Pasture Monitoring

Objective: To monitor pasture production before and after implementation of a rotational grazing management system.

Farmer-cooperator will:
- Collect baseline samples just before turning cattle and bison into pasture.
- Take forage biomass samples in each paddock before grazing to estimate amount of forage available.
- Observe and record plant diversity two to three times over the grazing season using transects.
- Record hay production.
- Record all paddock move dates, paddock sizes, number of animals grazing each paddock, and average animal weight.
- Record data on the sheets provided.

Practical Farmers of Iowa will:
- Monitor progress of project and provide support when needed.
- Analyze the data and publish in a PFI research report, on PFI website and potentially other outlets.
- Pay the Farmer Cooperator a fee of $550 at the conclusion of the project in 2016.

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The terms of this Research Protocols document are subject to the terms of the individual Research Cooperators Memorandum of Understanding agreement with PFI. To the extent these terms may differ or conflict, the Memorandum of Understanding shall control.