

Eastern Kentucky KFGC Field Day

“LOCALLY GROWN MEATS FROM OUR HOMEPLACE TO YOURS”

Where: *Old Homeplace Farm*

9876 North Hwy 11
Manchester, KY 40962

When: October 3, 2023 from 4:30-7:30 PM
tour starts at 5:00 PM Rain or Shine

Cost: \$10 per person at the door to cover dinner
*Please bring a lawn chair

Preregistration REQUESTED:

Register <https://EastKyForageTourOctober23.eventbrite.com> or
contact Kate Adams at kate@nurturedlands.com 513-470-8171



Old Homeplace Farm is a pasture-based farm in Clay County managed by the Bowling family. Cattle, sheep, and goats are the Bowling's main focus on their 90 acres of pasture. Rotational grazing with variable paddock size is used across the farm's mix of bottomlands and hillside pastures. This mix of ground comes with a unique set of challenges, as the Bowling's management needs to account for maintenance of fences and forages in floodplains as well as productivity and erosion concerns on steep slopes.

Old Homeplace Farm management philosophy aims to increase production per acre rather than production per animal. Some of the tools to help achieve this goal includes multispecies grazing to better utilize the existing forage base, rotational grazing to increase forage production and utilization, use of moderate frame livestock to reduce biological maintenance, extending the grazing season to minimize days of hay feeding, and improving soil fertility through legumes and livestock distribution rather than fertilizer. Overall, Old Homeplace Farm strives to be a low-input operation that minimizes ongoing production costs.

Livestock are marketed through both standard commodity channels (sale barns) as well as meat sold directly to home cooks. Old Homeplace Farm has been direct-marketing USDA-inspected meat by the cut since 2010, and currently make weekly deliveries to customers in 5 counties across southeastern Kentucky. Direct-marketing meat provides some distinct advantages for smaller operations, but they have found this model comes with its own challenges (lengthened production cycle, processing costs, additional transportation and holding costs, marketing logistics, etc.).

The Bowling family notes that they are always trying to improve the efficiency and profitability of their operation. In doing so, they have substantially changed their production methods since purchasing the farm in 2004. During that time, they have experimented with quite a few different ideas, some of which worked better than others. Please join us in Oneida for a conversation about what they are currently doing, what they have tried in the past, and new things that they're experimenting with.

Tour stops and topics

- Multi-species grazing systems
- Novel tall fescue to reduce toxicity
- Native grasses for summer production.
- Mineland reclamation using bale feeding
- Annual lespedeza and crabgrass
- Multiflora rose and blackberry as high quality pasture for goats and sheep.
- Composting bedding and on-farm mortalities
- Cottonwoods for fast growing shade
- Direct to consumer marketing
- And much, much more ...

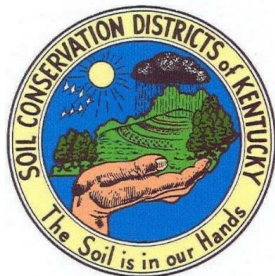
Directions to the farm: From I-75

- Take Exit 41 (London). Follow Hal Rogers Parkway east for 21 miles.
- Take Manchester exit, and turn left (north) onto US-421. Proceed ~7.5 miles to the junction of US-421 and KY-11.
- Turn rt (north) onto KY-11. Proceed 9.6 miles, then turn rt across bridge. Farm is across road from Vinland Energy pump station. If you get to, you went 1.2 miles too far.
- Scan QR code for google map directions.



For more information on this tour and other forage and livestock related events, please visit <http://forages.ca.uky.edu/>

This meeting is a cooperative effort of the following partners...



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