



Monthly Newsletter - July 2026



Growing the dairy grazing sector, together

Your monthly update from the Dairy Grazing Alliance

Welcome to the DGA Newsletter

Happy July from all of us at DGA!

The hot months are here in full force, so please take care of yourselves out there! Stay hydrated, take breaks in the shade, and watch for signs of heat stress in yourselves as well as your herds. Air quality hasn't been great in a lot of places either, so if it's hazy where you are, be mindful of how much time you're spending out in it. Above all, thank you for everything you do, your well-being matters just as much as the work.

Inside this issue you'll find the latest industry news, a summer full of pasture walks and field days, our monthly webinar, and as always, the resources and research we think are worth your time.

Happy grazing!

Please send us your news and comments. We would love to highlight awards, successes, grants, activities, media coverage, classes you would like MGIC to develop, etc. Please send your news to Jessica Duran. (jessica@dga-national.org) and if you want to share this Newsletter with someone use [this link!](#)



**MANAGED
GRAZING**
INNOVATION CENTER

Registration starts on August 1st!

Semester	Registration Starts	Registration Ends	Semester Starts	Semester Ends
Fall 2026	August 1st	September 21st	September 21st	December 11th

Don't forget to follow us on social media to get the latest news!



Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship Spotlight: Welcome Abby!

We are thrilled to welcome Abby to the team as our new **Education Coordinator in North Carolina**. As a graduate of the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship (DGA) herself, Abby brings firsthand experience and a deep understanding of the program's impact.

Abby recently graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Dairy Science and a minor in Strategic Communications. Agriculture has always been a huge part of her life, and she is passionate about helping others learn and gain confidence through hands-on experiences.

In her own words:



"As a graduate of the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship, I know how impactful quality mentorship and education can be, and I'm excited about the opportunity to give back by supporting others as they begin their own journey in the dairy industry."

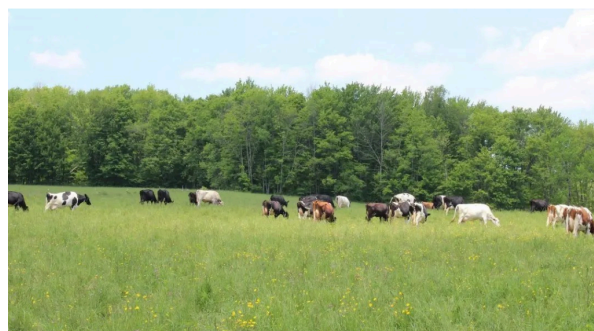
Please join us in welcoming her to the team!

[Meet the Full DGA Staff Here!](#)

Monthly Roundtable

Organic Valley Producer Series: Navigating Organic Program & Product Standards

Join us for the fourth webinar in our Organic Valley series, funded through an Organic Valley FAFO grant. This interactive roundtable discussion will focus on navigating OMRI. Topics will include practical advice on vetting supplies including teat dips, minerals, seeds and fertilizers. We'll also discuss mechanical weed control. Come prepared to share your experiences and learn practical strategies from fellow farmers in the Organic Valley community.



This is the fourth Webinar in our Organic Valley series, bought to you by an OV FAFO grant.

Virtual event

Monday August 3, 2026

12:30 PM ET

[Register Here](#)

Graze

The magazine that is by graziers, for graziers

The New Graze Website is Live! 🎉

We're thrilled to share that grazeonline.com has officially launched. Graze — "by graziers, for graziers" — is published 10 times a year and delivers practical, field-tested insights on grazing management, grass-adapted genetics, marketing, and farm economics, all grounded in real-world experience from farmers making it work across the country.

On the new site you can **subscribe**, **request a sample issue**, browse **back issues**, **advertise**, and sign up for the Graze newsletter. Take a look around and see what's new!

Update from the seasonal dairy transition

Assessing business and financial aspects of switching from year-round production

By Geordie Lynd and Silene DeCiucies



Spring greetings from northern Vermont in the middle of May. We're still seeing occasional snow flurries and holding off on planting tender crops in the garden, but the milking and heifer herds are out on grass day and night and the forecast is calling for a bit warmer weather this coming week. We have calved 76 of what turned out to be 81 cows and heifers and have just a few stragglers to go.

Last time we wrote we promised to discuss some business and financial aspects of changing to seasonal production. Here's what's on our minds these days.

Financial analysis and considered management adjustments on a year-round dairy have always seemed worthwhile to us but were somewhat plagued by the constant motion and flow of everything in the system. An attempt to analyze one year's results against another's can easily lead to a muddle of qualifying statements like "But remember we had that bunch of Jersey heifers freshen in September, and then we fed third-cutting bales first because we had to dig that trench in front of the first-cutting bale pile, and then the cleanup bull came up lame and it took us two weeks to find another one..."

It can feel like you are looking at utter chaos and pretending it has enough of an element of order to think about analytically. One powerful appeal of the seasonal dairy system from a business management point of view is that it has more of the feeling of a discrete process with a start and an end. It's a program that we can run, monitor, evaluate, make adjustments to, and then run again hoping for better results. We can get a full "report" on each critical management area — calving and fresh cow management, calf rearing, breeding, grazing season, dryoffs and the dry period — with a maximum of relevant, recent information and the most possible months to adjust and strategize for the next time around.

To see this article in full, order the specific [back issue](#) you are interested in or [subscribe here](#). This article appeared in the June/July 2026 issue of Graze.

June/July 2026 Graze - summary of articles in the issue:

- Update from the seasonal dairy transition
- Advisors: how do you manage breeding?
- Common threads of successful farms
- Addressing pasture lambing problems
- Diverse native warm-season grazing success
- Grassfed dairy panel: avoiding skinny cows
- Diversification, skim milk, and pastured pigs

Industry News and Resources

Considerations for Dairy Cow Nutrition in Pasture-Based Systems

A new review in JDS Communications looks at how cows perform on well-managed pasture and what that means for grain and forage supplements. Researchers show that the more of the cow's diet that comes from grazed pasture, the lower the cost per pound of milk and the higher whole-farm profit per acre. They also warn that once supplements go over roughly 30% of the cow's total dry matter intake, you start to see more nutrient imbalance and less pasture utilized, which can hurt both cow performance and farm margins. [Learn more.](#)

Featured Events



PASTURE WALK

Informed Grazing from Pasture to Bulk Tank:

Milk Components as a Management Tool

Event details:

Thursday, July 23 • 10 am – 2 pm

Frescura Farm, 204 Kemerer Rd, Latrobe, PA 15650

What can your bulk tank tell you about your pastures?
Join us at Todd Frescura's 35-cow organic grazing dairy to
see how milk components like butterfat, protein, and MUN
can guide your grazing decisions and improve herd
productivity. Lunch included.

Registration:



\$10 • RSVP by July 20

Register by scanning the QR code or
contacting Amber at 301.957.5740

Sponsored by:



[Register Here](#)

Upcoming Events

- **2026 Annual Crops and Soils Field Day: The Demonstration Derby. Thursday, July 23, 2026 · 10:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m.** Borderview Research Farm, Alburgh, VT. UVM Extension's Northwest Crops and Soils team (led by Heather Darby) showcases on-farm research with more live demonstrations than ever — autonomous weeding robots from Greenfield Robotics, precision ag technology, soil health sampling with the SHREC team, forage quality and species selection, hemp and flax research, and an interactive fresh-vegetable taste session. Catered lunch and ice cream from Ben & Jerry's included. [Register.](#)
- **Soil Health in Field Crops. Wednesday, August 13, 2026 :** Rodman Lott & Son Farms, Seneca Falls, NY. Keynote speakers Rick Clark of Farm Green and Dr. Harold Van Es. Registration required · \$20. [Register.](#)
- **Artisan Cheesemaking Short course.** August 7 - 8, 2026 | Ann Arbor, MI
- **Soil Health in Organic Field Crops** — Thursday, August 27, 2026 · 9:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. · Gianforte Farm, Cazenovia, NY. Free. [More info & register.](#)
- World Dairy Expo. September 29 - October 2, 2026 | Madison, WI
- Eastern Native Grasslands Symposium. October 13–16, 2026. Hopkinsville, KY.
- **UVM Dairy Extension Dairy Team for the Future-Ready Dairy Farm tour Series,** including Recycling Water for Pasture Irrigation; Robotic Weeding on Dairy Farms & Herd Health Monitoring Systems; Funding, Automation and Innovation Strategies; Grazing, Agritourism and Value-Added Innovation; and more. June 24 - September 3, 2026. | Vermont
- **Pasture Walks with PennState Extension.** July 30 - September 3 | Pennsylvania
- Pasture to Woodland: Diversified Grazing Systems Field Day. University of Missouri Center for Agroforestry. September 18, 2026. [Details.](#)
- **26th Annual NODPA Field Days** — September 24–25, 2026. Leesport, PA. Theme: "Hope for the Future: Strategies for Success." [Details.](#)
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Share Your Story with the DGA Community

We want to hear from you! Do you have a success story, upcoming event, research findings, or innovative practice you'd like to share with fellow dairy graziers? We're always looking for content that can benefit our community.

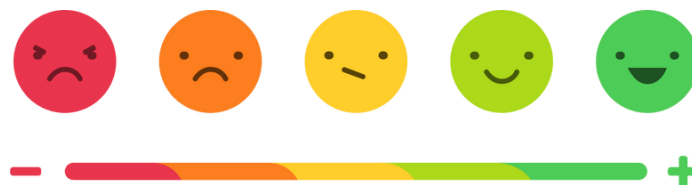
We'd love to feature:

- Farm success stories and lessons learned
- Upcoming conferences, field days, or educational events
- New research or publications relevant to dairy grazing
- Innovative grazing practices or technologies
- Questions you'd like us to address in future newsletters

Submit your suggestions, stories, or events to Jessica Duran at jessica@dga-national.org

Your contributions help make this newsletter a valuable resource for the entire dairy grazing community!

Help us make the DGA Newsletter even better! Your feedback is invaluable in helping us create content that truly serves the dairy grazing community. This survey takes about 3-5 minutes to complete. [Survey](#)



Support DGA

Get involved!! Dairy Grazing Alliance is training a new generation of dairy farmers who utilize regenerative practices to revitalize rural communities, protect the environment, and produce nutrient-dense dairy products.



Thank you for being part of the Dairy Grazing Alliance community. Together, we're building a more sustainable and profitable future for dairy grazing.



This newsletter was compiled in May 2026. For the most current information, please visit our website or contact us directly.

www.dga-national.org

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