

What's New in GRAZIER'S GEAR

CERTIFICATION

Grassfed

Communicating your growing practices is no easy task in our current landscape of buzzwords like "grassfed" "grass-finished," "sustainable" and more. That's one reason why certifications, like Certified Naturally Grown, exist—to offer farmers a meaningful way to represent their growing practices.

Certified Naturally Grown (CNG) is a certification program for farmers and beekeepers who use natural practices, without synthetic chemicals or GMOs, to produce food for their communities. Many farmers choose CNG because its peer-review inspections serve to foster direct relationships and learning opportunities among farmers, in addition to verifying, program standards are being upheld.

In 2002, the year National Organic Program took effect, New York farmers laid groundwork for their own grassroots certification. What started as a regional program appealed across the country. Today, nearly 800 farmers and beekeepers participate in CNG.

CNG certifies cattle ranchers for their beef and dairy cattle under their Livestock Program.

Farmers David and Colleen Lewis, Black Angus Springs Farm, recently became the first CNG livestock farm in South Central Missouri. "We never treat our land with fertilizers, and our cattle are exclusively grassfed for their entire lives" explained Colleen. CNG is a good fit, highlighting both land management and animal welfare.

Anyone interested in certification can contact CNG, Alice Varon, Executive Director, 845-697-2058, alicevaron@naturallygrown.org or visit CNGfarming.org.



FORAGE

Ryegrass

DLF Pickseed releases two new annual ryegrass varieties especially suited for the Southern United States: Angusta, a tetraploid variety and New Dawn, a diploid variety. Both varieties are early transitioning high yielding varieties with the best forage quality among the annual ryegrasses, expressed in high NDFd values.

Early producing Angusta complements and completes the DLF Pickseed line-up of new tetraploid annual ryegrass varieties: Angusta, Credence and Andes. In the diploid group, New Dawn fills the same early season production slot, complementing Kodiak, MO-1 and McKinley in the DLF Pickseed line-up.

The high forage quality values are no accident. DLF Pickseed's successful program for improving forage quality was again confirmed in Penn State University's just released "2016-17 PSU Short-Lived Cover Crops Trial" report. For the



second year in a row the DLF Pickseed varieties, diploid and tetraploid, make out the top of the list in DM yield and forage quality. Growers have great success with these top varieties; Kodiak, McKinley and MO-1 as cover crop planted in corn. Variety Andes is the only tetraploid variety in this top group.

Angusta and New Dawn are available for sale beginning this fall. Contact your seed supplier for availability of these and other DLF Pickseed varieties.

MINERAL

Fertilizer and Livestock

Livestock producers and grass farmers using **SEA-90 Essential Element For All Livestock and SEA-90 Trace Element Fertilizer** report higher profits, improved herd health and increased pasture production.

At an extraordinary affordable cost, **SEA-90** replenishes over 90 minerals and trace elements known to be deficient in soils, crops, pasture grasses and livestock. **SEA-90** complete mineral and trace element availability results in increased yields, nutrient density, brix levels, RFQ and RFV values, improved soil and gut biology and healthier livestock.

SEA-90 Essential Element is offered to all livestock free choice and mixed in feed. Consumption per 1000 lb cow is reported to average 1 oz per day (\$5 per month) with positive improvement in reproduction, hair coat, hoof rot, pink eye, plus reduced fly pressure and scours.

Dissolve **SEA-90 Foliar Fertilizer** and apply to all crops, pasture, small and tree fruits for \$5 or less per acre throughout the growing season. Broadcast SEA-90 Natural Fertilizer in late fall or early spring to remineralize soil, improve microbial populations, crop and pasture quality and production. Add **SEA-90** to compost and compost tea (brew) to improve quality and increase microbial populations.

For more information, contact SeaAgri, Inc., 770-361-7003, info@seaagri.com, P.O. Box 88237 Dunwoody GA 30356, or visit www.seaagri.com.

SWINE

Kunekune

The growing popularity of pastured pork dovetails perfectly with this easy keeping pig. The Kunekune's ability to not just survive, but to thrive, on grass make it the perfect, sustainable, small holding and homestead pig. They inexpensively produce some of the most succulent, well marbled pork you'll ever eat. Their docile nature, easy handling, and disinclination to root or roam, allow them to be pastured in all sorts of places—from orchards and vineyards to backyards. They also enjoy human company and actually crave being handled. Kunekune owners, experienced with market breeds, especially appreciate

that they no longer risk serious injury when loading or working with their pigs and newcomers quickly find their stride getting acclimated to this most un-intimidating swine. From petting zoos to therapy pigs, the Kunekune is filling a lot of specialty niches.

Helping to advance recognition and awareness of this outstanding breed, the American Kunekune Pig Society is a member run, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to promote their preservation through education, exhibition



and facilitation of responsible breeding practices. The unique features of the AKKPS registry include a herd book that allows members to run trial breedings using both detailed pedigrees and tools such as generation of prospective COI's (Coefficients of In-Breeding, a metric which sounds a lot more complicated than it is) to help keep their breeding futures bright.

To learn more, please contact admin@americankunekunepigsociety.com or <http://americankunekunepigsociety.com> (AKKPS).

PRODUCER PROFILE...

Shady Grove Ranch

Name: Matt and Jerica Cadman
Telephone: 903-665-7076
Ranch: Shady Grove Ranch
Email: sales@shadygroveranch.net
Website: shadygroveranch.net
Address: 539 Shady Grove Rd, Jefferson, TX 75657
Acres in pasture: 185 + 70 leased
Grass Farming: About nine years.

No. of paddocks: Depends on time of year... approximately 18 large paddocks that sustain flash-grazing stints. Subdivided many times over depending on species.

Forages: Native (Coastal Bermuda, Bahia, Vetch, clovers and others.) Planted, all Non-GMO: Yellow Dent Corn, Cow Peas, Turnips, Wheat, Rye, and Ryegrass.

Centerpiece Operation: It's a toss-up. Grassfed cattle, mobile-pastured pigs, broilers, and layers. Hopefully about 75,000 lbs of meat and eggs will walk off the ranch this year.

Cattle: Herd is growing rapidly via replacement heifers and investors purchasing heifers. Should have around 65 eligible girls this year. We pretty much butcher all cattle that leave the ranch and sell direct.

Pigs: Farrow about 300 piglets per year. All sold as weaners, breeders, finishers or meat.

Broilers: Scheduled to grow 8000+ this year.

Turkeys: Scheduled to grow 300 this year.

Layers: 500-1000 hens depending on time of year.

Additional operations: soap-making, consulting
Marketing: All locally, through email newsletter, social media and word of mouth. Occasional health fairs.

Vision: To have a multi-generational grass farm producing a variety of foods for families within 100 miles of the ranch. Would like to move to the point of on-farm production of feed and seed, in-house meat processing, sustainable electricity production and on-farm water conservation. We'd like to get into dairy, orchards, veggies, nut production, lumber production, and agri-tourism. We want to do it all! Right now, we do a lot of business through deliveries and farmers' market, but we hope our up-and-coming farm store will bring more business directly to the farm.

Family: Four children, ages 7 down to 1. All



the talking children have jobs and are part of daily operations. The boys, ages 7 and 5, help move broiler chickens and assist with jobs around the house and ranch. Several times a week, all the kids come down to the egg grading facility to wash, sort and pack eggs. The girl, almost 3, helps collect eggs (almost as fast as daddy!) and helps Mom around the house.

Favorite Resources:

Walk-In Freezer: One built on site from scratch. Another built from a converted reefer (insulated 18-wheeler trailer, per Daniel Salatin's recommendation). Purchased trailer for \$2k, added more insulation, concrete floor and cooling unit. We have a 384 sq. ft. freezer for about \$9k.

Turner Bandsaw Mill: Enabled us to turn sweat and gasoline into lumber. Lots of results (and time) from this.

Miller Stick Welder: Absolutely key to the entrepreneurial farmer. We've built pole barns, walk-in freezers, hay rings, countless mobile shade/housing structures, equipment modification, etc.

Plant-O-Vator (Tarver): Using to plant forage and crops for animals.

Hoop House: 30x100 foot. Poured concrete footer, put white tarp over it, and framed in the ends. Space to brood 40,000 chicks/year. Total cost (minus my labor) \$2.5k

Mobile Range Coops: We made our own, but were empowered to pursue the large mobile coop design for broilers because of Cobb Creek Farm's production of them. They sell a super-nice coop.

Seed: Cow-peas help fix nitrogen, making a big difference in poor soil of East Texas.

Pigs: Crossed Red Wattle, Tamworth and Blue-Butts into my Large Black herd. Culling and breeding bad instincts out of our pigs; attempting to refine the already fabulous meat quality.

Hens: Sexlinks, usually Red.

Broilers: Freedom Rangers. We produce about a 4-pound carcass in seven weeks with non-soy feed (which is stinkin' hard). APPPA members have greatly contributed to this. **Fertrell, Windy Meadows Family Farm and Cobb Creek Farm** in particular.

Goats: Just starting. Using whatever breed I can get. Mostly Boar Goats at present.