

Grazer's Field Day Event is June 16 at Ft. Morgan

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

The Morgan Conservation District in cooperation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI) invites ranchers to attend a very interesting and educational livestock and rangeland field day on Tuesday, June 16. This field day event will cover plant and animal interactions as well as provide a “hands on” experience in grassland inventory and monitoring techniques.

The field day is free to the public. Registration starts at 8:30 a.m. Lunch will be provided. Participants are asked to RSVP to Val by Friday, June 12 at the Morgan Conservation District (867-9659 ext. 126) to help with a meal count.

Kathy Voth, owner and operator of Livestock for Landscapes, is the featured speaker. She has been researching and working with livestock as a land management tool for almost a decade.

In 2004 Voth developed a simple process for training cows to eat weeds. Over the past five years she's trained cows to eat a wide variety of thistles, including Canada and Musk thistle, leafy spurge, spotted and diffuse knapweed, black mustard and dalmatian toadflax. She'll share how to train cows to eat a new weed in as little as 10 hours over 8 days, showing lots of videos and what participating ranchers have to say about it all.

For ranchers who are spending time and money because they don't know that cows could solve their pasture problems, this is a golden opportunity to hear what Voth has to say. Visit her website at www.livestockforlandscapes.com for more information.

Planning is critical to sustainable grazing. Good planning improves management and provides a greater sense of control over one's livelihood. Inventory and monitoring techniques are skills that can be learned and utilized to make every grazing season a success.

Grass managers that attend this field day will have an opportunity to get a “hands on” education at determining forage production, establishing stocking rates, identifying key forage species and season of use, recognizing rangeland health indicators and understanding ecological processes and installing rangeland monitoring transects to verify management goals. Learn the methods and acquire the skills.

To access the field day, take exit 66A off I-76 and travel north on Highway 39 for three miles. Head west on Morgan County Road U for almost two miles. Watch for the signs.