

Questions To Ask At A Pasture Walk
Craig Saxe, Juneau County UW Extension

When facilitating a pasture walk, one easy way to engage the group, is to ask open-ended and thought provoking questions. Asking the right questions helps trigger thoughts regarding background knowledge and provides better focus to the topic at hand, which leads to better group interaction. Responses below are from a recent Grazing Educators meeting. The participants were asked to:

List questions you might ask the group, to encourage conversation during a pasture walk.

- What grazing technique are you presently looking to get better at?
- What sold you on the idea of grazing?
- Are there any questions you have for the group?
- Tell us about your grazing experience?
- What is the most valuable grazing tip you could share?
- Give us your name and where you're from?
- Give us your farm information?
- How long have you been grazing?
- Is there anything we haven't talked about today that you'd like to talk about?
- Can someone summarize the key things they learned today?
- Are there any additional thoughts you'd like to share with the group?
- How would you manage this grass/pasture on your property?
- What advice can you give or what has worked for you to eliminate this weed (or some other problem)?
- How does this practice (that you're showing us) fit into your overall system?
- What equipment has made your life easier (energizers, gates, etc.)?
- What is the plants response to dry ground?
- Why did you move the group of animals when you did?
- What is happening to the soil life?
- Tell me about...how you decide about animal density (stocking rate)?
- What type of management is appropriate for this enterprise?
- Are there any real concerns with the stand?
- What would you do to solve production problems?
- How do we facilitate better cow movements?
- If you were managing this pasture, what would be your next step?
- What varieties might you inter-seed into this pasture to improve it?
- How might you change the fencing?
- Where might you add a water source?
- Which grass species would they prefer – seeing what's in that pasture?

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- Would they move animals differently?
 - Are they satisfied with manure distribution?
 - How would they rate percent of legume and grass, and how much production is there ton/acre?
 - What seed mixes have been used on this site?
 - Find a plant that you don't know.
 - Are you going to eat that?
 - How do you deal with (fence, lane, creek) when you get 4.5 inches of rain?
 - What are the most prominent grasses found in your pastures?
 - What grass species are best suited for a particular management system?
 - Who has tried something different?
 - Has anyone tried this and got different results?
 - Do you have any suggestions for making animal movement easier?
 - How do you do this on your farm?
- What forages do you prefer and why?
 - Any solutions to this problem?
 - Any suggestions?
 - What types/species of forage do you like and why?
 - What species of animals graze well for you?
 - What weed is your nemesis?
 - To Host: How does this practice (that we're looking at) fit into your overall system? aka: why the heck did you do that?
 - To the audience: Where would you put water, lanes, fences, more hardwire, or does it need it?
 - Have other people had different results with this practice?
 - How can you renovate this pasture?
 - Tell me about why you...
 - Tell me what you think is happening to your soil/plant.
 - How do you evaluate a good energizer?

