

Custom/contract Grazing

(from a grazier's perspective)

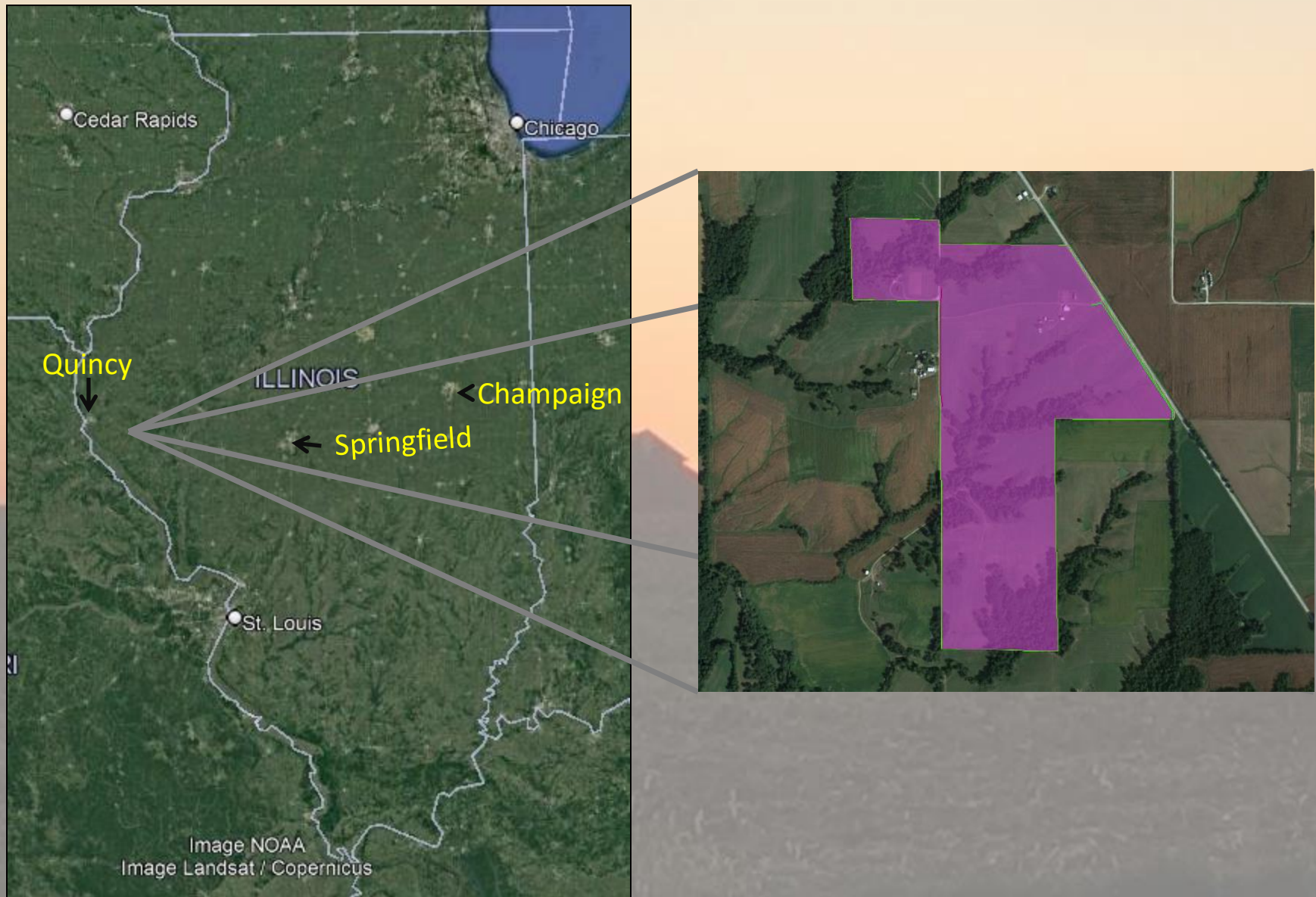
Brett Mathews
Dividing Ridge Farm

Regenerative Farmer/Rancher
Liberty, Adams County, Illinois

About me



The Farm aka The Clark Place





Portable Electric Fence

- 12v energizers
- 1/3 mile of wire per reel
- Step-in posts



Greg Judy

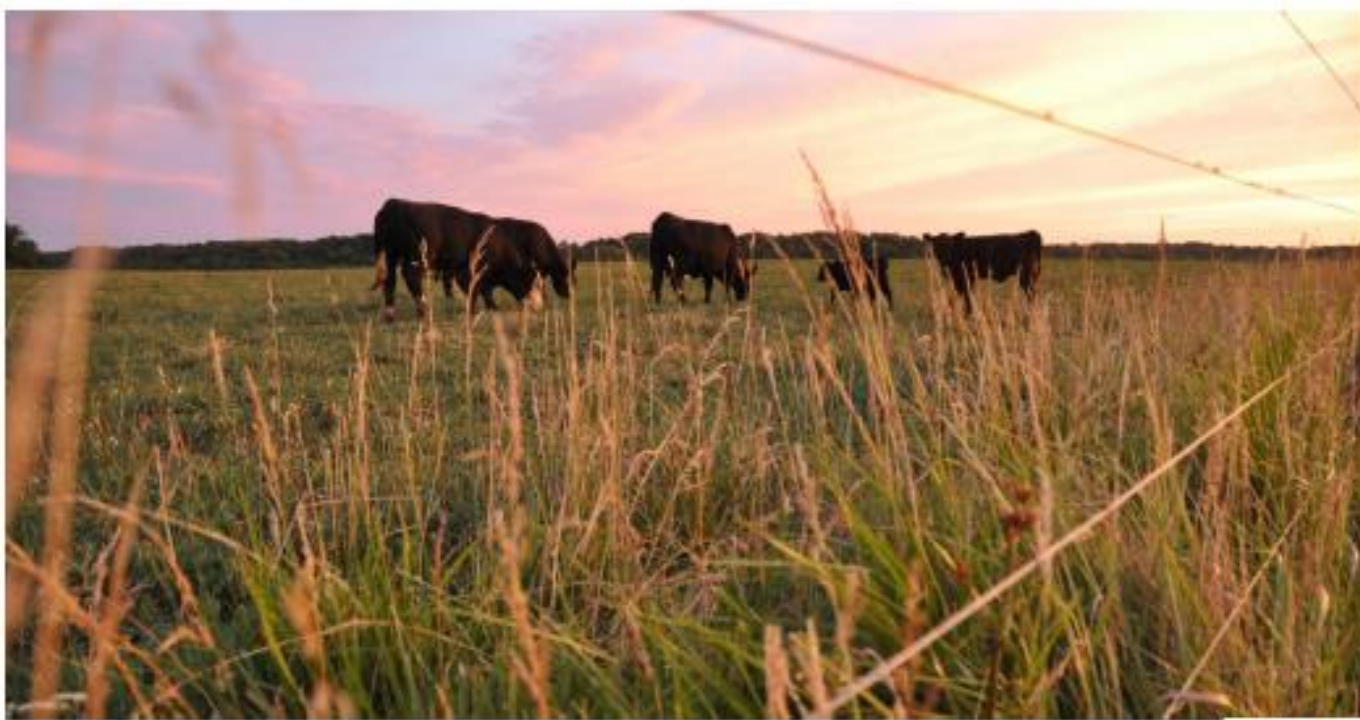
- Author of No Risk Ranching and Comeback Farms
- Grassfed beef/lamb
- Multi-species grazing
- Custom grazing on leased land



Soil Health Academy

- Dr Allen Williams
- Gabe Brown
- Ray Archuleta
- David Brandt
- Shane New
- And many more have joined the team
- Regeneration through “bio-mimicry”
- www.Soilhealthacademy.org





Holly Spengler

MANURE SPREADERS: Cows are natural manure spreaders and build soil health, says Meghan Filbert, co-founder of the Midwest Grazing Exchange.

Want better soil health? Build fences

*Illinois farmer Brett Mathews is fencing his cover crops and hopes to attract custom livestock grazing, with help from a **new grazing exchange**.*

Austin Keating | Dec 21, 2020

Liberty, Ill., farmer Brett Mathews says he's nearly done putting fence back around his family's 200-acre farm. He's losing acreage as he pushes the fence posts behind the right of way for the state highway he lives on, Route 104. He says it's worth it, though.

Mathews is going to rent his cropland to livestock producers to provide a natural source of nutrition to crops. That's why he reinvested in the fence his grandfather removed 20 years ago at about \$2 per foot, not counting his labor.



- Connects cattle producers to crop farmers and pasture owners/managers
- More importantly, it reconnects livestock with the land!
- Be patient and diligent!



- Sell yourself, be specific and try to avoid jargon
- Only 6 Illinois accounts:
 - 4 grazing available
 - 2 looking for grazing/pasture

2 easy win/win scenarios

1. Crop farmer frost seeds clover into winter wheat and grazes the fields after wheat harvest in lieu of double crop (risky) soybeans.
2. Crop farmer drills cereal rye immediately following corn harvest. Cattle graze cereal rye prior to soybean planting.



- Wild cattle and/or not trained to hot wire
- Not getting to know each other before making deals or signing a contract.
- Not having a contract
- Someone who says *"I'm always looking for pasture."*



Contracts

- Contracts can be simple but should be detailed in specifying the expectations of both parties.
- Contracts should include dates of grazing period, number of head, weight of cattle, and grazing fees.
- They should also address issues such as:
 - drought provisions
 - payment schedule
 - death loss liability
 - veterinary care
 - Insurance
 - supplementation & mineral program
 - Etc.

Contracts (continued)

- Identify the responsibilities of both named parties—who will provide what and when?
- Define labor, equipment, and management of livestock, including animal health.
- Specify targets appropriate for the type of animals, including weight gains, body condition scores, etc.
- Define who will pay for various types of services, such as additional feed, vet bills, medications, trucking, breeding, etc.
- Specify the dates that the contract will be in force and the types, sizes, and sexes of animals to be grazed under the contract.
- Specify how and where the animals will be weighed; specify any appropriate shrink.
- Specify under what conditions the contract can be terminated—by either party—and the notice required to terminate a contract.
- Specify how the grazer will be paid after animals are removed and on what basis, such as rate of gain, number of days, or other options.

Contracts (example)

Pasture Lease – Contract Grazing Agreement

This form was prepared to assist in reaching and recording a lease agreement. Assurance that specific legal requirements are met may require the services of a lawyer.

1. Parties:

The following agreement is hereby entered into by _____,
pasture provider, and _____, animal owner, for the period of
_____, 20__ through _____, 20__.

2. Land Description:

The pasture consists of _____ acres on the _____
farm, legally described as follows: _____ Section _____
Township _____ Range _____ in _____ County, State of Wis.

3. Computation of Charges, Payment Dates:

The animal owner agrees to pay \$1.00 per animal unit (calculated according to Table 1) per day for the period specified in Item 1, the total charge thus calculated being \$_____ per animal unit per month. The total monthly charge of \$ _____ is to be paid 30 days from the date with monthly payments thereafter throughout the duration of the grazing agreement.

Brett Mathews
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[Facebook.com/DividingRidgeFarm](https://www.facebook.com/DividingRidgeFarm)



Questions?

