

# Livestock Learning Roadshow

## Celebrating 25 Years of Kansas Graziers

**Kansas Winter Grazing Conference Celebrates 25 Years –**

**With Keynote Speaker, Jim Gerrish for Three, 2-Day Workshops**

**“Grazing Management will Improve Productivity, Profitability and Personal Satisfaction”**

**Workshops will be March 10-15, 2025; 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. with Lunch provided**

**Monday-Tuesday at SAVE Farm, Riley, KS;**

**Wednesday-Thursday at Lyon Co Fairgrounds, Emporia, KS;**

**Friday-Saturday at Red Rock Ranch, Soldier, KS**

All three workshop locations will celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kansas Graziers and Winter Conference. The theme for this year is: **“Grazing Management Improves Productivity, Profitability and Personal Satisfaction.”** Topics will include how to make every drop of water count, ways to survive the drought, extending the grazing season with alternative forages, cover crops and crop residue and managing cow costs for economic return. This workshop will offer ways to better manage resources to help address the two leading costs to producers which are feed costs and summer pasture. Jim will additionally teach how to make a living on a small farm and managing small ruminants at the Riley and Emporia workshops.

Ranchers, producers and educators across the state are invited to attend these workshops to learn ways to provide more forage for their livestock and let them work for the ranch. There is **no charge** for these workshops and lunch will be provided. Jim has a wealth of information to share with the audience at each location.

***Please select your choice of location and specify 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or both days. Email Mary Howell: [mary@kqlc.org](mailto:mary@kqlc.org) or, call or text Mary at 785-562-8726. Please (in the event that we need to contact you due to adverse weather) provide all of the names attending with you, email address and a phone number.***



Grazing specialist, Jim Gerrish, well-known rancher, researcher, grazing educator and co-founder of the Missouri grazing school returns to Kansas to offer three, 2-day workshops from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. on grazing education topics to help producers make better choices for their pasture and grazing opportunities. Each workshop is tailored for the livestock producer specifically! It will focus on improving soil health and grazing practices to protect the environment, improve water quality and increase farm/ranch profitability as well as personal satisfaction. Jim will share what he has learned over 45 years in the grazing business. When asked why producers should attend this workshop, Jim Gerrish said, “More than ever producers need to be in control of their operation. Don’t leave the critical management decisions up to the animals. They don’t care whether you make a dime or not. Your job is to create a ranch environment where the cow, ewe or nanny can be the best performing animal that she can be! The rancher’s job is to manage the business side of the ranch and not try to do the animal’s job for her. Each farm or ranch has unique resources, the key is to match grazing animals to those forage resources. Better management of forage resources will create increased production on grazable acres.”

The workshops will focus on grazing cover crops and alternative forages to extend the grazing season through the fall and winter months, keeping livestock out of confined feeding areas. Jim will also discuss the economic advantages of grazing cover crops and how to make every drop of water count. These workshops will encourage and assist producers in adopting and implementing soil health practices. Producers will better understand how improved soil health contributes to financial stability and farm resilience by mediating the effects of climate, flooding and drought, while reducing loss of sediment and nutrients through reduced runoff. Producers will better understand grazing systems and soil health in pasture/cover crop settings. Topics include soil science, how to build soil, plant physiology, benefits of cover crops/forage diversity, grazing systems and managing costs. Diverse mixes of cover crops and forages reduce erosion, protect water quality, improve soil health, crop and animal performance and extend the grazing season. Winter feeding practices to improve soil health, animal health and performance while protecting grazing resources and water quality will be discussed.

## Healthy soil produces healthier plants, animals and humans!

### Topics at All locations:

Seven things Jim has learned over 45 years of grazing practice  
Creating excellent pasture from the soil up  
Grazing management for targeted animal performance  
Planning for & implementing year-around grazing  
Getting control of cow costs  
Kick the hay habit

### Additionally for producers with small ruminants (at SAVE Farm and Emporia only)

The above topics plus,  
Making a living from a small farm  
Pasture & grazing management for small ruminants  
Parasite prevention

### **Monday – Tuesday, March 10 - 11, 2025**

SAVE Farm  
9680 North 52<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Riley, Kansas 66531

### **Wednesday – Thursday, March 12 - 13, 2025**

Anderson Building, Lyon  
County Fairgrounds  
2650 W. Highway 50  
Emporia, Kansas 66801

### **Friday – Saturday, March 14 – 15, 2025**

Red Rock Ranch  
4340 27<sup>th</sup> Road  
Soldier, Kansas 66540

This workshop is part of a multi-year Conservation Coalition Grant from NRCS Kansas-USDA; and other educational partners: Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition, SAVE Farm, Kansas WRAPS, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams, Kansas Soil Health Alliance, Kansas Center for Agriculture and Alternative Crops, Kansas Conservation Districts, KDHE, K-State Research and Extension, and Glacial Hills RC&D.

## Kansas | Natural Resources Conservation Service - USDA



Center for Sustainable  
Agriculture and Alternative Crops

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