

Maximizing grazing and pasture management with Reichert Land & Cattle

Written by Farmers for Sustainable Food



Nearly 15 farmers, ag businesses and community members attended the Sheboygan River Progressive Farmers Grazing and Pasture Management walk in late August. The attendees learned about multi-species pasture mixes and the conservation benefits of grazing. SRPF members Chris and Jennifer Reichert of Reichert Land & Cattle hosted the event.

Reichert has 36 cow/calf pairs and manages 40 acres of pasture as well as 350 acres of cropland. The pasture acres consist of five to six acres each and are cross-fenced into 1.3 acres of smaller pastures. Cattle are grazed and rotated to a new pasture daily or when the pasture is grazed down 6 to 8 inches. The goal is to allow for regrowth between grazing rotations and have a standing cover crop going into the winter. The cattle graze through the summer until November or December and then receive additional hay to make it through the winter.

The farm has realized that time is its limiting factor. They eliminated fertilizer applications and haven't noticed a change in nitrogen. The pasture acres are cut once a year, usually after the first time they're grazed in the spring. The farm is 100% no-till and grazing the animals allows constant fertilizer and no manure to haul. Baled corn stalks are used for bedding and feed. The cattle don't require high-quality feed when provided with a high-quality pasture of multispecies, such as grass, alfalfa and clover mix.

Reichert Land & Cattle's goal is for the angus cattle to be used as beef for direct sales to customers and the short horn cattle to be used for IVF and AI to diversify the genetics in their show cattle. The farm continues to be a resource for other farms interested in maximizing their grazing management and sharing the benefits of soil health and conservation through Reichert's experiences.