

On Farm Field Workshops

General info:

- This year the project has focused its efforts on managing a pasture-based livestock system in a changing climate.
- The ideal host farm is one in which climate change is on mind of the farm owner/manager. Additionally, the farm has or plans to employ one (or more) adaptation strategies/techniques.
 - Some techniques include the use of annual forages to extend the grazing season, rotational grazing, stockpiling to extend the grazing season, bale grazing etc.
- Start with brief introduction of the farm's history/background followed by a tour of the farm (an exact agenda for the day will be developed in conjunction with the farm as to keep the event on track)
- Weekday workshop between May- August. Generally held in the morning during a 2-hour time block. A final date and time will be finalized based on the farm's availability/preference

Content for discussion:

- What climate impacts have you been thinking about as it relates to your farm?
- What extreme weather events have impacted you/your farm the most?
- Has increased temperature trends played a role in how/when you raise your animals/the breeds that you raise?
- Which of the following techniques are you employing: rotational grazing, use of warm/cool season annuals, stockpiling, bale grazing. Others?
 - Expand this discussion by addressing:
 - How have those techniques helped you combat climate change on your farm?
 - What challenges did you encounter/what were some of the successes?
 - Are you finding you need to adjust your grazing management over time to reflect the change in climate? (paddock sizes, forage types, stubble height, longer rest periods etc)
 - What types of annuals have you planted?
 - What types of grasses have you stockpiled?

Other info

- Light refreshments will be provided by the project for all attendees
- Copies of handouts/useful info can be made for attendees if need be
- Attendees can be provided with boot covers if farm prefers
- The project asks a series of post-workshop questions for reporting purposes and to understand further the needs of those attending