

MAY  
14-19,  
2023

KENTUCKY  
USA

# FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

GRASSLAND FOR SOIL,  
ANIMAL & HUMAN HEALTH



**IGC**  
International  
Grassland Congress  
KENTUCKY, USA 2023



# INVITATION



## Welcome

The Organizing Committee of the XXV International Grassland Congress, on behalf of the American Forage and Grassland Council, cordially invites you to participate in the International Grassland Congress May 14-19, 2023 at the Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington, Kentucky USA.

On behalf of the 25th International Grassland Congress Organizing committee I am pleased to welcome delegates from around the world to the United States. Grassland researchers from the U.S. have attended IGC Congresses since the 1930's, but the first U.S. Congress was in Pennsylvania in 1952. Kentucky was the location for the IGC Congress in 1981. We look forward to hosting this worldwide gathering of scientists, students, extension, industry and practitioners and highlighting the current state of grassland agriculture in the United States.

- Dr. Ray Smith, Chair, 25th IGC Organizing Committee

Over one quarter of the land area of the United States is occupied by grasslands (includes all pasture, native range land, and harvested forage acreage). Grasslands are located in all 50 states. Privately owned grasslands occupy 211 million ha (528 million acres) in the contiguous 48 states, and these lands constitute the largest private land use category, exceeding both forestland and cropland. An additional 132 million ha (331 million acres of native rangeland are managed by the federal government. Primary economic outputs from U.S. grasslands include the products of livestock, including beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, and goats, but wildlife values are a major economic consideration. The environmental value of U.S. grasslands are also extensive and provide many essential ecosystem services, such as clean water, wildlife and fish habitat, and recreation opportunities. Scenic, cultural, and historic values of grasslands provide economic benefits, but also quality of life values.

*We look forward to hosting you in Kentucky in 2023 for the XXV International Grassland Congress.*

## HOST

The XXV International Grassland Congress is hosted by the American Forage and Grassland Council. AFGC is the leader and voice of economically and environmentally sound forage focused agriculture. The organization is made up of 22 state affiliate councils in the U.S. The primary objective is to promote the profitable production and sustainable utilization of quality forage and grasslands. AFGC hosts an annual conference bringing together industry, public, and producer attendees to share research and best practices.







**NORTHERN KENTUCKY:** The top of the South & the end of the North, is perfectly situated along the Ohio River across from big sister Cincinnati. Encompassing the historic towns of Newport and Covington as well as the suburban centers along the Covington/Cincinnati International Airport, NKY is a strong part of the Cincinnati USA region with its roots firmly planted in Kentucky.

## NORTHERN KENTUCKY FACTS:

**POPULATION:** 384,790 (2015)

**METRO POPULATION:** Northern Kentucky is part of the Cincinnati, Ohio metropolitan area encompassing 2,137,406 people and is the 28th largest metro area in the U.S.

**MAJOR CITIES:** Covington, Newport, Florence, Erlanger, Hebron, Union, Fort Thomas & Bellevue.

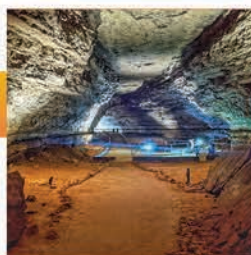
**AIRPORT:** CVG International Airport serviced by Delta, United, Frontier, Allegiant, Southwest & Apple Air Signature.

**EVENTS:** Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon, held the first Saturday of May, is a qualifier for the Boston Marathon. The second-largest multi-cultural music event in the U.S., P&G Music Fusion Weekend, is hosted here in July. Oktoberfest Cincinnati occurs the second weekend in October and is the largest Oktoberfest outside of Munich, Germany.

**PROFESSIONAL SPORTS:** Cincinnati Reds baseball: April-October. Cincinnati Bengals football: September-December.

**Arts in Region:** 100 plus arts & culture venues in the region including ballet, pops orchestra, chamber orchestra, Opera, Broadway theater and more.

**CULINARY:** Germanic and Southern fusion cuisine with a dash of bourbon and a craft beer from the more than 32 active breweries in the region.







## THEME 1- GRASSLAND ECOLOGY

- 1.1. Ecological site description and ecosystem classification
- 1.2. Role of grasslands in global food systems and ecology
- 1.3. Biodiversity and ecosystem services of grasslands
- 1.4. Grassland and livestock management for soil, water, watershed management, water supply, water quality and riparian health
- 1.5. Shrub encroachment, fire ecology, invasive species and pest management
- 1.6. Monitoring of grassland resources
- 1.7. Carbon Sequestration, GHG emissions, and related grasslands
- 1.8. Soil Health management
- 1.9. Climate change and grasslands

## THEME 2- GRASSLAND PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION

- 2.1. Genetic resources and forage breeding
- 2.2. Botanical composition and forage management
- 2.3. Annual forages as restoration bridge
- 2.4. Conserved forage management practices
- 2.5. Challenges for sustainability of intensive high rainfall grasslands, sown pastures and turf
- 2.6. Seed science and production systems – seed production technology, development, utilization, management, marketing, and economics
- 2.7. Forage nutritive value and impacts on animal product quality and utilization
- 2.8. Economics of grassland production systems
- 2.9. Shrub encroachment, invasive species and pest management







## **THEME 3 - LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION SYSTEMS**

- 3.1. Role of ruminant animal agriculture in global food systems
- 3.2. Grazing management and animal nutrition
- 3.3. Management of multiple-species grazing systems
- 3.4. Intensive production systems (including small-holder dairy systems in tropics and subtropics)
- 3.5. Integrated systems (silvopasture and integrated crop-livestock systems)
- 3.6. Rangeland management systems
- 3.7. Small ruminant systems
- 3.8. Equine management systems
- 3.9. Animal health and stewardship in forage management systems
- 3.10. Animal genetics for utilizing grasslands

## **THEME 4 - GRASSLAND SUSTAINABILITY, INNOVATIONS & INITIATIVES**

- 4.1. Grasslands in regenerative agriculture
- 4.2. Emerging trends and issues in grassland science and education
- 4.3. Extension and technology-transfer
- 4.4. Green energy and Information Communication Technologies applications
- 4.5. Grasslands as local, regional and global food baskets and economic drivers
- 4.6. Participatory approaches and innovations in the management of grasslands
- 4.7. Managing grasslands for wildlife, conservation and ecotourism
- 4.8. Digital technology use and applications in grasslands
- 4.9. Training the next generation of grassland scientists and enthusiasts







## THEME 5 - GRASSLAND POLICIES, SOCIAL ISSUES & ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

- 5.1. Cultural heritage and indigenous people's use of grasslands (indigenous technical knowledge)
- 5.2. Governance, land rights and changes to pastoral systems
- 5.3. Social justice, gender and equity issues in grasslands
- 5.4. Marketing infrastructure and systems in grasslands
- 5.5. Policy issues for grasslands development
- 5.6. Political instability and extremism: its impact on grasslands management
- 5.7. Increasing youth/young adult involvement in grassland management
- 5.8. Grassland Revolution – Changing the perception of grasslands
- 5.9. Ruminant animal products in human health and nutrition
- 5.10. Experiences of practitioners in direct or niche marketing



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# AGENDA OUTLINE



## DAY 1 • SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2023

- 8:00AM-8:00PM:** Registration
- 8:30AM-12:00PM:** Pre-Congress Workshops
- 12:00PM-1:00PM:** Lunch for all Workshop Participants
- 1:15PM-4:45PM:** Pre-Congress Workshops
- 5:00PM-6:00PM:** Opening Ceremony
- 6:00PM-8:00PM:** Welcome Reception & Taste of the Tri-State
- 6:00PM-8:00PM:** Concurrent Thematic and Volunteer Oral Sessions

## DAY 2 • MONDAY, MAY 15, 2023

- 7:15AM-8:00AM:** Organizers Meeting
- 7:30AM-6:00PM:** Registration
- 7:30AM-6:00PM:** IGC Market Place/Expo
- 8:00AM-9:00AM:** Plenary Speaker – Soil Health
- 9:00AM-9:45AM:** Keynote Speaker – Grassland Ecology
- 9:45AM-10:15AM:** Refreshments & Poster Viewing
- 10:15AM-12:15PM:** Concurrent Thematic and Volunteer Oral Sessions
- 12:15PM-1:15PM:** Lunch
- 1:30PM-3:30PM:** Concurrent Thematic and Volunteer Oral Sessions
- 3:30PM-4:30PM:** Refreshments & Poster Viewing
- 4:30PM-5:30PM:** ICG Business Meeting
- 5:30PM-7:00PM:** Evening Event--Taste of the US

## DAY 3 • TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2023

- 7:15AM-8:00AM:** Organizers Meeting
- 7:30AM-6:00PM:** Registration
- 7:30AM-6:00PM:** IGC Market Place/Expo
- 8:00AM-8:45AM:** Plenary Speaker – Animal Health
- 8:45AM-9:30AM:** Keynote Speaker – Grassland Production and Utilization
- 9:30AM-10:00AM:** Refreshments & Poster Viewing
- 10:00AM-12:00PM:** Concurrent Thematic and Volunteer Oral Sessions
- 12:15PM-1:15PM:** Lunch
- 1:30PM-2:15PM:** Keynote Speaker – Livestock Production Systems
- 2:15PM-3:15PM:** Refreshments & Poster Viewing
- 3:15PM-5:15PM:** Concurrent Thematic and Volunteer Oral Sessions
- 5:30PM-7:00PM:** Evening Event or night on own





# AGENDA OUTLINE



## DAY 4 • WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 2023

MID-CONGRESS TOURS

**5:00AM & 5:45AM:** Depart for Kentucky Tour

**6:00AM:** Depart for Indiana Tour

**7:00AM:** Depart for Ohio

## DAY 5 • THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023

**7:15AM-8:00AM:** Organizers Meeting

**7:30AM-6:00PM:** Registration

**7:30AM-6:00PM:** IGC Market Place/Expo

**8:00AM-8:45AM:** Plenary Speaker – Human Health

**8:45AM-9:30AM:** Keynote Speaker - Grassland Sustainability,  
Innovations and Initiative

**9:30AM-10:00AM:** Refreshments & Poster Viewing

**10:00AM-12:00PM:** Concurrent Thematic and Volunteer Oral Sessions

**12:15PM-1:15PM:** Lunch

**1:30PM-2:15PM:** Keynote Speaker #5

**2:15PM-3:15PM:** Refreshments & Poster Viewing

**3:15PM-5:15PM:** Concurrent Thematic and Volunteer Oral Sessions

**5:30PM-7:00PM:** Banquet

## DAY 6 • FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023

**8:00AM-6:00PM:** Registration

**8:00AM-12:00PM:** IGC Market Place/Expo Closure

**8:00AM-9:30AM:** Producer Forum

**9:45AM-11:00AM:** Early Career Researchers Forum

**11:00AM-12:30PM:** Business Meeting

**12:30PM-2:30PM:** Lunch, Closing Ceremony, & IGC 2027 Kick-off



***For additional information please visit the International Grassland Congress website at [www.internationalgrasslands.org](http://www.internationalgrasslands.org). We also encourage you to email [info@internationalgrasslands.org](mailto:info@internationalgrasslands.org) to be included in distribution of regular updates on the 25th IGC Congress.***



# SUBMISSION GUIDELINES



**The Congress Program Committee encourages submissions for volunteer oral and poster presentations and proposals for thematic sessions according to the dates listed below. Initial submission will require title, authors, and a short summary of the research.**

*The official language of the Congress is English.*

## IMPORTANT DEADLINES

<b>JANUARY 2021</b>	Website will open to submit volunteer papers and proposals for thematic sessions.
<b>MAY 2021</b>	Website will open for Congress registration.
<b>SEPTEMBER 1, 2022</b>	Deadline for session/poster proposals.
<b>SEPTEMBER 15, 2022</b>	Deadline to submit session/poster papers.
<b>JUNE 2021 - JUNE 2022</b>	Delegate sponsorship application open.



# ICG 2023 DETAILS



## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION FEE SUMMARY		
<b>DELEGATE REGISTRATION</b>	Early Bird	\$600
	Regular Rate	\$675
<b>STUDENT REGISTRATION</b>	Early Bird	\$400
	Regular Rate	\$475
<b>ACCOMPANYING PERSONS</b>	Flat Rate	\$450
<b>BANQUET</b>	Delegates and accompanying persons wishing to attend the banquet will need to purchase a banquet ticket at time of registration.	

## ACCOMODATION

The organizers have identified a number of hotels that are within one mile of the Northern Kentucky Convention Center. There will be free shuttles running from the three furthest hotels throughout the day. The hotels with blocks reserved included the Embassy Suites (located across the street from the convention center), the Marriott RiverCenter (attached to the convention center), Holiday Inn, Courtyard Cincinnati, and Best Western Plus. Breakfast for registrants will be available at each hotel.

## VISA

Delegates should apply for a visa in advance. Details can be found by visiting this website, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas.html>.

## PRE-CONGRESS WORKSHOPS

Organizations that wish to present a workshop should submit their requests, including title, description, and speakers, to the Congress Secretariat. Workshops are available to sponsors at the Gold, Platinum, and Diamond levels.



# ICG 2023 DETAILS



## CALL FOR EXHIBITORS

The organizing committee has planned a Market Place Trade Show that is strategically located where lunches and breaks will be served. The Market Place will serve as the networking hub of the meeting. Organizations wanting to showcase grassland technologies, innovations, products and services along with agricultural companies representing the seed industry, feed manufacturers, agrochemical firms, national and international research institutes, county and government institutions, universities, and other grassland based enterprises should have an exhibit space.

*The Market Place will offer a unique opportunity to expand your network.*

## CALL FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS OR GROUP NEEDS

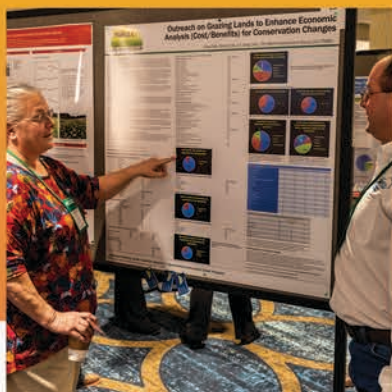
Any group or persons who require meeting space during the Congress are required to submit their request to the Secretariat.

### CONGRESS SECRETARIAT: XXV INTERNATIONAL GRASSLAND CONGRESS

**MAIL: P.O. Box 867, Berea, KY USA**

**EMAIL: [info@internationalgrasslands.org](mailto:info@internationalgrasslands.org)**

**WEBSITE: <http://internationalgrasslands.org>**







## **CENTRAL GRASSLANDS (APPROXIMATELY 10 DAYS)**

***Take a ride through Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas on your way to IGC 2023.*** This tour will begin in Corpus Christi, Texas at Kings Ranch continue to San Antonio to visit Hill Country and Hillingdon Ranch before heading to Waco, Overton, Kilgore, and Sherman. The Texas Hill Country is a geographic region of Central and South Texas forming the southeast part of the Edwards Plateau. The terrain throughout the region is punctuated by a thin layer of topsoil and many exposed rocks and boulders. From Sherman, Texas the group will head to the Noble Research Institute for a tour of the campus facilities then to Oklahoma City. Noble Research Institute is made up of scientists, consultants, collaborators, plant breeders, greenhouse assistants, agricultural economists, forage agronomists, beef producers, soils and crops specialists, wildlife biologists, biochemists, mycologists, genomicists, community members, teachers, and life-long learners. Noble Research Institute raises forage-based beef cattle, grows horticultural crops like pecans, and manages natural resources on seven research and demonstration farms that span 14,000 acres of southern Oklahoma. These farms provide a place for researchers to apply their work in a real-world environment.

You will travel on to southwest Kansas, site of the 2017 Starbuck Fire which burned over 3000 square miles in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Our focus will be looking at the recovery and range improvement of the short and mixed grass native warm season grasslands in the six years since the fire. We will tour a long term, historical cattle ranch, the Gardiner Angus Ranch. Gardiner Ranch is a leader in the Angus industry and founding members of US Premium Beef. They employ both grazing and confined feeding in their operation. Follow that with a look at a 42,000 acre bison ranch in the Red or Gypsum Hills of Kansas. We will also tour several other ranches to see beneficial effects of the Starbuck Fire and the Anderson Creek Fire of a few years earlier, then move on to the largest city in Kansas, Wichita. From Wichita, we will move into the Flint Hills region of KS, which contains the last remaining 4% of the Tallgrass Prairie ecosystem that covered almost the entire Corn Belt of the US. Among other stops we will visit is the National Park Service's Tallgrass National Prairie Preserve that is maintained as a prairie by regular applications of prescribed fire and grazing by Bison and cattle.

We will also see several traditional ranches, some native prairie hay meadows and other grassland centered agricultural production on our way to finish our Kansas tour in Kansas City, home to the National Football League's KS City Chiefs and the KS City Royals.



# TOURS



Four Pre-Congress tours are available highlighting various regions of the United States.

## **SUBTROPICAL (APPROXIMATELY 7 DAYS)**

*The SubTropical tour will focus on operations and venues in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.* The tour will begin in Florida with a behind the scenes tour of Disney World's Animal Kingdom and a tour of Deseret Farms, then head to Georgia to tour the Sunbelt Expo bermudagrass field studies and University of Georgia Tifton Campus. Moving into the Carolinas the group will tour Yon Farms and the Simpson Research and Education Center in South Carolina and then the Biltmore Estate and Mountain Research and Education Center in North Carolina.

## **NORTHEAST (APPROXIMATELY 3 DAYS)**

*The Northeast tour will begin in Philadelphia, PA one of the most historic cities in the United States and visit Delaware, Washington DC, and Virginia.* This tour include a stop in Lancaster, PA to amish country and tour New Holland; a stop in Delaware to visit Wye Angus; time to explore Washington, DC. the nations capitol city; and then to Virginia to tour the New Market battlefield and McCormick Farm.

## **NORTHWEST (APPROXIMATELY 5 DAYS)**

*This tour will include stops in Oregon and California.* In Oregon the tour will focus on seed operations, forage production, with a stop in the booming Oregon wine country before moving into California to visit a dairy operation, wine country, with a drive down the historic California coast line.

## **MID-CONGRESS TOURS**

### **KENTUCKY TOURS... FROM FARMS TO HORSES TO BOURBON**

The The tour of Kentucky will highlight the various ways forages are utilized throughout the state. You will visit the following remarkable and distinguished venues:

*Keeneland* to learn the history and get an overview of operations for both racing and sales led by experienced guides for a up close and personal experience.

*Roundstone Native Seed* where the Seymours (John and Randy) are farmers and conservationists and have grown Roundstone from a small family-owned business to one of the largest seed providers in the East.

*The Gerald's Farm* tour will allow participants to see a family-operated commercial scale hay farm in the rolling land of middle Kentucky. The farm is operated by Clayton Gerald's



## MID-CONGRESS TOURS

and his son Christopher in Hart County near Munfordville, Kentucky. They harvest about 1060 acres of hay annually, which produces 6500 tons of forage.

**Timberlawn Farm**, a family owned and operated beef cattle operation in the heart of Horse County, focuses on raising stocker cattle on owned and leased land near Paris, KY. They intensively manage their forage base of orchardgrass, bluegrass and clover to put 2 to 2.5 pounds per day on stockers.

**Woodford Reserve Distillery** to learn the history of bourbon, our five sources of flavor, and our historic barrelhouse resting along the peaceful Glenn's Creek. Take a glimpse into the history of Buffalo Trace Distillery and the different stages of the bourbon-making process. Learn more about the most award-winning distillery and our products. With over 200 years of history in one place, come learn more about where we have been and where we are going!

Come see some of the best horses in the world at work and play in the Bluegrass, where over a million acres of farmland are dedicated to the equine industry. Experience internationally known stud and nursery operations in the middle of the Bluegrass county of Central Kentucky. Nursery farms are in the business of raising horses.

### INDIANA TOURS...FROM DAIRY TO HAY TO RESEARCH

**Tour to south western Indiana to Dubois County.** Stop one will be at **Lindauer Dairy** in Ferdinand, Indiana, a family dairy since 1933 with 400 dairy cows. Stop two will be to **Fischer Farms** in Birdseye, IN, a family owned 750 contiguous acres operation all focused on producing top quality beef. Stop three will be at the **Southern Indiana Purdue Agricultural Center** one of the 8 regional farms that make up the Purdue Agricultural Center system.

Tour to Borden, IN to visit **Brock Kiesler Farm**, a converted crop ground to perennial forages operation with a focus on making small square bales of quality hay. Then onto, **Southern Indiana Purdue Agricultural Center** one of the 8 regional farms that make up the Purdue Agricultural Center system. The last stop will be to **Fischer Farms** in Birdseye, IN a family owned 750 contiguous acres operation all focused on producing top quality beef.

Tour to Batesville, IN to visit **Dave and Shirly Nurhing**, a family owned operation that converted to grazing in the 1980's. The operation has been home to a cow/calf operation, stocker cattle, custom grazing (stockers, dairy heifers, cow/calf pairs). Then onto **Stewart Select Angus** in Greensburg, IN, a herd of 200 registered Angus cows that have been on a performance testing program since 1962. The final stop will be at the **Southern Indiana Purdue Agricultural Center** one of the 8 regional farms that make up the Purdue Agricultural Center system.



### OHIO TOURS...AROUND SOUTHERN OHIO

From the potential host site of the 2023 International Grassland Congress in Covington, Kentucky, the *Greenacres Foundation Farm* in Cincinnati would be a short 30 minute bus drive. This site is a non-profit private foundation established in 1988 by Louis and Louise Nippert. This could easily be a one stop tour with many different operations to observe; production of various animal products on pasture, direct marketing of those items and the soil – plant- human health related research. Today the farm comprises nearly 600 acres, the farm was converted from a grain operation to a cattle farm using a modified rotational grazing system that resulted in lush green pastures. Greenacres produces and sells grass fed Black Angus beef, chicken, turkey, lamb, pork, eggs, honey and a variety of seasonal produce at their farm store. The farm is managed with a “Positive Impact Farming” model with a goal of creating a positive impact to the land through the use of proper agriculture production management systems. There is a recently constructed Dr. Temple Grandin designed low stress cattle handling facility. The Greenacre Foundation has an Environmental Educational Program that serves over 6400 participants yearly. The multidisciplinary approach of management is researched exploring the connection between soil and plant health and the nutritional density and quality of the human food products produced. There is soil health and soil carbon data being collected along with health benefits of grass finished meat.

Additional stops can be made to *Walnut Creek Stables* a full-service boarding center on 135 rolling acres located about 20 miles outside of Cincinnati. Our facilities boast a modern 25 stall barn, a lesson barn and two additional small barn, as well as spacious indoor and outdoor riding arenas. The farm has multiple grazing paddocks and several hay fields.





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# CONTACT US

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