Spring is springing! The grass is looking a little greener every day and the grazing season is beckoning. Remember to check your fences for sagging wires, posts that need to be replaced, and water lines to make sure your connection points are still tight.

Webinar recording: Lambing, Kidding and Calving on Pasture
YouTube video: Time Calving to Daylight Hours

PROGRAM UPDATES

Avian influenza information
Highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) can have a variety of symptoms. Many birds experience respiratory symptoms, such as coughing, sneezing, nasal discharge and swollen sinuses. Other symptoms include diarrhea, flock huddling, decreased food and water consumption and neurological symptoms such as lethargy and depression. The biggest red flag, however, is sudden (24-48 hours) and unexplained death within the flock. “When HPAI hits, it will definitely affect the whole flock of chickens. I would say it will be less than a week for all the chickens in the flock to at least be affected,” says Yuko Sato, ISU Vet Med.

Use this disinfectant table as a biosecurity resource.

Read the article: Prevent Avian Influenza by Promoting Good Biosecurity

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**USDA extends application deadline for meat and poultry processing expansion program funding**

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced the Department is extending to May 11, 2022, the application deadline for the Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP), which provides funding to expand meat and poultry processing capacity.

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**Other resources**

- Grazing Native Plants: Watch the Bringing Back the Edges series
BEYOND THE GATE

Guide to regenerative grazing leases: opportunities for resilience

California FarmLink and TomKat Ranch Educational Foundation teamed up to create this resource focused on land leases that support regenerative grazing practices.

This guidebook aims to empower private, nonprofit, and public landholders, as well as easement-holders and grazing tenants.

It supports leases that incentivize management that fosters and restores diverse and healthy ecosystems, just and thriving communities, and profitable farm and ranch businesses.

Other resources

- Research Report: Regenerative Grazing, Carbon & Climate
- A Regenerative Grazing Revolution Is Taking Root in the Mid-Atlantic
- The Intelligence of Swine
- Looking for On-Farm Diversification? Consider Pastured Pigs
- Lamb Retail Sales Have Seen Tremendous Growth

UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 19, 26, and 27: Event - Annual Forage Trail Results**
*Hosted by: ISU Extension, Iowa Beef Center*  
7:30-9 a.m. | Cascade, LaPorte City and Onslow, IA

**May 5: Field Day - Agroforestry Field Day**  
*Hosted by: Red Fern Farm and SILT*  
2-4 p.m. | Wapello, IA

**May 14: Event - Grassland Bird Sanctuary Event**
*Hosted by: Phil Specht and Land Stewardship Project*  
All Day | McGregor, IA

**May 18-20: Conference - The Grassfed Exchange**  
Fort Worth, TX
Field days will begin in June - stay tuned!

POLL

What months do you primarily calve, lamb, kid?

January-February

February-March

March-April

April-May

May-June

Previous poll results:

How do you graze cover crops?

- Rotationally graze with moves every 2-6 days (66.7%)
- Let animals out in one big paddock (16.7%)
- Rotationally graze with weekly moves (16.7%)
- Rotationally graze with daily moves (0%)
- Other - (0%)

Are you planning or hosting a livestock event? Do you want to host a livestock field day? Send the details to meghan@practicalfarmers.org

STAY CONNECTED

Looking for more? Contact us today!

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