



Indiana Forage Council Newsletter

3-D Valley Farm

By Jason Tower

Located in Harrison County, in the heart of the rolling hills of Southern Indiana, 3-D Valley Farm is a forage and beef operation owned and operated by Steve and Jane Carr. Not from the area, Steve found his way to Depauw, Indiana when on leave while stationed at Fort Knox, Kentucky while in the army. Steve not only found ground suitable for forage and cattle operations, he also found his wife, Jane. After serving the country and working on a ranch in Nebraska, Steve and Jane set up their operation in Harrison County.

The first farm purchased by Steve and Jane, was one that had been neglected and was overrun by brush and poor forages. Steve worked to remove the brush and get forages established to hold the soils on the rolling terrain. Early on in the operation, the Carr's found their



Photo courtesy of Jason Tower

niche in the cattle industry by running a beef stocker business. They would purchase and raise mismatched and mismanaged cattle to take advantage of the quality forages grown on the farms. Steve would be able to get the cattle healthy, gaining weight and sorted into similar type load lots for resale. The forage base helped to provide the quality nutrition needed by these animals to improve their health and start them on their road to improved performance.

Unique for Indiana,

Steve utilizes horses every day for checking cattle and helping to doctor sick animals as needed. Also used, is a team for not only hauling supplies while building fences, but also at times for feeding hay.

Over the years, Steve and Jane not only ran a good cattle operation, they also raised three outstanding daughters. The three daughters make up the 3-D in the name of the operation. It was also with the daughters in mind that Steve and Jane moved away from the stocker

Continued from page 1...

business. That side of the cattle business was good to them over the years and allowed them to raise their family, but can be a very labor intensive and financially risky business. The daughters had some interest in returning to the farm but not to a stocker operation. With the daughters' knowledge and interest in the operation, the farm has transitioned to a cow-calf operation with direct marketing. The Carr operation now offers natural grain finished beef, forage finished beef, maple syrup and eggs from their farm.

While establishing the cow herd Steve still ran some stocker cattle. It was the tail end of one of these turns of cattle that he ended up keeping through the finishing phase. Though the efforts of Jane, the direct marketing of 3-D Valley beef was begun. Initially selling as freezer beef, the Carrs have moved to selling at local farmers markets, to restaurants and a piece at a time direct to consumers. It is this part of the



Photo courtesy of Jason Tower

business that has really gotten the adult daughters and their families involved. One daughter has moved back to the farm and not only helps on the farm but has added a free range pasture poultry egg business to the farm. These eggs are in high demand by local restaurants. Another daughter lives in the area and helps with the on-farm market and in developing online marketing for the farm. The third daughter is not in the area, but enjoys the opportunity to return to the farm with her children to give them that "growing-up" on the farm experience whenever possible.

The forage base at 3-D Valley Farm is Kentucky 31 tall fescue, as is much of southern Indiana. Steve utilizes soil samples to balance soil fertility and also plants clovers to improve forage quality and dilute the effect of ergoalkaloids in the tall fescue due to the endophyte. They also have established alfalfa in for-

mer crop fields. This high quality forage is used to make valuable stored feed for the winter as well as to provide outstanding grazing options for both growing and finishing beef animals. The cow herd is rotationally grazed which allows for high quality forages and opportunities to stockpile forages for fall and winter grazing.

Over the years Steve has worked hard to be a good steward of the land. He has worked to improve the health of the forage stand. This in turn keeps a better cover on the land to reduce water runoff and saves valuable top soil. Ponds have been fenced off and watering points have been added that have led to better forage use and fewer mud holes. These advancements, coupled with improved fencing systems have brought 3-D Valley Farm well on its way to being able to pass the operation on the third generation.



2017 Indiana Forage Council Officers and Directors

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Jason Tower
VICE PRESIDENT	David Friedersdorf
SECRETARY	Keith Johnson
TREASURER	Miles Kuhn

AGRIBUSINESS, TRADE ASSOCIATIONS, AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES—Sam Stratton, Russell Terry, Keith Greiwe
EDUCATIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC—Susannah Hinds, Elysia Rodgers, Anna Morrow
PURDUE UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR—Brad Shelton

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRODUCERS—David Fischer, Andrew Brown, Steve Mikels
PAST PRESIDENT DIRECTOR-AT-LARGE—David Trotter

President's Letter

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Indiana Forage Council newsletter. We are excited about being able to enter into this new communications tool for members of the Indiana Forage Council and for those who have forage interests. We hope you find the information contained here to be informative and useful. We are extremely appreciative of the funds from the Indiana State Department of Agriculture and the assistance of the American Forage and Grassland Council that are helping to make this member benefit possible. I would also be remiss if I didn't say a special thank you to Anna Morrow for her dedication and drive to see this newsletter project from a dream to a reality.

The Indiana Forage Council is an affiliate member of the American Forage and Grass-

land Council (AFGC). Membership in the Indiana Forage Council (IFC) provides the member dual membership in both IFC and AFGC. The primary goal of AFGC is to promote the profitable production and sustainable utilization of quality forage and grasslands. AFGC also assists in the release of forage-based publications. At the same time, IFC works to identify the needs for expanding research and education of the production, utilization and marketing of forages. Over the years, IFC has strived to inform members and the public alike of the latest developments in all segments of forage production and utilization via sponsored meetings and special reports. This newsletter will give us another opportunity to accomplish that "informational" objective.

Another communication tool

we are beginning to use is Facebook. Dave Fischer has taken on the task of creating a Facebook page for IFC and has "pushed" some of our recent events. Please, if you are a Facebook user, take a moment to "like" the Indiana Forage Council page so you get those event notices and then help us even further by sharing the forage posts with your contacts.

As I turn over the gavel of leadership of IFC to the new President, Jason Tower, my sincere hope is that the IFC continue to be the voice and advocate for forage production and education in the state and that we grow our membership in this very beneficial organization.

David Trotter,
Outgoing IFC President

Forage Tour — Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Farm tours of the Southern Indiana Purdue Agricultural Center, Fischer Farms, 3-D Valley Beef and Steckler Grassfed will focus on forage selection and utilization by livestock, best management practices for pasture production, and direct marketing of beef, cheese, lamb and poultry.

A charter bus tour will meet at 8:15am (EST) at the Dubois County 4-H Fairgrounds (4157 Highway 162, Huntingburg, IN 47542) and return at 5:45pm. Lunch, handouts and refreshments will be provided during the tour.

Cost to participate is \$20 per person. Checks can be made to the Indiana Forage Council and sent to PO Box 2710 West Lafayette, Indiana 47996. Please RSVP by July 18 to Keith Johnson, johnsonk@purdue.edu or 765-494-4800. Please advise of special dietary needs.

Upcoming Events

July 25, 2017

Forage Tour

Southern Indiana

September 6, 2017

Forage Workshop

Purdue (DTC)

Jan. 14-17, 2018

AFGC Conf.

Louisville, KY

Seasonal Tips

July

Continue scouting for potato leafhopper.

Seed adapted summer-annual grasses and brassicas as a double crop after harvesting soft red wheat or spring oat grain.

Control grazing and provide supplemental forage during periods of low pasture production.

Remove livestock from cool-season grass pastures and turn them out on summer annual grass pastures (if available).

Purchase forage seed to be sown in August. Make sure the forage is adapted to the selected site. Remember to purchase inoculant so legumes can fix their own nitrogen.

Cut hay if ready for harvest.

Till fields intended for August seeding. Incorporate recommended fertilizer.

If you typically buy hay for winter feeding, consider buying it out of the field from a local producer now. Prices are typically lower now than in the winter.

Cut brush and unwanted trees in pastures. Treat stumps with a labeled herbicide.