

BEGINNING FARMER AND RANCHER WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL

Mob Grazing and/or Marketing Grass-fed Beef Workshops

On April 3rd in Norfolk, Wayne Rasmussen and Jerry Glaser, organic, grass-fed beef producers that practice mob grazing will discuss their operations in the morning. Angie Miller, an attorney with Legal Aid of Nebraska will discuss pasture leases. She plans to participate in the three mob grazing/grass-fed beef workshops. Following lunch Dave Welsch, an organic farmer with over 20 years of organic farming experience and direct marketing beef and poultry will discuss beginning business planning on the farm. Dave will be involved in the business planning sessions at each of the six workshops.

On April 4th at the UNL Agriculture Research and Development Center near Mead, Ralph Tate will discuss how mob grazing is incorporated into his farm near Fairbury and Paul Rohrbaugh, from Pawnee Pride Meats in Pawnee County will explain production and marketing strategies with his grass-fed beef operation. Angie Miller will discuss leasing pastures to conclude the morning program. After lunch Dave Welsch will lead the session on beginning business planning on the farm.

On April 9th in Kearney, Jim Knopik and Kevin Fulton, organic beef producers that practice mob grazing will discuss their operations. Kevin Fulton, who also markets grass-fed beef will explain his production and marketing of his cattle in this system. Angie Miller, an attorney with Legal Aid of Nebraska will then discuss pasture leases. Following lunch, Dave Welsch will lead a discussion on beginning business planning on the farm.

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Vegetable/Fruit Production

On April 8th in Lincoln, Alex McKiernan from Robinette Farms will describe their vegetable production farm and how they market through a CSA, off their farm and at farmers markets. After lunch Dave Welsch will conduct a program on beginning business planning for a produce farm.

On April 12th, at the UNL Agriculture Research and Development Center near Mead, Kevin and Charuth Loth will discuss their organic vegetable/flower operation at Shadowbrook Farm and how they produce both in high tunnels and in the field. They will describe their different marketing strategies of selling off the farm, through a CSA, at several farmers markets, and wholesale to different outlets. After lunch, Dave Welsch will conduct his program on beginning business planning for a produce farm.

On April 16th in Omaha, Ryan Pekarek from Pekarek Produce will explain his family's vegetable operation and the marketing options they practice. Ryan and his wife Katie produce a variety of vegetables on their farm. They also utilize a high tunnel and grow much of their produce in the field. They market their produce off the farm, at farmers markets, wholesale to grocery stores and to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln through the Buy-Fresh-Local Program. Following lunch Dave will lead a session in beginning business planning for the produce farmer.