On a typical morning, Anna Morrow wakes up to the sound of her chickens clucking and her cattle mooing in the distance. It’s cold. It’s early. And she has to tend to the animals before going to work. But Morrow finds peace in the morning routine and sounds of her livestock close by.

Over the course of the morning, things turn from busy to even busier. Morrow, her husband, their children, and even some family members all have their roles on this family-oriented farm. On top of all that, Morrow works a 9-to-5 job as program manager for the Midwest Cover Crops Council (MCCC). But all this effort is worth it.

“I can’t imagine not raising my kids on a farm,” said Morrow as she sat at her kitchen table while her son played with a tractor he dreamed of someday driving.

Morrow’s operation is bound to be a family affair. She lives just across the field from her parents, her sister lives next door, and her brother lives on the other side of her parents.

Morrow works with her parents on various projects, including raising and selling sheep to local restaurants for meat. Morrow and her husband, Michael, have found premium markets for their products and have applied Morrow’s knowledge of cover crops and forages to their operations. The Morrows also raise chickens and sell eggs to local restaurants, raise some turkeys for family Thanksgivings, and have pasture-raised dairy calves to sell for premium veal.

Someday, Morrow said she hopes more of her livestock will graze cover crops. For now, a few acres of
perennial pasture is enough. Long-term pasture improvements include improving weed management and introducing more legumes as their operation expands and diversifies.

Morrow said her parents play an important role in using cover crops. They typically use cereal rye to extend the grazing season for their lambs. Morrow said she believes this is the best use of her parents’ land because it provides winter cover, reduces erosion, and builds soil health. It is all about being good stewards of the land and thinking about what will benefit the land down the road.

“We have a really small operation, so we’re just piecing things together for the time being,” said Morrow.

Morrow has found meaning and value in raising livestock. It allows her to work at MCCC while keeping her family farm in the back of her mind and constantly thinking how she can be a good steward of the land.

While her wealth of knowledge is beneficial to her career, she also reaps these benefits at home in her own endeavors. Knowing what to feed your animals is crucial, especially when you’re raising products for the community to consume.

At first, Morrow thought the pasture-raised veal would just be a local restaurant buying the best cuts, but it has turned into much more. “Michael got a random call from an Italian chef that said a farmer told him we were raising veal and asked if he could come visit because he was opening a restaurant in Indianapolis,” Morrow said.

“He came, brought his dad, who only speaks Italian, looked at calves for a minute and said he was interested in buying whole calves at a time.”

They delivered their first calf to the restaurant (Cortona’s) in November, and they plan to continue this on their family farm. The Morrows have found a unique niche within the sector and cover crops play an important role.

“If you’ve got wheat or silage in rotation, you’ve got a lot of benefits you can get from cover crops whether it’s feed value as forage or soil quality,” Morrow said.

Morrow knew she was doing something right when last fall they were sowing oats in the garden and she caught her children, Katelyn and Vincent, chanting “cover crops, cover crops”.
Producers are invited to Grazing 102 course

Kenneth Eck

Producers can get first-hand tips from experts on how to incorporate management-intensive grazing techniques during a two-day seminar hosted by Purdue Extension. Grazing 102, which will take place June 21-22, will cover numerous topics on best management practices, including plant growth and development, soil fertility, forage identification, rotational grazing, fencing, and watering systems. Grazing 102, a course which is designed to help producers successfully run their own operations, will be held at the Southern Indiana Purdue Ag Center, 11371 East Purdue Farm Road, located near Dubois, Ind. The program is 1:00-6:00 p.m. (EDT) June 21, and 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (EDT) June 22. The fee is $60, which covers materials, management tools, and refreshments. The event will also include pasture walks and field tours to provide hands-on opportunities, identify forage and weed species, and demonstrate rotational grazing. The seminar provides an invaluable opportunity to have direct contact with expert speakers and peers. Focus is on small group discussions with extensive interactions with seminar experts and guests. Registration forms are due by June 15, and are available online at www.ag.purdue.edu/arge/pac/Pages/sipac-home.aspx. The event will be held rain or shine. Additional individuals from the same operation are permitted at a cost of $30, but materials and management tools will not be included. Make checks payable to the Purdue CES Education Fund, c/o Purdue Extension - Dubois County, 1482 Executive Blvd., Jasper, Ind. 47546. The event will be held rain or shine.

Native Warm-Season Grasses for Grazing Workshop

Kenneth Eck

Producers can get first-hand tips from specialists on the use of native warm-season grasses for their farm’s grazing systems during a workshop on June 21. The “Using Native Warm-Season Grasses in a Grazing System” Producer Workshop runs from 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM (EDT), and will be held at the Southern Indiana Purdue Ag Center, 11371 East Purdue Farm Road, located near Dubois, Ind. The workshop will include topics such as the potential role of native warm-season grasses in a grazing system, animal performance and economics, grass establishment, and native warm-season grass management and maintenance. The event will also feature a pasture walk to view native warm-season pastures currently in use at the SIPAC facilities. There is no charge to attend this event, but pre-registration is required for materials and meals to jhodge34@utk.edu. The Grazing 102 workshop, will occur immediately following this event (See article above).

This native warm-season grass workshop is hosted by the Center for Native Grasslands Management, the Southern Indiana Purdue Agricultural Center, the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, Quail Forever, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Purdue Extension.
Seasonal Tips

**June**

Clip mature, ungrazed forage. This will encourage new growth, reduce eye irritation incidents, and set back weed growth.

Drag the pasture after clipping to spread manure piles, reduce internal parasite eggs, and reduce selective grazing.

- Harvest established alfalfa approximately 30 days after first harvest. For top quality, harvest when buds appear on shoots.
- Continue scouting for potato leafhopper.
- Harvest spring-seeded alfalfa approximately 70 days after emergence.
- Scout pastures for poisonous weeds.
- Remove livestock from cool-season grass pastures and turn them out on warm-season perennial grass pastures (if available and ready to be grazed).
- Control grazing. Excessive, untimely grazing can affect pasture forage yields.
- Harvest spring oats for forage at the boot stage for top quality.
- Test pasture or hay field soils that have not been tested for several years. Test fields to be seeded in August (if not done already).

**July**

Continue scouting for potato leafhopper.

Seed adapted summer-annual grasses, legumes, and brassicas as a double crop after harvesting soft red winter wheat or spring oats.

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.

North: Till fields intended for August seeding. Incorporate recommended fertilizer and preplant herbicides.

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 herbicide.

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**Upcoming Events**

- **June 21, 2019**: Native Warm-Season Grasses for Grazing Workshop — Southern Indiana Purdue Ag Center
- **June 21-22, 2019**: Grazing 102 — Southern Indiana Purdue Ag Center
- **July 6, 2019**: IFC & Indiana Beef Cattle Association Tour — Greencastle area
- **August 7, 2019**: Forage Management Day sponsored by the Diagnostic Training Center — Feldun-Purdue Ag Center in Bedford

Check the IFC website, [indianaforage.org](http://indianaforage.org), for updates!