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and water.

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Outwintering Cattle to Reduce Costs and Improve Crop Yields

The Wallace Center Pasture Project will host a discussion and demonstration of the value of outwintering cattle on crop fields. Winter feed costs are a large proportion of total annual operation costs in livestock systems. Outwintering livestock on crop residues and/or cover crops can be a cost saving practice when compared to drylot feeding. By utilizing integrated crop-livestock systems, winter feeding costs can be reduced by taking advantage of forage available in cropped fields following harvest and eliminating labor and equipment costs



associated with removal and mechanical application of manure. The natural distribution of manure by animals while feeding in crop field helps to improve retention of nutrients, much of which are lost to volatilization, leaching, and runoff in a drylot before manure is removed. In addition to the superior fertilization benefits, manure that is deposited on the field over the winter months is much less prone to runoff than manure that is applied mechanically in the spring and fall when precipitation is high. The increase in nutrient availability and organic matter produced through an outwintering system has a positive effect on crop yields in subsequent years and improves soil quality over time.

Join us Saturday, January 20th from 10am-12pm at E5930 Spring Coulee Rd. Coon Valley, WI for a discussion and demonstration of the value in outwintering cattle on crop fields. For more information or to RSVP, please contact John Delaney at 608-637-3615 or john@valleystewardshipnetwork.org. Registration deadline is January 12th. Grilled lunch will be provided.

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Valley Stewardship Network is celebrating 17 years of land and water stewardship in the Kickapoo Valley and adjacent watersheds. Best known for its water quality monitoring programs, VSN also offers outreach and education programs to help farmers, landowners, residents, and visitors understand and support our local ecology for the health of our communities. More at www.valleystewardshipnetwork.org