



Monthly Newsletter - April 2026



Growing the dairy grazing sector, together

Your monthly update from the Dairy Grazing Alliance

Welcome to the DGA Newsletter

Spring is here, and so is our April 2026 newsletter!

This month, we are celebrating growth across every corner of our work: MGIC Fall semester is on the horizon, our team is showing up on national stages and we have exciting opportunities for those who want to join the DGA mission.

Whether you are a grazer, an educator, an industry partner or simply someone who believes in the future of grass-based dairy, there is something in this issue for you.

Thank you for being part of this community. Let's keep growing, together! One Apprentice at a time!

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!](#)

National Apprenticeship Week

Interested in a career in Dairy Farming?

Join our informational webinar to learn about opportunities. DGA is a paid 2 year formal Apprenticeship, the first registered agricultural Apprenticeship in the nation. **Jessica Matthews, Apprenticeship Manager** will discuss the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship and be available to answer questions.



Date: April 27, 2026
Time: 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm EST

[Join Here](#)

DGA At RegenerativeNYC

We are proud to share that **Lissy Matthews**, our Senior Director of Advancement & Strategic Partnerships, will be representing the Dairy Grazing Alliance at the upcoming **RegenerativeNYC** event.

She will be featured in two sessions across two days:



Wednesday, April 29
3:00 PM EST

Grazing in Dairy Operation

Thursday, April 30
11:15 AM EST

Panel: Facilitation Transitions to Regenerative Dairy

Join us as we discuss the current context in the dairy industry, the financial and environmental performance of dairy grazing systems, and the challenges of those who are transitioning to managed grazing. We will also share some updates about how our organizations are working to shift systems that would make regenerative dairy transitions more possible at scale.

Speakers

Elisabeth Spratt - Project Manager, Wallace Center at Winrock International

Lorin Hostetler - Farmer, Shtayburne Farm

Dr. Jon Winsten - Ag Economist & TA Provider, Conservation Performance LLC

Lissy Matthews - Senior Director of Advancement & Strategic Partnerships, Dairy Grazing Alliance



As we wrap up the spring semester on April 3rd, we are looking ahead to the Fall 2026 semester.

Please take note of the important dates below for registration and semester start times.

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!



Monthly Roundtable

Organic Valley Producer Series: Transition Documentation

Every CROPP Cooperative/Organic Valley farm must be organically certified. Organic farmers are required to follow National Organic Program (NOP) rules for their crops, livestock, and livestock products to be sold or marketed as organic.

If you have made this transition, are in progress, or just starting to think about it, this Webinar will help! You'll hear from Organic Valley Producers and get an opportunity to ask them direct questions. We'll also discuss resources to help you learn along the way.



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

Virtual event
Monday May 4, 2026
12:30 PM ET

[Register Here](#)

Graze
The magazine that is by graziers, for graziers

One dairy: focus on what we share

By Joe Tomandl III

Across the dairy landscape today, it is easy to feel like the industry has become fragmented. Conventional, organic, grass-fed, pasture-raised, A2A2, non-GMO, regenerative, humane-certified, the list of production labels and market claims continues to grow. Each label speaks to a particular consumer preference and

production approach. Each has its own set of standards, marketing organizations, and advocates.



Yet beneath those labels lies a much simpler truth: we are all dairy farmers.

Regardless of how milk is produced or marketed, dairy farmers share far more common ground than differences. The animals are the same. The land is the same. The daily commitment to animal care, environmental stewardship, and producing nutritious food is the same. The real differences in dairy systems are largely shaped by consumer-driven markets, dairy regulations, and support structures that have developed around these markets.

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

April 2026 Graze - summary of articles in the issue:

- First-generation graziers revitalize a farm
- Advisors: managing manure
- Using EBVs for sheep selection
- Building loyalty in customers

We Are Hiring!

DGA is growing! Know someone who would be a great fit? Share these opportunities with your network!

Grazing Specialist

Education Coordinator - Michigan

Education Coordinator - Northern Wisconsin

[Learn more](#)

Market News and Industry Trends

Fonterra on Why New Zealand's Grass-Fed Dairy Standard Is Key to Building Consumer Trust

Food Ingredients First, March 31, 2026 - The dairy industry is witnessing a rising demand for milk and dairy products from cows primarily fed on grass, as consumer interest in transparency, regenerative agriculture, and minimally processed foods continues to grow. New Zealand's national grass-fed standard is emerging as a global benchmark for credibility.

The voluntary scheme, developed in collaboration with New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries, defines "grass-fed" as dairy animals having a diet of at least **90% qualifying feed types** and grazing on pasture or forage crops for at least **340 days per year**. The global grass-fed milk market is projected to grow from **US\$5.2 billion in 2026 to nearly US\$29.9 billion by 2035**. [Read more here.](#)

Upcoming Events

- Animals, Landscapes & Communities: Seminar Series by Colorado State University, bringing together researchers, students, and partners to explore the future of grazing systems and sustainable animal agriculture.
- April 17, 2026 | 11:00–11:50 a.m. | Nutrien Bernard Rollins Knowledge Well Classroom | Speaker: Mitch Stephenson, Range Management Specialist, University of Nebraska. [Register Here](#)
- May 1, 2026 | 11:00–11:50 a.m. | Nutrien Bernard Rollins Knowledge Well Classroom | Speaker: Amy Ganguli, Professor and Cooperative Extension Specialist, University of Arizona. [Register Here](#)
- Kentucky Beginning Grazing School. April 21, 2026 | Morehead, KY
- Appalachian Grazing Conference. April 30, 2026 | Wardensville, WV
- GrassWorks WI School of Grazing. May 19, 2026 | Bloomington, WI

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.

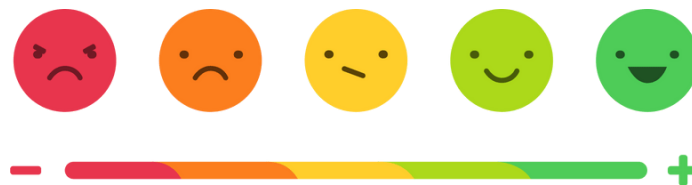
We'd love to feature:

- 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 April 2026. For the most current information, please visit our website or contact us directly.

www.dga-national.org

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