted in cleaner water.</i></p> <p>The Minnesota buffer law: What is it? What is working? What are some challenges? Tom Gile, Buffers and Soil Erosion Program Coordinator, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil <i>Tom will provide an overview of the law's requirements and where to find additional information including brief discussion on what is working, how the program is developing and what are some of the challenges faced to this point.</i></p>

1:00 pm Room 226	<p>Breakout session I:C Research updates (continues with new speakers/topics at 2 pm)</p> <p>Grazing Wisconsin's public lands: A win-win for farmers and grassland habitats? Jacob Grace, M.S. Candidate in Agroecology, UW-Madison and Greta Landis, M.S. Agroecology, Ph.D. Candidate in Environment & Resources, UW-Madison <i>This research project takes a broad approach to evaluating the opportunities and challenges of rotational grazing as a conservation tool on public access grasslands. Working with land managers, cattle producers and grazing specialists to investigate the environmental and socio-economic impacts of grazing on public lands, the project asks the question: is there a win-win scenario in which rotational grazing can be an effective management strategy for both livestock producers and WI-DNR land managers?</i></p> <p>Intermediate wheatgrass (Kernza) perennial grain and forage crop: Wisconsin updates Valentin D. Picasso, Assistant Professor, Agronomy Department, UW-Madison <i>This talk summarizes recent results from research on Kernza as a dual purpose grain and forage crop in Wisconsin. Valentin will discuss grain and forage yields, weed management and weed suppression ability, intercropping with various legumes, grazing and forage harvest, and farmers' perceptions of this crop.</i></p> <p>Cover crops as forage Liz Binversie, Agriculture Educator, UW-Extension Brown County, Heidi Johnson, Crops and Soils Educator, UW-Extension Dane County <i>Using cover crops as a feed for dairy cattle allows a way to offset feed costs but it is not without challenges. This presentation will share what farmers, nutritionists and agronomists had to say while participating in four focus groups about the challenges and benefits of using cover crops as forage for cattle.</i></p>
2:00 pm Room 325-326	<p>Breakout session II:A Farmer innovations and farmer-led watersheds (repeated from 1 pm)</p>
2:00 pm Room 309	<p>Breakout session II:B Agency/NGO innovations (repeated from 1 pm)</p>
2:00 pm Room 226	<p>Breakout session II:C Research updates (continues with new speakers at 2 pm)</p> <p>Organic no-till production Erin Silva, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Organic Agriculture, UW-Madison <i>One of the primary guiding principles of organic agriculture is to build soil quality and health. This presentation will discuss how organic no-till practices provide farmers with a tool to increase soil quality while managing weeds without the use of herbicides.</i></p>

2:00 pm Room 226	<p>Breakout session I:C, research updates, continued</p> <p>Oilseed "cash cover crops" for ecosystem services and economic return M. Scott Wells, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics <i>Cover crops offer a range of ecosystem services to corn and soybean cropping systems, but adoption has been lower than what is needed to address the externalities associated with annual row crop production in the Upper Midwest. Winter annual oilseeds, most notably pennycress (Thlaspi arvense) and winter camelina (Camelina sativa L.) provide plant-based solutions to nutrient and soil losses, pollinator refuges, weed suppression, and economic return through the harvest of the oilseed grain. This update will introduce the production systems and provide data on a few of the oilseed driven ecosystem services.</i></p> <p>Integrating prairie strips on working farms Seth Watkins, Pinhook Farm <i>Research has shown that planting prairie strips in crop fields can significantly reduce soil erosion and nutrient runoff, but what are the challenges to implementing this practice on working farms? Seth Watkins will describe his experience with establishing and grazing prairie strips on his Iowa farm.</i></p>
3:00 pm Room 313	Break and exhibits
3:20 pm Room 325-326	<p>Livestock as economic drivers of continuous living cover Organic Valley and pasture-based dairy products - Logan Peterman, Organic Valley Cooperative Creation of the Wisconsin Grassfed Beef Cooperative - Rod Ofte, Willow Creek Ranch, and Gene Schriefer, UW-Extension Ag Educator and Rolling Hills Stock Farm</p>
4:00 pm Room 313	Break, exhibits and poster session
Films: Room 309	Short film: <i>Follow the (Nutrient) Flow: Connecting Wisconsin Farmers and Gulf Fishermen</i> , followed by documentary film screening: <i>Searching for Sustainability</i>
5:00 pm 1 st floor Alumni lounge	<p>Ecologically based farming and the indispensable animals (open to the public) Nicolette Hahn Niman – Author of <i>Defending Beef: The Case for Sustainable Beef Production – The Manifesto of an Environmental Attorney and Vegetarian Turned Cattle Rancher</i> Followed by <i>Defending Beef</i> book sale/author signing (cash or check only)</p>
6:15 pm University Club	Reception (cash bar with appetizers), University Club, 803 State Street, Madison, WI

Conference agenda, Wednesday, November 29	
8:00 am Third floor	Registration, coffee, light breakfast
8:30 am Room 325-326	<p>Welcome, Laura Paine, Program Director, Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship</p> <p>How does continuous living cover restore our landscape? Steve Apfelbaum, Founder and Chairman of Applied Ecological Services Founder and author of the award-winning book <i>Nature's Second Chance</i></p> <p>Jacob Marty, sixth generation farmer and co-owner of Green Fire Farm, a regenerative family farm producing organic, grass-fed beef, poultry and pork.</p> <p>Chris Kucharik, Professor of Agronomy and Environmental Studies, UW-Madison</p>
10:00 am Room 313	Break and exhibits
10:30 am	Continuous living cover working group breakout sessions
10:30 am Room 325-326	<p>Breakout A - Perennial forage: Overcoming barriers to getting livestock on the land</p> <p>Kent Solberg (Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota) will discuss barriers to grazing. He will address a list of about 20 frequently heard excuses with specific examples from his work. Kent will also discuss grazing cover crops and crop residues.</p> <p>Kent's talk will be followed by a panel discussion moderated by Robert Bauer of Southwest Badger RC & D. Three graziers from Wisconsin will join Kent to talk about their experiences in grazing and address barriers. Panelists include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dick Cates, Cates Family Farm in Spring Green; • Claudia Berres, a contract grazer who is a paid grazing mentor; and • Amy Fenn, who recently purchased land in western Wisconsin and is grazing cattle.

10:30 am Room 226	<p>Breakout B - Perennial grains: Kernza in farming systems and ecosystems; on farm fields and into new markets</p> <p>Hear the latest in research on Kernza in farming systems and ecosystems, including grazing, intercropping and ecosystem services. Hear reports on farmer perceptions of growing Kernza and exploration of the feasibility of a future Kernza cooperative.</p> <p>Presenters include staff and researchers from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Land Institute (Fred Iutzi, Brandon Schlautman); • The University of Minnesota (Jake Jungers); and • The UW-Madison (Valentin Picasso, Jérémie Favre, Marisa Lanker, and Kelly Maynard). <p>Workshop time will be reserved for a robust attendee discussion on what is needed next to move perennial grains forward.</p>
10:30 am Room 225	<p>Breakout C - Perennial biomass: Exploring a Green Lands Blue Waters Perennial Biomass Initiative</p> <p>Developing markets for perennial biomass crops for cellulosic biofuels is a slow, difficult process. To further this effort, for more than a year Steve John of the Agricultural Watershed Institute has been exploring ideas for a GLBW Perennial Biomass Initiative with university scientists, NGOs, small businesses and major corporations, conservation agencies, and other stakeholders. The initiative is envisioned as a long-term collaborative effort to achieve greatly expanded adoption of multifunctional perennial crops grown for bioenergy, bio-based products, or animal feed plus ecosystem services.</p> <p>In this session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve John will report on these conversations and lead a discussion to gather input for the initiative proposal. • Carol Williams will provide an update on the Midwest Conservation Biomass Alliance and discuss how MCBA may collaborate with GLBW on the proposed biomass initiative. • Diomy Zamora of the University of Minnesota will speak about the Crop Enterprise and Environmental Budgeting Tool (CE2T) which can be used to assess the economics of various crops including biomass.

10:30 am Room 309	<p>Breakout D - Cover crops: Diversity in cover crops</p> <p>Participants in this session will explore diversity in cover cropping in the Midwest with four cover crop leaders. Bring your questions and share your experience with our panelists and fellow cover croppers from across the region, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kris Reynolds, Natural Resource Conservationist for American Farmland Trust and farmer on using cover crops in conventional and no-till corn and soybean systems in Illinois; • Jim Stute, Program Director, Crop & Soil Research, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute on agronomic, economic and environmental performance of frost seeding red clover in a wheat - corn system; • M. Scott Wells, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Agronomy and Plant Genetics, University of Minnesota on opportunities and challenges with oilseed "cash" cover crops grown in relay with corn and soybeans; and • Erin Silva, Assistant Professor, Organic and Sustainable Cropping Systems, Dept. of Plant Pathology, UW - Madison on cover crops in organic systems.
10:30 am Lussier Center 3101 Lake Farm Rd. Madison	<p>Breakout E - Agroforestry: Advancing agroforestry in the Heartland</p> <p>The Mid-American Agroforestry Working Group (MAAWG) annual Agroforestry break-out session will be joining forces this year with Savanna Institute's Perennial Farm Gathering! The Agroforestry breakout will be held offsite at the Lussier Family Heritage Center at 3101 Lake Farm Road, Madison (see directions in conference folder). In this session, presenters will: 1) articulate visions for agroforestry in the region; 2) identify promising pathways to realize those visions; and 3) catalyze collaborative action to advance agroforestry. Presenters in this session include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Gold (University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry) • Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin (Main Street Project) • Kate MacFarland (National Agroforestry Center) • David Miller (Iroquois Valley Farms) • Lindsay Rebhan (Ecological Design) • Sarah Taylor Lovell (University of Illinois, Multifunctional Landscape lab) • Tom Wahl (Red Fern Farm)
12:30 pm Room 325-326	Closing exercise and evaluation, Michael Bell and Richard Warner
1:00 pm	Lunch (boxed lunches)

Speaker biographies

Steve Apfelbaum, Chairman, Founder and Senior Ecologist, Applied Ecological Services - Steve conducts ecological research and provides technical advice on land restoration throughout North America and beyond. He is the author of *Nature's Second Chance* and *Restoring Ecological Health to Your Land*, as well as hundreds of technical and academic publications.

Robert Bauer, Grazing Specialist, Southwest Badger RC & D Council - Robert provides technical assistance and training to help livestock producers plan, launch, and grow their grass-based farm businesses on rented land with financial assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Southwest Badger RC & D is a nonprofit that works with landowners and farmers in Southwest Wisconsin on economic development and natural resource conservation.

Claudia Berres, beef farmer – Claudia has been grazing beef in Richland County, Wisconsin, since 1990. She has over 200 acres of improved pasture that is divided into 25 pastures that are subdivided according to needs.

Liz Binversie, Agriculture Educator, UW-Extension Brown County – Liz has a background in cattle nutrition and alternative forages used as feeds.

Dave Bishop, PrairiErth Farm - Dave and his family operate a 400-acre multigenerational organic farm in central Illinois producing grains, vegetable crops and livestock. He also serves on the Illinois Dept. of Agriculture's Sustainable Ag Committee.

Lauren Cartwright, Agricultural Economist / EQIP Program Coordinator, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Missouri - Lauren has been with NRCS since 2004. Her interests include promoting cost-effective conservation for agricultural operations the address resource concerns while improving profitability for farmers.

Richard (Dick) L. Cates, Jr., beef farmer, Cates Family Farm LLC - Dick and his wife, Kim, co-own and operate a managed grazing, direct-market grass-fed beef business near Spring Green, Wisconsin, that they started in 1987. Their son Eric and his wife Kiley are doing contract grazing with two groups/herds, as well as continuing and expanding their own "owned" herd of grass-fed steers for selling under the label of "Cates Family Farm Grass-fed Finished Beef."

Michael Dolan, Owner/Operator, Seven Seeds Farm – Michael operates a farm in Spring Green, Wisconsin, and is the farm leader of the Iowa County Uplands Watershed Group.

Jérémie Favre, Master's candidate, Agronomy, UW-Madison - Jérémie acquired his bachelor's degree from the School of Agricultural, Forest and Life Sciences at the Bern University of Applied Sciences (Switzerland). His passion for sustainable grazing systems has been shaped by a decade of diverse farming experiences in Switzerland, Oregon and Iowa, and has led him to the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Amy Fenn, farmer - Amy is a first-year farmer and contract grazed 17 Jersey heifers on a sparse hay-field this summer. She's currently thinning woodlands into silvopasture while planning experiments in stockpiling and multi-species grazing.

Tom Gile, Buffers and Soil Erosion Program Coordinator, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil - Tom grew up on his uncle's dairy farm in southeast Minnesota where he farmed, fished and refined his passion for the outdoors. He has education and professional experience as a local conservation engineering technician and regulatory program coordinator, as well as state level work in program implementation and oversight. He has served as Buffers and Soil Erosion Program Coordinator since December of 2015.

Mike Gold, Forestry Professor and Interim Director, University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry (UMCA) – Mike was a founding member and first president of the Association for Temperate Agroforestry (AFTA) and has worked in both temperate and tropical agroforestry over the past 30+ years. His current research focuses on development of market and consumer knowledge for specialty crops (e.g., chestnut, elderberry, pawpaw). Mike teaches an agroforestry course in UMCA's 100% online Agroforestry MS degree and graduate certificate program. He has been active in UMCA's outreach and training programs for the past 19 years.

Jacob Grace, M.S. Candidate in Agroecology, UW-Madison - Jacob grew up on a rotationally grazed beef farm in northwest Missouri, and he is now pursuing master's degrees in both in Agroecology and Life Sciences Communication at UW-Madison. He is investigating the response of shrubs and forages to rotational grazing in combination with other management treatments.

Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin, Chief Strategy Officer, Main Street Project - Regi is the principal architect of the innovative poultry-centered regenerative agriculture model that is at the heart of Main Street Project's work. As CSO, his focus is on the development of multi-level strategies for building regenerative food and agriculture systems that deliver social, economic and ecological benefits. He leads Main Street's engineering and design work and currently oversees the implementation of restorative blueprints for communities in the US, Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras.

Fred Iutzi, President, Land Institute - Fred was named president of the Land Institute in 2016. He grew up on an Illinois farm, received a MS in Sustainable Agriculture & Agronomy from Iowa State University, and has focused his career on the sustainability of agriculture and rural communities.

Laura Jackson, Biology Professor, University of Northern Iowa – Laura is the Director of the

Tallgrass Prairie Center at the University of Northern Iowa, and the co-author of *The Farm as Natural Habitat*. She has teaching and research interests in landscape ecology, ecological restoration of agricultural landscapes, perennial farming, and questioning who "designs" the agricultural landscape.

Randy Jackson, Agronomy Professor, UW-Madison – Randy's research lab focuses on questions aimed at practical, management-oriented solutions and advancing grassland ecology. This includes pasture agroecosystems and measuring soil carbon sequestration under restored turf, pasture and prairie communities.

Steve John, Executive Director, Agricultural Watershed Institute - Steve is the co-founder and executive director of the Agricultural Watershed Institute, a nonprofit organization based in Decatur, Illinois. AWI's mission is to conduct research and educational programs on practices and policies that improve water quality, maintain or restore ecosystem health, and conserve land and water resources in agricultural watersheds. A major focus of AWI's recent work is on perennial biomass crops for co-production of agricultural goods and environmental services. Prior to AWI's formation, Mr. John was an environmental consultant specializing in water quality planning.

Heidi Johnson, Crops and Soils Educator, UW-Extension Dane County – Heidi has been with Extension for eight years, working with farmers to more effectively integrate cover crops into their cropping rotations.

Jake Jungers, Research Assistant Professor, Dept. of Agronomy and Plant Genetics at the University of Minnesota - As an agroecologist, Jake has a research goal of improving and developing new cropping systems that provide high-value agricultural products, mitigate environmental pollution, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, Jake's research is focused on improving

Kernza grain yields and environmental sustainability.

Chris Kucharik, Professor of Agronomy and Environmental Studies, UW Madison – Chris’s interdisciplinary research program is geared towards understanding the impacts of climate change and land management on cropping systems and on ecosystem goods and services. He recently served as the lead investigator on The Water Sustainability and Climate Project, a five-year National Science Foundation Grant that studied the Yahara Watershed in southern Wisconsin.

Greta Landis, M.S. Agroecology, Ph.D. Candidate in Environment & Resources, UW-Madison - Greta comes from Maine, and is studying the socio-environmental relationships in grazing research. She is working to develop and evaluate a set of best practices for land management partnerships and to characterize the cool-season plant communities and soils on Wisconsin public lands.

Marisa Lanker, Master's candidate, Agroecology, UW-Madison - Marisa is researching the on-farm potential of Kernza. More broadly, her work investigates the possible links of perennial and bio-diverse agriculture to secure farmer livelihoods.

Sarah Taylor Lovell, Associate Professor of Landscape Agroecology in the Department of Crop Sciences at the University of Illinois - With a background in agronomy and landscape architecture, Sarah’s research program focuses on the design and performance of multifunctional landscapes. She serves as the lead investigator on a long-term agroforestry field trial, the Multifunctional Woody Polyculture, studying the relationship between structure and function of the system.

Kate MacFarland, Assistant Agroforester, U.S. Forest Service the USDA National Agroforestry Center - Kate has been with the US Forest Service since 2011. Prior to her work with the Forest Service, Kate worked for the Ecosystem Workforce

Program at the University of Oregon, the US Peace Corps in Senegal, and in a variety of other positions related to natural resource management and agriculture.

Jacob Marty, co-owner, Green Fire Farm - Jacob is a sixth generation farmer and co-owner of Green Fire Farm, a regenerative family farm producing organic, grass-fed beef, poultry and pastured heritage pork serving the Madison, Wisconsin and greater Chicago area.

Kelly Maynard, Outreach Specialist with the Center for Cooperatives and Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems, UW-Madison – Kelly’s work focuses on local and regional food system development, and cooperative business development in the food and agriculture sectors.

David Miller, Co-Founder and CEO of Iroquois Valley Farms - Rooted by heritage in Iroquois County, Illinois, David returned to his native farming community in 2005 after a 30-year career in banking and real estate financial management. Purchasing a small 10-acre family farmstead, he re-connected with local relatives farming organically. In 2007 he started Iroquois Valley Farms LLC by connecting a small group of family and friends to a 142-acre farm.

Jeri Neal, consultant - Retired after 22 years with the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture in Iowa as grants manager and ecological systems and research program leader; currently consulting in areas of sustainability, agriculture, ecology, grants, funding and outreach. Jeri has a background in grain science and milling management, and international development.

Nicolette Hahn Niman, rancher, lawyer, author, mother – Nicolette is the author of *Defending Beef: The Case for Sustainable Meat Production* (2014) and *Righteous Porkchop: Finding a Life and Good Food Beyond Factory Farms* (2009), as well as numerous essays published in outlets from The Wall

Street Journal to The Earth Island Journal. Before becoming a rancher she was Senior Attorney for the environmental organization Waterkeeper, where she focused on agriculture and food production. Today, she lives in Northern California with her two sons and her husband, Bill Niman.

Rod Ofte, General Manager, Wisconsin Grass-fed Beef Cooperative - Rod has a diversified, restoration grazing operation on 300 acres in southwest Wisconsin. He markets his farm products directly to consumers via the Wisconsin Grass-fed Beef Cooperative.

Logan Peterman, Manager, Agricultural Research and Analytics at Organic Valley – Logan leads organic research initiatives for Organic Valley. He manages on-farm data collection and analysis for farm advisory staff and also serves as the liaison to the organic agricultural research community. Logan serves on the board of trustees for The Organic Center, a non-profit research and educational organization in Washington D.C. and chairs the board's scientific sub-committee.

Valentin D. Picasso, Assistant Professor, Agronomy Department, UW-Madison - Valentin is also affiliated with the University of Uruguay. His research interests include forages and grazing systems for resilience to climate change, perennial dual purpose crops (forage and grain), ecological intensification of livestock systems in the U.S and abroad (especially Latin America), and inter- and trans-disciplinary research approaches to link science and policy.

Lindsay Rebhan, Partner, Designer, Project Manager, Nurserywoman, Ecological Design – Based out of Minneapolis, Lindsay designs permaculture systems from tiny urban lots to broad-acre farms. Since 2005 she has worked with Ecological Design designing, implementing and managing integrated edible working lands.

Kris Reynolds, Natural Resource Conservationist, American Farmland Trust Midwest - Kris joined American Farmland Trust in January 2017 as the Natural Resource Conservationist. Kris's primary responsibility is working with partners and landowners in the Upper Macoupin Creek Watershed Partnership as well as the Vermillion Headwaters Watershed Partnership in Illinois. He is responsible for working with the many partners in the watersheds to coordinate activities with farmers and landowners that improve water quality, improve soil health, enhance nutrient efficiency, utilize conservation cropping systems and meet the goals of Illinois' Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.

Steve Richter, Director of Conservation Programs, The Nature Conservancy Wisconsin Chapter - Steve is responsible for defining and overseeing the implementation of conservation strategies in agricultural landscapes. The Conservancy works with partners to install beneficial farm practices in ways that work with farmers, farm organizations and corporations that rely on products produced from crops and cows. A focus of the chapter's projects is to improve water quality in Wisconsin's lakes and streams.

Brandon Schlautman, Lead Scientist, perennial legume breeding program at The Land Institute – Brandon's research is currently focused on identifying candidate species for domestication as perennial grain legumes and developing breeding strategies to improve existing forage legumes for use as a companion species in intercrops with other perennial grains.

Gene Schreifer, Ag Educator-University of Wisconsin-Extension - An East Coast transplant, Gene stumbled upon rotational grazing as a lazy teenager looking to create less work for himself. Forty years later he's still learning about grazing and working harder at creating less work for himself. At home he runs 100 ewes and 70 cows in Iowa County, mostly by himself with occasional help from his wife (mostly on sunny days, but not too hot, nor

too cold, only on weekends but not Sundays, and no earlier than 10 a.m.), and his son, who now has a license and a car, and a short memory about who's paying for that.

Erin Silva, Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology, UW-Madison – Erin's research and extension program focuses on sustainable and organic cropping systems, including cover crops and cover crop-based no-till production, the impact of organic management on soil biological and physical properties. With Anders Gurda, Erin has launched a comprehensive organic grain training program for farmers in the upper Midwest, "OGRAIN." Erin works closely with organic farmers and industry members both in Wisconsin and the U.S. and serves as co-facilitator of the Wisconsin Organic Advisory Council.

Kent Solberg, Livestock and Grazing Specialist, Sustainable Farming Association - Kent and his wife Linda run a grass-based livestock farm in central Minnesota. He currently serves as the Livestock and Grazing Specialist for the Sustainable Farming Association and has been involved with grazing systems and cover crops for over 20 years.

Jim Stute, Research Director, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute – Jim's research focus is on the role of cover crops in soil quality and nutrient management, and he works to develop best management practices and document the economic impact of cover crops to increase farmer adoption. He is a Certified Professional Agronomist/Certified Crop Advisor and previously served as a UW-Extension Educator in Rock County. He also farms near Troy Center in the Mukwonago River Watershed using cover crops in a 100 percent no-till system.

Tom Wahl, farmer, Red Fern Farm - Tom was born and raised in Iowa and graduated from Iowa State University in 1984 with a degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology. For the next 16 years he worked for various government agencies in wildlife

research, wildlife management, forestry and park management. He and his wife, Kathy Dice, bought a farm in Louisa County in 1986. Tom quit his off-farm job in January 2001 to work on the farm full time. Tom and Kathy grow high-value tree crops including chestnuts, heartnuts, persimmons, paw-paws, and several other crops, and also operate a small tree nursery.

Richard Warner, Director, Green Lands Blue Waters - Richard has worked on natural resources conservation programs in 25 countries, leading project design teams, managing programs, and conducting project evaluations. He was convener for large partnerships and sometimes herder of cats for international consortia. Richard returned to his home state of Minnesota in 2010 to lead Green Lands Blue Waters.

Seth Watkins, Pinhook Farm – Seth is a fourth generation cattleman and crop farmer in south-western Iowa. In addition to prairie strips he has implemented a long list of conservation practices on his farm, including rotational grazing, restricted wildlife areas, riparian buffers, shallow water habitats, integrated pest management, prairie restoration and prescribed burning.

M. Scott Wells, Assistant Professor, University of Minnesota, Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics - Scott runs an applied and field oriented research program providing technologies that address the sustainable intensification of agriculture. Such technologies include cover crop and oilseed interseeding into corn and soybean cropping systems, developing agronomic management of new winter oilseed relay cropping systems, evaluating optimal management strategies for alfalfa production systems, and assessing the fate of nitrogen in annual and perennial cropping systems.

Carol Williams, Coordinator for the Midwest Conservation Biomass Alliance – Carol is a landscape ecologist by training and co-owns and

operates her family's century farm in the Ohio Valley, where she and her husband use a variety of agroforestry practices. She is coordinator for the Midwest Conservation Biomass Alliance, an informal consortium of researchers, industry leaders and non-profit personnel focused on market-based drivers of native grass-based production systems and the ecosystem services they generate. She is also the coordinator of Buffalo Trace Fresh & Local, a consortium of farmers, ranchers, value-added food processors, and restaurateurs in eastern Kentucky, devoted to sustainable expansion of local foods and local supply chains.

Diomy Zamora, Extension Professor,
University of Minnesota Extension - Diomy offers programming to farmers and natural resource professionals related to agroforestry and bioenergy production systems.