

IBC Iowa Beef Center

Cooperating to Enhance and Retain Grasslands

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Grasslands are declining

- Smaller cow herd, less pasture
- Lands leaving CRP
- Conversion to row crop
- Invasion by woody species and weeds

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More diverse plants and structure



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How can grazing improve prairies?



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Grazing oak savannahs



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Committing time and resources to livestock and wildlife



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Patch burn grazing and plant diversity



Trying new seeding and management plans

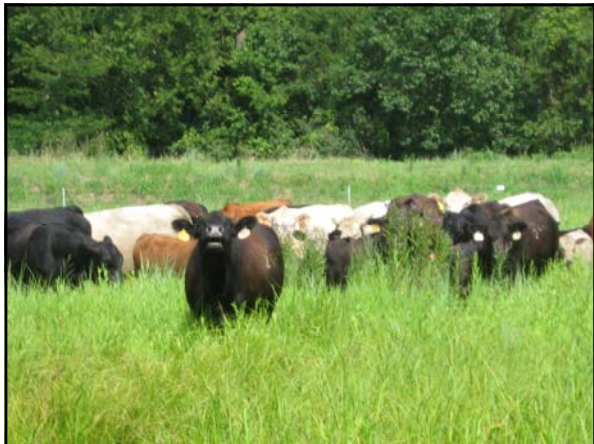
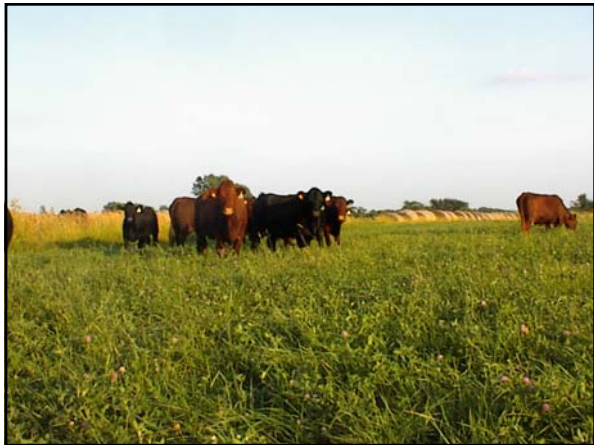


Working with local beef producers to meet habitat goals



Balancing recreation and production goals





Livestock owners

- Benefit from accessing more forage at reasonable cost
- Will not graze for full utilization
- Animals are a tool to manage the land, need to plan how much grazing
- Can help home pastures recover

10% More Feed Cost



Landowners

- Get a local producer to watch things and help manage
- Use cattle to help get the disturbance and plant diversity
- Build relationship with reputable producer and communicate
- May be some added income



CRP and Grazing

-Managed Grazing on CRP

- Split Option
 - Graze early April 1 – May 14
 - Graze late on same land August 2 – September 30
- 25% payment reduction
- Only 1/3 of the acres each year or all of the acres every 3 years

Early Spring Graze Down the Old Grass



High impact, short duration






Grazing for plant diversity

Forage quality concerns – may not work for all classes of cattle

Balancing nesting season and livestock grazing

Fence and water

What is a fair grazing fee?



Grazing partnerships

- Work with neighbors to use cattle on un-grazed sites
 - Targeted grazing to provide disturbance and structure
 - Fill gaps in year-round forage supply
- Continue to graze home pastures
 - More rest
 - More ground cover

