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the land and waters.

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Utilizing Tallgrass Prairie and Savanna to Expand Your Grazing Options

VIROQUA, WI July 5, 2018 – Valley Stewardship Network, University of Wisconsin Extension, University of Minnesota Extension, the Wallace Center Pasture Project, and the Savanna Institute invite you to join us, August 4, 2018 from 12:30 – 3:30 pm for a free pasture walk focusing on grassland and savanna restoration in grazing systems. The event is being held at E5930 Spring Coulee Rd, Coon Valley, WI 54623.

Prehistorically, grazing was an important component of our natural landscapes and the process of grazing helped to maintain our native ecosystems and promote biodiversity. Today, there are multiple opportunities to help conserve and promote biodiversity in our agricultural systems by utilizing managed grazing techniques and bringing grazing back to our natural systems. Native tallgrass prairie plantings can provide alternative sources of forage and when placed as a buffer strip can help to improve water quality. Oak Savanna restorations utilizing silvopasture techniques can increase the amount of land in grazing production, provide shade and shelter for livestock, and increase biodiversity. Come see both of these practices in place on a working farm. Speakers include Keefe Keeley (Savanna Institute), John Delaney (Valley Stewardship Network), and Rod Ofte (Pasture Project). A free lunch will be provided.

Topics will include: opening the canopy in closed woodlands to create forage opportunities, benefits of trees for livestock shade and shelter, warm-season forages, and the benefits for invasive species control, wildlife, and water quality.

This event is being held in conjunction with a two-day workshop in SE Minnesota & SW WI, focusing on silvopasture techniques. For more information on the full list of workshop topics, registration details, and costs, please visit: z.umn.edu/silvopastureAug3-4

For more information on this event, or to RSVP, contact John Delaney at 608-637-3615 or john@valleystewardshipnetwork.org. Please register by July 27th.

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Valley Stewardship Network is celebrating 18 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