

BUSINESS

Learning more about silvopasture: Minnesota group hosts educational events



An upcoming workshop will explore silvopasture — combining trees with pasture to benefit both livestock and the land. Agweek file photo

Silvopasture is a term that many people may be unfamiliar with. But the concept behind it - combining trees with pasture to benefit both livestock and the land - is an old one that's garnering growing attention.

On Sept. 18 in Becker, Minn., the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota hosts an educational session on silvopasture, oak savanna restoration, grazing management, and how these techniques can boost farm profitability.

The session, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Tom Barthel and Gail Wilkinson's Snake River Farm 18251 62nd St., will showcase a diverse grass-based farm that produces bison, beef cattle, and pastured pork and poultry.

Speakers include Barthel and Wilkinson; Kent Solberg, SFA livestock and grazing specialist; Diomy Zamora, Extension educator; and Gary Wyatt, Extension educator.

Cost is \$25 for SFA members/\$35 nonmembers; registration includes lunch, coffee and all materials.

The event is sponsored by Compeer Financial and North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education.

On Sept. 5 in Barnesville, Minn., the Sustainable Farming Association will host its annual "Dirt Rich: Building Soil Health Experts" field day. The event will run from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. beginning at the Dave & Will Grommesh Farm, 18044 Hwy. 34, Barnesville.

It will include a rainfall simulator, soil pit demonstrations, and much more. Cost is \$20 with a \$10 discount for veterans. On-site registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

This workshop is co-sponsored by The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, NCR-SARE, Clay Soil and Water Conservation District and the Minnesota Prairie Chicken Society.

More information: www.sfa-mn.org/soil .