



Central WI Farm Profitability Expo Presents:

Grazier's Panel Discussion: First Hand Experiences & Perspectives

Joe Tomandl, Peter Arnold, Evan Ensign & Jimmy Bloome

Wednesday, March 3rd
10:00-11:30AM

Meet Our Panelists



Joe Tomandl (Left) grew up on a managed grazing dairy in Medford, WI. He received a B.S. in Agriculture Education from UW River Falls and taught high school agriculture and advised the FFA for 4 years. In 1998 Joe and his wife Christy quit their teaching jobs and purchased a small dairy farm near his childhood home. The small farm has grown to two—200 cow organic grazing operations. Joe is the Executive Director of Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship, the first in the nation registered Apprenticeship in agriculture. Joe recognizes that regeneratively managed grazing can be the solution to our most challenging environmental and rural socioeconomic issues. Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship is designed to train skilled farmers to scale regenerative dairy as a solutions program and market driver.

Peter Arnold (Right) and his wife first moved to Marathon County in 1999 to purchase the farm that they have managed for the past 20 years as a grazing-based dairy. Good management decisions allowed Peter to expand herd numbers from 50 to over 200 cows. Over the past year Peter's farm sold and he has transitioned to working with Joe, stepping in to help manage his farms.



Jimmy Bloome separated from his family's LLC to try his hand at grazing in 2018. He is now milking 100 cows, raising 80 replacements, including some beef, and a couple steers. Now with more than two years under his belt, he is well equipped to share his story of transition from conventional management to grazing. Jimmy just finished transitioning his operation to certified organic with an all grass management approach. Next he intends to transition to seasonal milking of his cows starting this September.

Evan Ensign (Left) began farming in 2017 after attending the Farm and Industry Short Course in Madison and working on a few local dairies, large and small. He has been working towards incorporating grazing into his 50 cow dairy operation over the past year. Evan grew up on a dairy farm that utilized rotational grazing, but his current farm didn't allow for it, as there was a creek that ran between his barn and land that could be grazed. After a raised lane and crossing were implemented, he's excited to start grazing this year. He currently runs 200 acres of land. His setup allows him to graze youngstock and incorporate Total Mixed Ration (TMR).



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