Dairy Grazing Alliance

Monthly Newsletter - November 2026



Growing the dairy grazing sector, together

Your monthly update from the Dairy Grazing Alliance

Welcome to the DGA Newsletter

As Thanksgiving approaches, we're taking a moment to reflect on the people who make the dairy grazing community so special. From our Mentors and Apprentices and MGIC instructors and students to our staff and network of partners, we're grateful for the dedication, knowledge and connections that continue to strengthen this way of farming.

In this month's newsletter, we're excited to introduce you to Jules Gross, a DGA Apprentice at Wolfe's Neck Center in Freeport, Maine. Jules shares her journey into dairy grazing, what she's learning along the way, and how working with cows and the land is shaping her perspective on farming and the future.

You'll also find the latest news and updates, along with upcoming events, educational opportunities, and resources to help you stay informed and connected.

From all of us at Dairy Grazing Alliance, we wish you and your families a happy Thanksgiving!

Q&A with Jules Gross, DGA Apprentice on Wolfe's Neck Center in Freeport, Maine



This month, we caught up with Jules Gross, a DGA Apprentice at Wolfe's Neck Center in Freeport, Maine. With a background in everything from horses and vegetable farming to political ecology and theatrical design, Jules brings a unique perspective to dairy grazing. She shares what drew her to the Apprenticeship, the skills and confidence she's gaining, and how working with cows and the land is shaping her outlook on farming and the future.

What piqued your interest in dairy grazing?
My DGA Apprenticeship is actually the first time I've worked with cattle. I grew up working with horses, then went to school for Political Ecology and Theatrical Design. A gap year on a vegetable farm turned into 3+ years, and I found out about DGA while interning on a farm in Italy. Dairy grazing seemed like a great way to combine my interests in animal and plant agriculture, and maybe a pathway into the food industry (cheese or ice cream) someday.

What are you enjoying most so far?
I love the balance of learning and responsibility. Everything was completely new to me, so working in an environment built around learning really matters. I feel like I have the confidence and support to try new things that mean something, in a way where mistakes aren't the end of the world. I never thought I'd be able to drive a trailer, tube a calf, or insert an IV, but here we are, and I have my Mentors to thank for that.

What makes a great day on the farm?
The best days are the ones where I feel in tune with myself, the team, and the herd. Days where I can sense what needs to happen next, what the cows need and want, and where I feel peaceful with the work. Honestly, though, sometimes a great day is just not getting pooped on in the milking parlor.

Read the full Q&A with Jules here.

DGA Apprenticeship Expands on MGIC

The Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship has expanded its presence on MGIC, bringing Apprenticeship administration, hours tracking, and online coursework together in one place. The transition also introduces new opportunities for Apprentices, Mentors, and Education Coordinators to connect, share experiences, access resources, and build community across the DGA network.

If you haven't already, be sure to create your MGIC account! If you have questions or need support, please contact Jessica Matthews at **jessicam@dga-national.org**.

Explore the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship on MGIC

More Apprenticeship Updates

Upcoming Cohort Meeting

Current Apprentices: Mark your calendars for our next Monthly Virtual Cohort Meeting on December 16. It's an informal hour to swap stories, troubleshoot what's happening on the farm, and catch up with fellow Apprentices around the country (no formal presentations, just good conversation). Keep an eye on your inbox for the invite link!

The Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship Expands to 17 States

DGA is pleased to welcome Virginia as the newest state to join the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship! With this expansion, the program now reaches 17 states, creating more opportunities for aspiring dairy farmers to connect with experienced Mentors, gain hands-on experience and build careers in managed dairy grazing.

Angelo Capone Named a 2026 PA Agricultural Worker of the Year

Huge congratulations to Angelo Capone, a DGA Journeyworker on the team at **Clover Creek Cheese Cellars** (one of our Pennsylvania Mentor farms), on being named one of Pennsylvania's 2026 Agricultural Workers of the Year!

Presented by the Pennsylvania State Council of Farm Organizations and the PA Department of Agriculture, this honor celebrates the skill, grit, and day-to-day leadership it takes to keep dairy

farms running.

Angelo will be recognized at an award ceremony this fall and again at the Legislative Luncheon during the 2027 Pennsylvania Farm Show in January (so if you're at the Farm Show, be sure to congratulate him)!

MANAGED GRAZING INNOVATION CENTER

MGIC Spring Semester Enrollment Opens November 23

Mark your calendars! Enrollment for the MGIC Spring 2027 semester opens November 23 and closes January 10. Classes begin January 11 and run through April 2. Get ready to build your knowledge and skills in managed grazing dairy through MGIC's online coursework!

Learn More



Upcoming Webinar: Bulk Tank Fatty Acid Testing

As part of our ongoing research, DGA has been completing Bulk Tank Fatty Acid Testing across several Mentor farms and states.

In this webinar, Dr. Greg Brickner will walk through how DGA uses fatty acid testing as an indicator of a cow's ration. He'll cover the wide variety of fats found in milk and what they can tell us about both cow and human nutrition.

Monday, December 7 at 12:30 p.m. ET. Free to attend!

Register Today

Support the Future of Dairy Grazing This Giving Tuesday, Dec. 1



This Giving Tuesday, December 1, we hope you'll consider a financial gift to Dairy Grazing Alliance in support of our mission to grow a vibrant U.S. dairy grazing sector. Your gift helps fund education and training for current and future dairy graziers through the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship and Managed Grazing Innovation Center (MGIC), as well as critical research and development of on-farm technologies that help dairy graziers succeed.

Together, we can strengthen the future of dairy grazing. Thank you for your support!

Make a Gift

Graze

The magazine that is by graziers, for graziers

What's New from *Graze* Magazine?

The November issue of *Graze* features a wide range of topics, from pasture management and livestock health to emerging opportunities in sustainable agriculture. Here's a look at what's inside, along with the latest from the *Graze* blog.

Inside the November issue:

- Birdsfoot Trefoil: Wonder Legume or Invasive Problem? by Janet McNally
- Advisor Panel: What Do You Look for in a Grazing Animal?
- The Protein Craze and Dairy Components by Joel McNair
- Adding Livestock and Grazing to Row Crops: Reasons to Be Hopeful for Perennial Ag by Laura Paine
- What We Learned After Losing Calves to Mycotoxins by Jim Feete
- Preparing for New Sustainability Markets by Fabian Bernal
- Pastured Hog Results from This Season by Jim Van Der Pol

Latest from the *Graze* blog:

- **The Benefits of Diverse Monocultures** — Daniel Olson explores the idea of combining different varieties of the same species to capture the soil and productivity benefits of a

diverse mix, without the palatability and timing challenges that come with managing many species at once.





Subscribe to Graze Magazine

Industry News and Resources

Next Generation Farmer Fund

The Next Gen Farmer Fund is a $1M+ initiative through the National Young Farmers Coalition that provides direct financial support and technical assistance to beginning farmers and farmers under 40 who are stewarding land through more sustainable farming practices. **Applications are open** until December 1, 2026.

From Beef to Dairy: How One Irish Farm Transformed for Profitability and Grazes 350 Cows Nine Months a Year

In County Kildare, Ireland, Brian Rushe's family moved from beef and crop farming to a pasture-based dairy. Today, they milk 350 cows across two farms and graze nine months of the year, a look at how one family reshaped their operation around grass.

Upcoming Events

- **Acres Eco-Ag Conference** — December 1-4 | Iowa City, IA
- **GrassWorks Grazing Conference** — January 21–23 | La Crosse, 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.

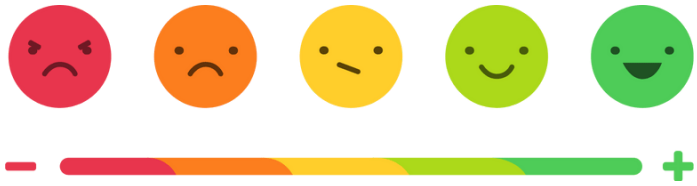
We'd love to feature:

- 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 **info@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

Help strengthen the future of managed grazing dairy in the U.S. Your support advances farmers, education, innovation, and market opportunities that help dairy thrive.



Thank you for being part of the Dairy Grazing Alliance community. Together, we're advancing managed grazing and helping build a thriving, resilient future for dairy farmers, rural communities, and the land.

MANAGED GRAZING INNOVATION CENTER

DAIRY GRAZING APPRENTICESHIP

Graze
The magazine that is by graziers, for graziers

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

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