



October 2025 Newsletter

October brings with it the golden colors of autumn and the satisfaction of harvest season. For dairy graziers, this is a time of reflection and preparation—looking back on the grazing season that's drawing to a close while planning for the months ahead. The cooler temperatures and shorter days remind us that winter is approaching, making this an ideal time to assess our pasture management decisions, evaluate our herd's performance, and prepare for the transition to stored feeds.

As we reflect on the past season, we invite you to share your experiences with the community on the [MGIC platform](#). What have you learned? What were your successes? What improvements are you planning for the coming year?

In this issue, we're excited to share updates on several innovative research and demonstration projects that DGA is conducting. These projects represent the cutting edge of dairy grazing technology and management, from nutrient density testing to virtual fencing systems. We believe these initiatives will help shape the future of sustainable dairy farming and provide valuable tools for graziers everywhere.

Thank you for your continued commitment to sustainable dairy grazing. Your dedication to improving both productivity and environmental stewardship continues to inspire our work.

Industry Headlines

- **Dairy Markets Face Continued Pressure from Heavy Supply.** October dairy market analysis shows weakness prevailing as heavy supply, lackluster domestic demand, and increased export competition continue to weigh on commodity prices. Despite record export levels, many U.S. dairy farms are experiencing shrinking profit margins. [Read more](#)
- **Vermont Announces \$750,000 in Dairy Farm Support.** Vermont has allocated \$750,000 in funding to support dairy farms in boosting long-term success. This grant program will support a wide range of projects aimed at improving farm viability, milk quality, and worker conditions across the state. [Read more](#)

- **Dairy Industry Consolidation Continues.** Analysis of dairy industry trends shows continued consolidation, with North Dakota serving as an example where the number of dairy farms has decreased dramatically from 1,810 to just 24 operations, highlighting the ongoing structural changes in the industry. [Read more](#)
- **Cross-Boundary Grazing Podcast.** The Land Stewardship Project's latest "Ear to the Ground" podcast episode explores cross-boundary grazing arrangements and their benefits for both farmers and landowners. [Listen here](#)
- **OFRF Farmer-Led Trials Program.** The Organic Farming Research Foundation is accepting applications for their Farmer-Led Research Trials program, which supports on-farm research projects conducted by farmers. [Learn more and apply](#)

An Update on DGA

In addition to ongoing work with the University of Missouri and [PaddockTrac](#), DGA has several other research and demonstration projects in progress right now.

1. Nutrient Density Testing for Grass-Fed Verification

Testing for the nutrient density of grass-fed products has become commercially available in recent years. DGA is conducting a pilot study on 12 farms along with the testing lab, Edacious. These farms are taking bulk tank samples several times during the year and also sharing information on the ration being fed at the time of collection. Testing will correlate the levels of certain compounds in milk with the ration being fed.

In addition to measuring CLA and omega 6:3 ratios, there are other compounds found in milk that are produced only in the rumen of grazing cows. The amount of pasture in the ration will change the amount of those compounds found in milk. The hope is to use periodic testing of bulk tank milk as a means of verifying compliance with a grass-fed dairy standard for processors and consumers.

2. Satellite Technology Integration with Pasture Management

One goal of [PaddockTrac](#) research at the University of Missouri has been the incorporation of on-the-ground measurements with satellite imagery for measuring pastures. A company from Australia, [Pasture.io](#), has already developed an accurate method of using satellite data while also incorporating manual inputs from the farmer and cow dry matter intake numbers. The pasture management program they provide with this information is excellent. Three farms have recently begun to use it and we hope to expand access to farms participating in our USDA grant.

3. Virtual Fencing Demonstration Project

DGA recently received a grant to conduct a 2-year long demonstration of the use of virtual fence collars in combination with the use of [Pasture.io](#), on a dairy farm in eastern WI. We expect to demonstrate improved pasture utilization and a resulting increase in pasture yield. A system that can improve pasture yield and forage quality

with decreased labor and infrastructure is a winning combination that may appeal to our non-grazing neighbors. This project begins in spring 2026.

We welcome any farms interested in participating in these projects or future research initiatives. These collaborative efforts are essential for advancing our understanding of sustainable dairy grazing and developing practical tools that benefit the entire industry. If you're interested in learning more about participating in current or future research projects, please don't hesitate to reach out to our team.

Greg Brickner
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WORKING INTO GRASSFED DAIRY OWNERSHIP

First-generation graziers find a future

By Martha Hoffman Kerestes

Garnavillo, Iowa — A few years ago, two young folks left existing careers in search of a more fulfilling life. Today, they're married and building that fulfilling life together working into ownership on a dairy, as a longtime grazer passes the torch.



Nicole Blanchette, 30, grew up in suburbia and hadn't been on a farm. She realized her post-college research job at a hospital wasn't what she wanted to do for the rest of her life.

The Covid-19 pandemic was the last straw — she wanted to be out of her downtown Chicago apartment. She thought, "I like being outside, I love food, and I love animals, so maybe I should try farming."

That led Nicole to Cliff McConville's All Grass Farms not far away, and she joined the operation as a Dairy Grazing Apprentice through DGA. There, she fell in love with dairy and realized this was what she wanted to do with the rest of her life. She was about to graduate when she met Paul Blanchette, 37, but they almost didn't

cross paths.

To see this article in full, order the specific [back issue](#) you are interested in or [subscribe here](#). This article appeared in the October 2025 issue of Graze.

June-July 2025 Graze - summary of articles in the issue:

- Raising triplet lambs on pasture
- Testing virtual fencing on the grazing dairy
- Creating and using a drought plan
- Advisors: raising calves

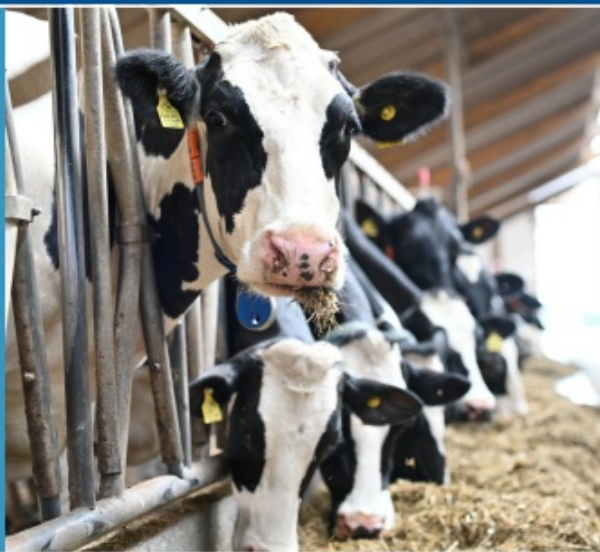
Grants - Opportunities for you

- **CIG:** Looking for dairies in MN, WI, PA, and VT interested in improving their grazing infrastructure and management. For more information, complete this [interest form](#) or contact Ashley at ashley@dga-national.org.
- **GLPF:** Looking for farms in the Great Lakes Basin interested in adding grazing to or expanding their current operation. For more information, [click here](#).
- **NRCS-WI:** Looking for grazing farms with current EQIP or CSP contracts in Southern WI to utilize PaddockTrac and get real time pasture growth data. Contact greg@dga-national.org

UNIFORM-AGRI: Looking for an all-in-one solution to manage your pasture and animal records? Check this out!**If you are part of DGA you will get a few months for free!** For more information contact Lauren Silver at l.siver@uniform-agri.com



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Jobs and Careers

- Many of our Mentors are looking for Interns and Apprentices! Don't miss your chance to connect and learn—apply today!
- [Other opportunities here.](#)

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.

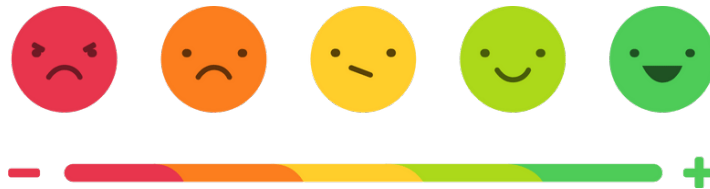
We'd love to feature:

- 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.



This newsletter was compiled in October 2025. For the most current information, please visit our website or contact us directly.

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