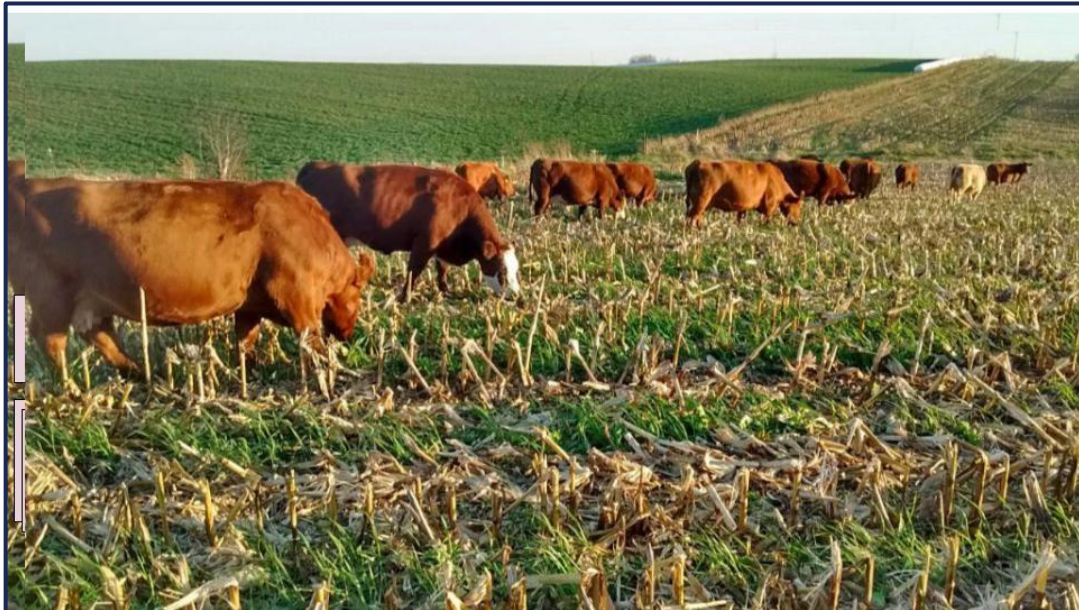


Match Made in Heaven: Livestock + Crops

a SARE Research & Education Grant project



Project coordination:

Green Lands Blue Waters

Midwest Perennial Forage Working Group

*GLBW is a vision for **profitable** agriculture based on keeping the soil covered **productively** year-round: farming with Continuous Living Cover.*



Erin Meier, University of MN
Administrative Lead



Amy Fenn
Project Coordinator



Jane Jewett, University of MN
Project Co-Lead

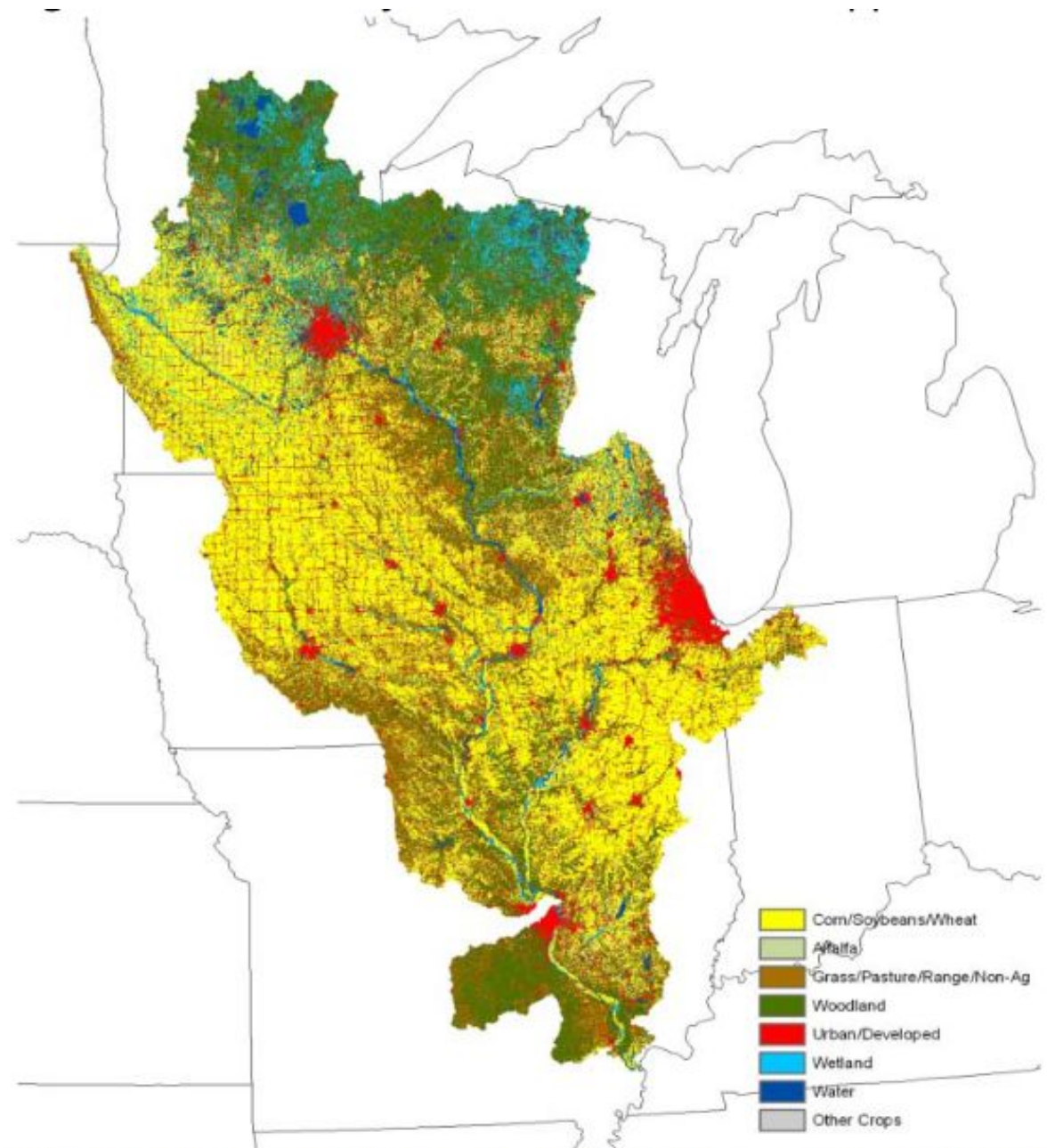


Laura Paine, University of WI
Project Co-Lead



3 years, 6 states

- Illinois
- Indiana
- Iowa
- Minnesota
- Missouri
- Wisconsin



SOURCE: TEXAS AGRILIFE RESEARCH, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY (USDA-NASS DATA)

This project creates opportunities:

This project creates opportunities for **farmers** to share their interests, challenges, and needs, and for the **crop and livestock organizations** that they engage with to hear from their members and meet those needs with programming and resources.



6 buckets of work:

1. Working advisory group
2. Infographic
3. Survey
4. Farmer Case Studies
5. Field Days
6. Library



6 buckets of work:

1. Working advisory group

2. Infographic

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4. Farmer Case Studies

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6. Library



Bucket 1: working advisory group

Building Relationships * Listening for Common Ground * Integrating Crops & Livestock

One of the goals of this project is to build relationships between groups that don't always get to work together. We've purposefully structured this project as a collaborative round-table using an approach of respectful listening, looking for common ground in diverse viewpoints, and putting our heads together to move shared interests forward. Your viewpoint is a valued contribution, we hope you'll participate and lend your perspective!

Bucket 1: working advisory group

- 50+ organizations

- State-level livestock associations
- State-level crop associations
- Crop and livestock researchers, educators, and service providers from universities, agencies, and nonprofits
- Other stakeholder groups representing soil health, underserved farmers, etc.

- 12+ farmers

- 2 from each state



6 buckets of work:

1. Establish working advisory group

2. Infographic

3. Survey

4. Farmer Case Studies

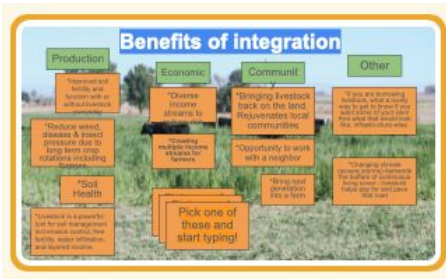
5. Field Days

6. Library

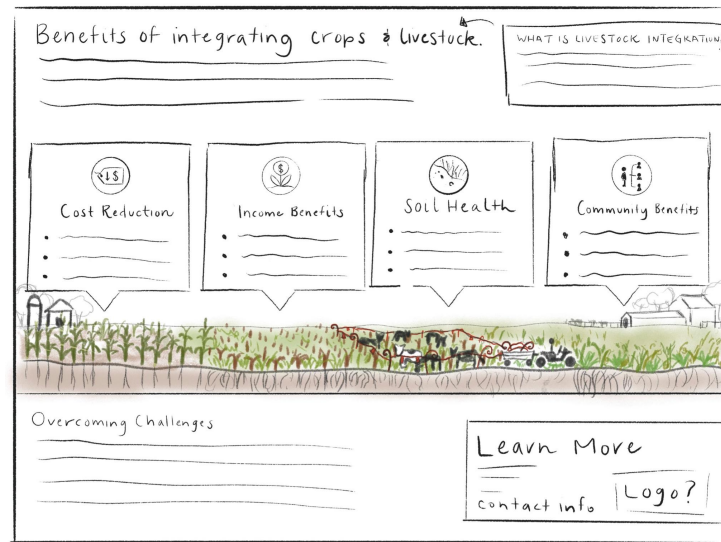
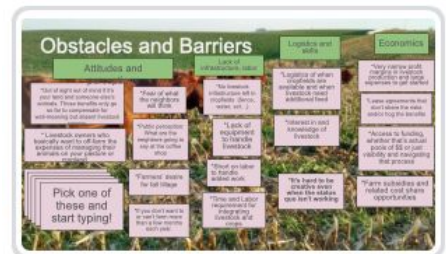


Bucket 2: Infographic

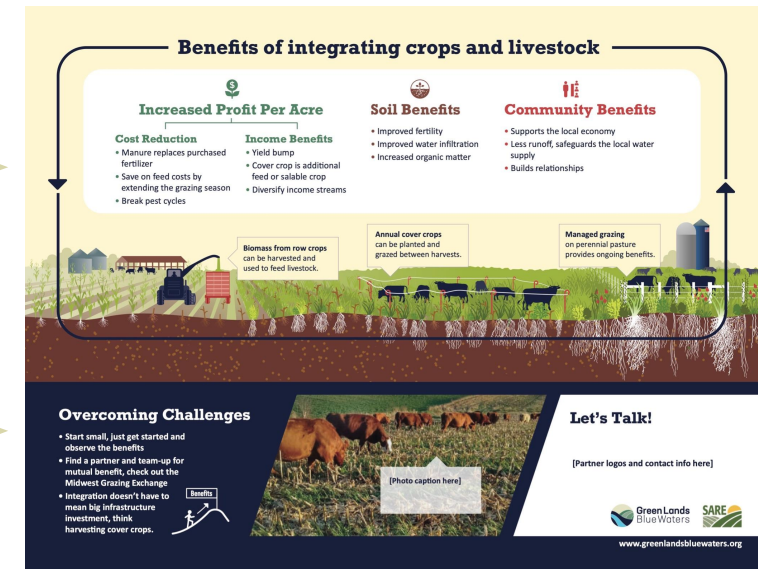
- Designed through input & guidance from the Advisory Group: team-building!
- Infographic will be used to help promote the survey



Advisory input becomes a rough draft



Advisory feedback becomes a revised draft



Bucket 2: Infographic

Integrating Crops and Livestock

Increased Profit Per Acre

Cost Reduction

- Manure = fertilizer
- Stretch feed supply
- Break pest and weed cycles

Income Benefits

- Marketable cover crop
- Diversify income streams
- Eco credits

Soil Benefits

- Improve fertility
- Enhance water infiltration
- Increase organic matter

Community Benefits

- Support local farms and businesses
- Safeguard local water
- Build relationships
- Opportunities for new farmers

Is it working?
Observe, adjust, expand

Learn
Field days, extension

Let's Talk!

Challenges
Complexity, costs, fencing, labor, logistics, knowledge, time

Photo By: Practical Farmers of Iowa

Photo By: Ron Schoepp

Partner
www.midwestgrazingexchange.com

www.greenlandsbluewaters.org



6 buckets of work:

1. Establish working advisory group
2. Infographic
- 3. Survey**
4. Farmer Case Studies
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6. Library



Bucket 3: Survey

Design

- Survey design June-Dec '22
- Guided by the Advisory Group
- UW-Madison Survey Center expertise



Bucket 3: Survey

Dissemination

- The survey will circulate for 1 year (Jan-Dec 2023)
- Distributed through Advisory Group networks using toolkit provided by MMIH



Bucket 3: Survey

Analysis

- All work done in conjunction with the Advisory Group and UW Survey Center
- Response processing: Feb-May '24
- Response analysis: June-Oct '24
- Report complete & released by Nov '24



Bucket 3: Survey - results

Results could be useful for:

- Fact sheets
- Curriculum development & workshops
- Program development
- Informing policy



6 buckets of work:

1. Establish working advisory group
2. Infographic
3. Survey
- 4. Farmer Case Studies**
5. Field Days
6. Library



Bucket 4: Farmer Case Studies

- 6-8 Case Study Farms, 1+ per state
- Farms with demonstrated success integrating crops & livestock
- Data gathered will be used to develop templates for enterprise budgets, protocol suggestions, a calculator-type tool, etc.



Bucket 4: Farmer Case Studies

- Small group to develop interview protocols, analyze results, and develop enterprise budgets:
 - Denise Schwab (Iowa State University Extension)
 - Jeff Duchene (Minnesota NRCS)
 - Jim Paulson - lead interviewer (Fieldstone Agricultural Consulting)
 - Jordan Thomas (University of Missouri)
 - Sam Porter (Minnesota NRCS)
 - Margaret Chamas (Practical Farmers of Iowa)
- Studies & budgets will be released in conjunction with on-farm field days in 2024



6 buckets of work:

1. Establish working advisory group
2. Infographic
3. Survey
4. Farmer Case Studies
- 5. Field Days**
6. Library



Bucket 5: Field Days

- Summer & fall of 2024
- Featuring the Case Study Farms
- Funding available for organizations sponsoring field days



6 buckets of work:

1. Establish working advisory group
2. Infographic
3. Survey
4. Farmer Case Studies
5. Field Days
- 6. Library**



Bucket 6: Library

- Website with curated collection of:
 - materials generated by this project
 - existing materials from partner organizations
 - other relevant materials



6 buckets of work - timeline

1. Establish working advisory group.....February 2022
2. Infographic.....April 2022
3. Survey.....June 2022 - Dec 2024
4. Farmer Case Studies.....May 2022 - May 2024
5. Field Days.....summer/fall 2024
6. Library.....ongoing



Questions?

