

PA GRAZING/FORAGE LANDS CONSERVATION COALITION

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday July 9, 2014

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM (Lunch at 12:00 Noon)

Windy Butte Farm, off 267 Allison Rd

Spring Mills, PA 16875

Ann Swinker's Cell: 970-389-5066

***Arrival directions:** We live behind the old farm house and barn at 267 Allison Road. Drive past the old gray house to the next left at the two mail Boxes, which is Windy Butte Lane (our drive way) turn left and drive up the hill one mile and park by the barns.

Our host, Ann Swinker, will discuss their operation and lead us on a pasture walk of the farm for technical discussion and idea sharing. Please plan to be there by 10:00 AM and stay for the day (end by 3:00 PM).

10:00 AM – 11:45 AM Pasture Walk and Animal Handling System Demo

12:00 – 1:00 PM LUNCH (*Provided*)

1:00 – 3:00 PM Business Meeting

1. INTRODUCTIONS
2. TECHNICAL ADVISOR REPORTS
 - NRCS statewide/regional report (handout)
 - Other Technical Advisor Reports
3. NATIONAL GLCI REPORT
 - Activities/Status Update – Duane Hertzler and Dick McElhaney
4. MINUTES
5. TREASURER REPORTS
6. CORRESPONDENCE
7. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - Grants
 - Technical Committee report (Prepare for September Presentation)
 - Bylaws update
8. OLD BUSINESS
 - 2014 Project updates (see back of page); Ideas for 2015
9. NEW BUSINESS
 - GLCI Planning:
 - A. 2014-15 Plan of Work (Discussion)
 - B. What does our future hold? What do we want to be?
10. ADJOURN/NEXT MEETING DATE

LUNCH: Ann is providing lunch and drinks (iced tea, etc.). Susan Parry will make a side dish & bring chips/pretzels. **If you'd like to bring a side dish or a dessert to share, please do so. Ann says donations are not needed. Please also bring a chair and be prepared for an outdoor setting. We hope to see you there!*

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2013 NE SARE Silvopasture Demonstration Project - Year One Status

1. Framework developed for case studies on the two demonstration sites (Wyebrook and Dickinson). The project teams for each farm (2 ARS staff, 2 NRCS staff, 2 DCNR staff, and 2 farm staff members) met in the spring to establish protocols to be used in observing and monitoring the two farms currently establishing silvopasture systems.
2. Each of the demonstration farms was visited monthly from April – November 2013. The following protocols are included in the monitoring program: Bulk density soil samples and soil penetrometer readings to measure compaction; Soil quality samples submitted for analysis; Ground cover/available forage evaluated at each visit; trees identified and assessed for diameter, basal area and dieback, as well as location recorded with GPS.
3. Each project team discussed any issues/questions that the farm operators had as the project process has moved along. Forage establishment has been of particular interest to the project teams, so much discussion of methodology and practical application is taking place regarding best practices for spring 2014 to establish quality forage growth.
4. In terms of creating networks and "communities of practice" between practitioners and technical advisors, we have met with and discussed the project several times with PA GLCI members and partners, who will assist in evaluating the practice effects, project results and technical guidance needed to support conservation field staff and producers in their efforts.
5. ARS has begun a literature review and the project team has begun planning for technical tours and field days set to take place in years two and three.

2014 PA Conservation Innovation Grant: *Employing Short-Term Adaptive Management Strategies to Improve Pasture Soil Health and Climate change resilience on Prescribed Grazing Operations.*

1. Project updates -
 - a. Capital RC&D, NRCS, GLCI and partners have selected several farms for case studies and to serve as Grazing "Champions" to new/beginning grazing operations.
 - b. Baseline monitoring (for soil health and pasture indicators) will take place over the next 2-3 months with an initial farm visit by the project teams.
 - c. Project Team met in May to discuss next steps, work plan and timeframe/s.

2014 Ag Progress Days Pasture and Grazing Demo:

1. This year's events take place on August 12- 14.
2. Improvements are being made to the site (signage, fertilization) and the tours were a big success last year, so will continue to run this year at the same times: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 AM, 12 Noon and 2:00 PM.
3. GLCI Board and partner staffing is requested for the tour times.