



Monthly Newsletter - June 2026



Growing the dairy grazing sector, together

Your monthly update from the Dairy Grazing Alliance

Welcome to the DGA Newsletter

Happy June, and happy **National Dairy Month!**

June might be one of my favorite months of the year. The pastures are green, cows are out doing what they do best, and there's a real sense of momentum on farms across the country. It's also the month we get to pause and celebrate the people behind it all: the producers, families, and farm workers who show up every single day to care for their animals and feed their communities.

This month we've got a packed issue for you. We're welcoming a new member to the DGA team, sharing our Fall 2026 semester dates, and opening registration for the next roundtable in our Organic Valley herd-health series. You'll also find the latest industry news, a full slate of summer pasture walks and field days — and the news we've been waiting to share: the brand-new [Graze website](#) is officially live!

Thank you, as always, for the work you do. Happy grazing season!

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!](#)

Staff Spotlight: Welcome Lori!

We're delighted to introduce **Lori**, DGA's **Grants Compliance and Financial Lead**.

Lori is a seasoned finance and grants management leader with more than 30 years of experience overseeing complex accounting operations, federal and nonprofit grant compliance, financial reporting, and organizational finance strategy across government, nonprofit, and private-sector environments. Over her career she has managed multimillion-dollar funding portfolios totaling more than \$500 million across federal, state, county, and private sources — building a reputation for integrity, resilience, and compassionate leadership.



Her expertise spans post-award grant management, Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200) compliance, Single Audit preparation, financial reporting, internal controls, process improvement, and cross-functional operational leadership, with deep experience in audit readiness, SEFA preparation, funder reporting, reimbursement management, and financial systems implementation. Known for bringing structure and calm to high-pressure environments, Lori pairs technical expertise with a deeply human leadership style rooted in perseverance, empathy, and accountability.

Lori holds a Bachelor of Science from Harper College and a Not-for-Profit Certificate II from the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Please join us in welcoming her to the team!

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

DGA Update

Observations From Spring 2026 in Wisconsin Using
[Pasture.io](#)

Spring in Wisconsin brought an extended period of below normal air and soil temperatures and dry conditions. As a result, soil microbes were slow to get going and release N from organic matter for pasture growth. Grass growth rates were about half of normal May/June rates. For many, spring flush just didn't happen.

In a normal spring we see multiple paddocks exceed our target turn-in cover amounts. In a normal spring, the decision to be made is how many paddocks to defer for hay making or a long rest period for pasture soil building. During a normal spring flush we look at the feed wedge and we find the next paddock that is close to our target turn-in. Then skip over the "too tall" paddocks. Also, be sure that the growth rate in recovering paddocks is high enough to keep up with that decision.

Our odd spring weather definitely showed up in the feed wedge. There were very few or no paddocks over target pasture cover to defer. This might have implications for winter feed supply for farms that rely on 1st crop to supply much of that supply.

The last week in Wisconsin has seen rain return to normal and growth rates are increasing in response. It is unclear how the combination of more moisture will meet grasses thinking about flowering and summer heat. Grasslands are complex systems. I think that one big reason behind dairy farms abandoning grazing is not wanting to deal with that complexity. Corn silage is way more predictable.

The beauty of having access to a feed wedge is that we will be able to see how early summer unfolds and respond with more information at our fingertips. Maybe it will be one of those weird years where 2nd crop is heavier than 1st. Or maybe there will be just enough pasture to keep on the current rotation without an opportunity to harvest excess.

Using satellites to collect pasture information means that we have a feed wedge to look at even during times of the year when we would have been too busy to walk or drive an ATV to measure paddocks.

Greg Brickner, DVM, Senior Director of Precision Grazing



**MANAGED
GRAZING**

INNOVATION CENTER

Fall Semester 2026

As we wrap up the spring semester,
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: Herd Health

Join us for the third webinar in our Organic Valley series. This interactive roundtable discussion will focus on the fundamentals of organic dairy herd health: environment, observation, prevention, and treatment. Topics will include preventing common health issues, herd management best practices, training employees and Apprentices to recognize and monitor animal health concerns, effective alternative treatments, and more. Come prepared to share your experiences and learn practical strategies from fellow farmers in the Organic Valley community.



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

Virtual event
Monday July 6, 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!

Grazing to Utilize Steep New York Slopes

Luke Shirk manages under 40 organic cows making a 65-lb. rolling herd average



By Martha Hoffman Kerestes

Dundee, New York — Luke Shirk's farm provides another example of the fact that you don't need the newest facilities to have a thriving grazing dairy.

With 35 cows in 1960s tie stalls, Luke, 36, is getting a 65-lb./day rolling herd average year-round selling to the organic market.

Located in the Finger Lakes region of west-central New York, the farm has 146 tillable or grazeable acres including some rented fields about half a mile up the road that are used for stored feed.

There are 36 acres of permanent pasture up the hill from the buildings along with 27 acres across the road that can be hay, pasture, or corn.

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

May 2026 Graze - summary of articles in the issue:

- Grazing steep New York slopes for high production
- Advisors: fly control
- Reflections on stockmanship
- Pasture lambing options
- Lessons from Irish grazing dairies
- Dairy facility planning tips
- Next-level grazing management
- On birds and generations

Industry News and Resources

Heat Stress Season is Here, New Dairy Ventilation App.

Early-summer heat across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic is already pulling milk output down. A new free app lets producers enter barn and herd details to plan cooling and fan needs around the THI-68 stress threshold. [Explore the tool.](#)

California is moving toward its first-ever mandatory rule on dairy methane

California is taking its first step toward directly regulating methane from dairies and livestock, moving beyond voluntary programs that have only partially cut emissions toward its 2030 goals under SB 1383. The Air Resources Board is soliciting input on feasible mitigation options—ranging from anaerobic digesters to pasture-based manure management—amid growing pressure from environmental justice groups to shift away from policies that favor large biogas projects and toward approaches that also reduce local air and water pollution [Read more.](#)

TNC + ALDI U.S. Dairy Sustainability Strategy Project

This case study from The Nature Conservancy shows how ALDI U.S. and TNC collaborated to build a credible dairy sustainability baseline by mapping ALDI's fluid milk supply chain, co-designing a focused supplier data template, and having ALDI lead clear, retailer-driven engagement with processors to secure complete, validated data. The project emphasizes starting with feasible, region- or facility-level information, using standardized fields to reduce friction, and treating follow-up as part of an iterative learning process rather than a failure. Despite variable supplier readiness and limited granularity, ALDI achieved full supplier participation, improved visibility into regional greenhouse gas and water risks, and generated actionable insights to target future on-farm and regional interventions, positioning data collection as a foundation for climate, water, and biodiversity action rather than a compliance exercise. [More here.](#)

USDA Confirms Presence of New World Screwworm in the U.S.

New World Screwworm (NWS) has been detected in U.S. livestock — 12 confirmed cases across Texas and New Mexico as of mid-June, up from the first case (a three-week-old calf near the Mexico border) on June 3. [More information here.](#)

Featured Events



Pasture Walk at Corse Family Farm with Sarah Flack

Tuesday July 14th
10:00AM–2:30PM
Corse Family Farm
Whitingham, Vermont



Funding through workforce
development grant

NORTHEAST DAIRY BUSINESS
INNOVATION CENTER

Pasture Walk at Corse Family Farm with Sarah Flack — Tuesday, July 14, 2026 · 10:30 AM–2 PM · Whitingham, VT

Join grazing consultant and educator Sarah Flack, DGA Mentor Leon Corse and his partners Linda, Abbie & MacKenzie, and their current DGA Apprentice Chris for a pasture walk at Corse Farm Dairy. This interactive workshop covers advanced grazing topics — improving pasture productivity and quality, increasing forage

digestibility, managing pastures after drought and high rainfall, building soil health, and plant identification — with plenty of field-based discussion and peer learning.

You'll also get to learn more about the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship program from Leon, MacKenzie (a DGA graduate and journeyman grazier), and Abbie. Lunch is included and RSVP is required.

[Register Here](#)



Wallace Center
AT WINROCK INTERNATIONAL



FIELD DAY

Dive deep into dairy grazing: pastures, processing, and economic opportunities

Tues, July 21, 2026 || 10am - 2pm

register at: <https://bit.ly/dairyfieldday>

hosted at Annie G's Dairy/Lambarth Farms in Ann Arbor, MI

This event was funded in part by the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development.



Dive deep into dairy grazing: pastures, processing, and economic opportunities

Come join us for a field day to explore pathways to saving money and becoming more profitable by using grazing on your dairy. From grazing heifers or dry cows to full grazing systems, we'll learn from other dairy farmers and from technical experts about ways to try out grazing without betting the whole farm. We'll also learn about on-farm processing and direct marketing options.

This event is hosted by Lambarth Farms / Annie G's Dairy. Kat and Dave Mageean started Annie G's Dairy to address a clear gap in the current dairy system — creating a model that helps small farmers stay in business, thrive, and reconnect with their communities.

[Read Here](#)

Upcoming Events

- [Twin Oaks Dairy Silvopasture Walk](#). July 17, 2026 | Truxton, NY
- [Artisan Cheesemaking Short course](#). August 7 - 8, 2026 | Ann Arbor, MI
- World Dairy Expo. September 29 - October 2, 2026 | Madison, WI
- [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



Take a PASTURE WALK

Walk and learn at a farm near you

Interested in improving pasture quality for your animals? Join extension experts for a tour of a local ag operation. Learn about soil testing, rotational grazing, and methods for pasture evaluation, management, and renovation.

Preregistration is required. Free!

TOPICS

- + Strategies to extend the grazing season
- + Rotational grazing practices
- + Pasture management and evaluation techniques
- + Forage and weed identification

PASTURE WALKS WITH EXTENSION

Thursday, July 30
10 a.m. to noon
Hamilton Heights Dairy Farm
Chambersburg

Tuesday, August 4
10 a.m. to noon
Matt Bomgardner Farm
Annville

Thursday, August 6
9:30 a.m. to noon
Daniel Glick Farm
Quarryville

Thursday, September 3
10 a.m. to noon
Pineybrook Farms
Markleton



REGISTER TODAY FOR THIS FREE EVENT!
extension.psu.edu/pasturewalkswithextension
or 877-345-0691

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Visit extension.psu.edu/alternate-format-request to request this publication in an alternative format accommodation due to a disability.

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**PennState
Extension**

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.

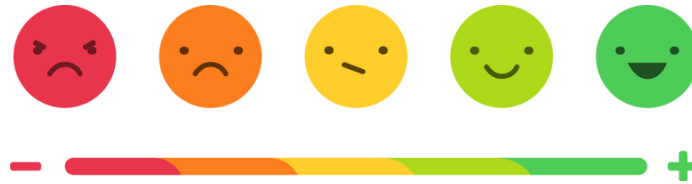
We'd love to feature:

- 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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