

The Pasture Walk schedule for the Great River Graziers group has been posted. If you have never been to an “official” Great River Pasture walk you may not know what to expect. The pasture walks that this group requests and that we conduct are structured educational events set in an out door environment. Farms are selected for specific grazing questions and topics that can be shown and discussed in about a 1 ½ to 2 hour format. Those participating and facilitating bring their wealth of experience to the facilitated discussion and are expected to share their observation and thoughts to answer the host farmer’s questions and the participant’s questions.

Here is an overview of a typical pasture walk. The farm and date have been selected weeks or months in advance and promoted and advertised. The farmer has gone over with the facilitator the specific grazing questions they wish answered or discussed at the walk. Pasture walk road signs have been placed to aid finding the farm. On the specific date (usually the 1st or 3rd Tue of the month) usually at 10:30 am, interested participants gather at the farm for the event. On the Farmers OK the facilitator asks the participants to gather up in a circle and the “official “rules for the walk are given. Those two rules are: 1. We gather in a circle with one person talking and the others listen. No side conversations. 2. We want you to feel secure to voice your thoughts but disagree agreeably. No personal attacks. From there three or four sites on the farm are examined and a group consciences or overview is established on the question or topic that has been given for that specific pasture walk and other questions that are raised in the discussion. At the end of the walk there are generally light refreshments and a chance to socialize.

The pasture walk incorporates a field day component, walking to specific sites on the farm, with guided group discussion, to deliver a premium educational event. While some aspects of show and tell are a part of the Pasture walk, this is not the main focus. The discussion and shared participant observations are the main focus with the specific farm sites used to highlight or clarify the individual’s host farmers or participant questions.