Virtual Fence & Cover Crops

Date: Thursday, November 5, 2026
Location: Blissful Bee Pastures | 63326 300th St., Gibbon, MN 55335

MINNESOTA GRAZING LANDS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION

Field Day Agenda

12:00–12:30 p.m.	**Registration, Lunch & Networking** Catered BBQ beef lunch by Brickhouse Meats, Gaylord, MN.
12:30–12:45 p.m.	**Welcome & Introductions** — *Leah Matzke, MNGLCA* Meet our host farmers, Great Heritage Farm and Blissful Bee Pastures, and get an overview of the afternoon: virtual fencing, grazing, cover crops, conservation and soil health.
12:45–1:00 p.m.	**Paying for Conservation: NRCS Programs & Cost Share** — *Mae Petrehn, DU & NRCS* Learn about EQIP and other programs that can help you add virtual fencing, cover crops and other conservation practices.
1:00–1:30 p.m.	**How Virtual Fencing Works** — *Emma Baker, NoFence* How the collars and app work, setting virtual boundaries, moving livestock and what to consider before you start.
1:30–2:00 p.m.	**Grazing With Virtual Fence: A New Experience** — *Benj & Leah Matzke, Great Heritage Farm* Why we switched to virtual fencing, how we use it, what went wrong, what's working and how it has changed our grazing.
2:00- 2:25 p.m.	**Diverse Cover Crops & Grazing Sheep** — *Keith & Anna Johnson* Their approach to planting diverse cover crop mixes and their experience grazing livestock on cover crops at home and on a neighboring farm.
2:25–3:15 p.m.	**Farm Walk: See the Systems in Action** Ride a wagon out to the cover crop field to see cattle grazing in virtual fence collars. Ask questions and talk with producers in the field.
3:15–3:40 p.m.	**What Happens Beneath Our Feet? U of M Soil & Water Research** — *University of Minnesota students* Research from Great Heritage Farm and Blissful Bee Pastures on water movement, water storage, infiltration and soil properties under different management systems.
3:40–3:45 p.m.	**Closing Remarks & Final Q&A** — MNGLCA
3:45 p.m.	**Event concludes - thank you for coming!**

Thank you to our supporters and partners: USDA Nofence, Great River Greening, Green Lands Blue Waters and the University of Minnesota RSDP Farmer Climate Action Fund.

Thank you to our supporters and partners: USDA Nofence, Great River Greening, Green Lands Blue Waters and the University of Minnesota RSDP Farmer Climate Action Fund.