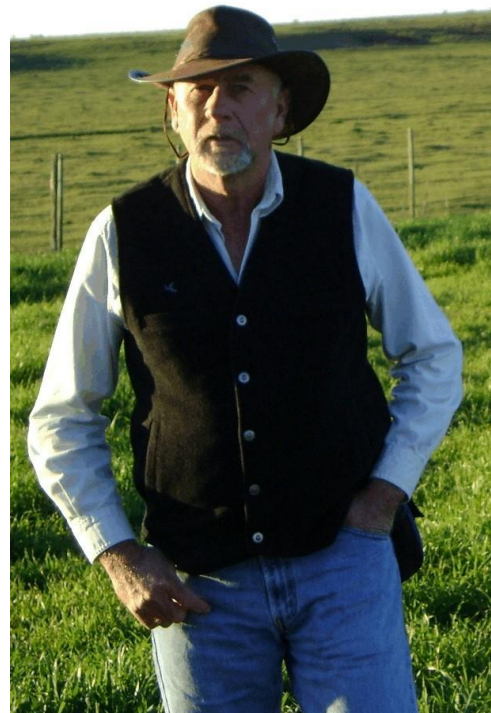


# Arkansas Grazing Lands Coalition Annual Conference

March 11, Arkansas Tech-Ozark Campus, 9:00-3:30

## Featured Speaker: Jim Gerrish, American Grazing Lands Services LLC, Patterson, ID

Jim Gerrish is an independent grazing lands consultant providing service to farmers and ranchers on both private and public lands across the US and internationally. He currently lives in the Pahsimeroi Valley in central Idaho and works with numerous ranchers across the US, Canada, and Mexico using both irrigated pastures and native rangeland as well as working in the high natural rainfall environments of the eastern US. He received a BS in Agronomy from the University of Illinois and MS in Crop Ecology from University of Kentucky. His past experience includes over 22 years of beef-forage systems research and outreach while on the faculty of the University of Missouri. The University of Missouri-Forage Systems Research Center rose to national prominence as a result of his research leadership. His research encompassed many aspects of plant-soil-animal interactions and provided foundation for many of the basic principles of Management-intensive Grazing.



He has written a regular monthly column in The Stockman Grass-Farmer magazine for over 15 years. He has authored two books on grazing and ranch management. *Management-intensive Grazing: The Grassroots of Grass Farming* was published in 2004 and *Kick the Hay Habit: A practical guide to year-around grazing* was published in 2010.

Jim was co-founder of the very popular multi-day grazing management workshop program at FSRC. These schools were attended by over 3000 producers and educators from 39 states and 4 Canadian provinces from their inception in 1990 through 2003. Fifteen other states have conducted grazing workshops based on the Missouri model and Jim has taught in eleven of these states. He is an instructor in the University of Idaho's Lost River Grazing Academy held annually near Salmon ID. He typically speaks at 40 to 50 producer oriented workshops, seminars, and field days around the US and Canada each year.

For 22 of the years he spent in Missouri, he stayed in touch with the real world on a 260-acre commercial cow-calf and contract grazing operation. In this setting, he took a worn out marginal crop farm and converted it to a highly productive grass farm. After the move to Idaho in 2004, Jim keeps his day-to-day grazing tools sharp through management of a ranch unit consisting of 450 center pivot irrigated pastures, 90 acres of flood ground, and several hundred acres of rangeland.

While in Missouri, he was deeply involved in the Green Hills Farm Project, a grassroots producer group centered in north-central Missouri and emphasizing sustainability of family farms. He is currently working with the local, natural food networks in the West. His research and outreach efforts have been recognized with awards from the American Forage and Grassland Council, Missouri Forage and Grassland Council, National Center for Appropriate Technology, USDA-NRCS, the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Progressive Farmer, and American Agricultural Editors Association.v

*We are quite excited to have Jim sharing information on grazing management with us on March 11 through four presentations during the day. Check Jim out through his website ([americangrazinglands.com](http://americangrazinglands.com)) and come prepared to ask Jim questions to help you manage your operation.*

## **Supporting Speakers**

### **Wes Tucker, University of Missouri**

Wesley Tucker is an Agriculture Business Specialist for University of Missouri Extension. He specializes in financial management, forage & beef production, rotational grazing, budgeting, fence law, farm leases, livestock marketing, and passing the farm to the next generation. A Southwest Missouri native, Wesley grew up on the family beef operation where he continues to farm today. He and his wife, Heather, a local veterinarian, and their daughter, Jordan, operate a crossbred cow-calf operation in Dallas County. As a University of Missouri Extension specialist, Wesley's primary educational role is helping producers become better managers and improve the profitability of their farming operation.



*Wes has been asked to share his thoughts on many questions related to economics of grazing operations. He will not only focus on making money for cattle operations but also address contract grazing and issues for folks that do not own livestock but manage grazing operations.*

## **Eric Fuchs, Wayne County, MO**

Eric Fuchs lives in Southeast Missouri on a diversified livestock operation where he raises hair sheep and contract grazes all classes of cattle. He has been using Holistic Planned Grazing for over 8 years and has had a grazing system on his operation for over 20 years. Eric is also employed by Missouri Rural Water Association as a Source Water Protection Technician. He travels the entire state of Missouri working with small communities helping them protect their drinking water. He has seen firsthand the problems with agriculture land use and its effect on drinking water. Eric graduated from the University of Missouri in 1994 with a degree in Agronomy. He entered the USAF and served 5 years. While in the Air Force he received a Masters degree in Human Resource Development. Eric has a 16 year old daughter, Jordan and a 6 year old son, Jake.

*Eric will discuss managing soil health, one of the important topics being addressed throughout the country at the present time. His discussion will feature not only how he manages his own operation but also address issues he sees everyday on his job managing the quality of our drinking water.*