

Pennsylvania Grazing Lands Coalition Meeting  
July 8, 2015  
Blue Mountain View Farm, Annville PA

### **Pasture Walk**

Guests and PAGLC members were treated to a pasture walk through the fields of Blue Mountain View Farm. Matt Bomgardner, farm owner, and Titus Martin explained the operation in terms of planting and seeding decisions, as well as rotational usage for the grazing animals. After the pasture walk, introduction of guests and PAGLC members was followed by a luncheon.

### **PAGLC Meeting Attendance**

PA GLC Board Members: Cliff Hawbaker, PA GLC Chair (Dairy stakeholders); Matt Bomgardner, Farm host (At-Large); Duane L. Hertzler, PA GLC Treasurer (PFGC); Dick McElhaney, PA Farm Bureau; Susan Beal (At-Large); Helene McKernan (PA Equine Council) & Penn State University; Justin Geisinger, (At-Large); Michael T. Harper, PA GLC Board member (PA Sheep & Wool Growers Assoc.); Technical Advisors: Dave Hartman, Penn State Extension Livestock Team; Susan Parry, PA GLC Coordinator (NRCS); Dan Ludwig, NRCS; Franklin Egan, PASA; Titus Martin, Farmer and NRCS; Guests: Matt Haan, Penn State Extension; Stacie Dixon, Penn State. Additional guests attended the pasture walk but left prior to the start of the meeting.

President Cliff Hawbaker called the meeting to order. Meeting started with moving up the Grazing App discussion from the new business section of the agenda.

### **New Business**

- Apps
  - It was shared that there might be an interest in having a pasture app. Out west grazing apps are utilized, but often those type of apps do not pertain to our regional needs. Therefore a small committee of PAGLC members conducted some research on two different types of pasture apps; Grazekeeper from Montana GLC and Grazing Wedge from Missouri Extension. Discussion followed.
  - Matt Bomgardner shared information on the Grazing Wedge. His experience for its usage in pasture keeping has concluded that it might take more time to utilize than traditional methods of pasture record keeping. He felt its usage possibly would benefit a producer. The reader is expensive and is complex to learn.
  - Franklin Egan and Justin Geisinger looked into Grazekeeper and noted that it costs monthly to utilize. He analyzed the graze keeper and he did not see anything in the program that would help in planning. Justin also does not utilize the app, and is not sure whether it would be helpful or not in pasture planning. He tried to sign up for a free trial and has not had any response to his on-line request. He suggested that it could be beneficial to help an advisor who is helping someone. He thinks it's too complex for average user.
  - Cliff brought the discussion to a close and asked if the board wants to encourage the use of this tool, app, as an instrument for grazers. Discussion followed on pros and cons. The topic will be researched by the committee (Matt B, Franklin Egan, Justin Geisinger, Mike

Harper, and Matt Haan) At this time the PAGLC board is not ready to make a decision on promoting the usage of these apps.

Meeting returned to the original Agenda:

#### **Technical Advisor Reports**

- Submitted written reports were distributed by email and hard copies were available at this meeting.
- Dave Hartman briefly discussed Haller farm and tour during Ag Progress Days.
- Susan Parry highlighted that they lost the NE grazing specialist and the position will be replaced in a timely fashion. All at meeting received handouts on NRCS statewide/regional report.
- Susan Beal wants to know if the Equine has any preliminary reports on parasite grant project being conducted by PSU Extension Equine. Helene McKernan stated that they are still in the process of the second stage of the grant project which is collecting data. Results of data will be released when appropriate.

#### **National GLCI Report**

- Dick McElhaney shared registration is open. Shared that Texas and some other states are giving scholarships for attendance. Dick discussed costs of registration and possible additional costs.
- Cliff will set up a conference call for entire board once the announcement is made on what abstracts have been submitted, so a decision can be made on if any scholarships will be offered through PAGLC for members/farmers. This conference call will standardize the amounts that possibly will be distributed and to whom. Discussion followed on whether to have a booth presence or not. Final decision is to have an electronic picture frame, promoting PAGLC, along with a booth.

#### **Minutes**

- Motion to approve was made by Dick, seconded by Susan Beal. Motion passed.
- Cliff asked if others were having difficulty putting in the url for PAGLC and being taken to the home page. If you utilize <http://www.paglci.org/> you will be taken to the web site. Since we have dropped the "i" in our group's title, the url should reflect that. One who just "google" searches pa grazing lands will be directed to the correct site. Susan Parry will have this corrected so the correct url, <http://www.paglc.org/> will be a successful link.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

- Duane Hertzler, treasurer, shared and discussed the treasurer's report. Susan Parry shared explanation on grant requests/dispersals. All board members received this information by email (hard copies were available).
- Duane is estimating that there should be approximately \$3000.00 available for scholarship for the National Grazing Conference, if that is decided and agreed to do. Discussion followed again on how and who (and how to select) who receives scholarships to go to the conference.

- Helene suggested that it would be nice to somehow have this issue of support for the National Grazing Conference or any other type of scholarship pre-structured in a written plan/format, so this discussion would not be so lengthy when it is mentioned at meetings.
- A motion by Susan Beal and seconded by Dick to accept the treasurer's report was moved and passed.
- Duane reminded everyone to send in Quarterly Reports, for the in-kinds are extremely helpful for keeping financial records. He mentioned he prefers to receive the reports by email when possible.

### **Correspondence**

- Franklin Egan provided a PASA report: Aug 6 & 7, PASA First Summer meeting conference on soil health will be held in Spring Mills, PA. Another event planned centered on genetics and had to be cancelled due to the farm backing out. A new host is being sought.
- A letter needs to be sent to PASA from PAGLC requesting that Franklin Egan be appointed as their representative from PASA to PAGLC

### **Committee Reports**

- Grants: Susan shared requests. Potter wants to change their pasture walks to something different. The committee will make final decision after receiving more details. Discussion followed.
- The next Technical Meeting is during the Manure Expo at the Hampton Inn in Chambersburg. Susan Beal will represent PAGLC at this meeting. All are welcome to attend.
- Susan Beal reported she attended the Project Grass meeting and she feels that some good conversation occurred that may promote some mutual interaction. Discussion followed on how PAGLC should interact with PG. There was discussion and the suggestion that PAGLC needs to continue collaboration and support with and for the active Project Grass Chapters and other grazing groups.

### **Old Business**

- 2015 Project updates: Ideas for 2016.
  - Cliff suggested that when it is time to meet with Denise Coleman (NRCS) to ask for funding for grants and scholarship funding, should more financial support for educational scholarships be requested? Discussion followed. Duane, Cliff and Susan will request more funding when they meet with Denise. Duane suggested we have some data that would support the request for more funding for PAGLC grants and scholarship stressing the roles and goals of NRCS.
- Organizational Name Change/State Filing
  - Susan Parry reported that her research does not show that PAGLC ever registered as incorporated. Discussion followed on whether we should register or leave as is. End decision was to not register and continue to look into understanding this better and

analyzing whether registering is pertinent, necessary and beneficial to move forward. Need to do some more research on how to progress.

- Dan Ludwig mentioned board might want to include a representative from Project Grass to the board.

#### **New Business**

- Apps discussed at beginning of meeting
- Cliff shared a “dream” Ten Million Acre Grassland Club. He handed out a vision of this program and explained his dream. The main goal would be to promote local farms, families and businesses building better communities. Discussion followed with many expressing this as a positive dream. Cliff would like the PAGLC board to think about this and desires to see his dream become incorporated by 2020.

#### **Adjourn/Next Meeting Date**

- Oct 14 2015 at Hoss’s State College PA, 10:00 AM
- Matt made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Justin Geisinger. Motion passed.