

# Virginia Forage and Grassland Council

## Southwest Virginia Summer Forage Tour

**Where:** Goldwasser Farm

**When:** September 22, 2011 from 3:30-8:30 PM, registration at 3:30 PM, tour starts at 4:00 PM

**Cost:** \$5 pre-registration by September 15, 2011, otherwise \$10 registration at the door (DETAILS ON BACK).

**Pre-registration:** Contact the Carroll Co. Extension Office at 276-730-3110 to register so we can plan for your meal.

### Farm and Tour Description:

Mike Goldwasser owns and operates a cow-calf and stocker operation in Hillsville. He owns 250 acres and rents an additional 410 acres all located in the New River Watershed. Over the last 38 years, the operation has grown to include 50 cow-calf pairs and 300 heifer stockers annually. All stockers are purchased at less than 400 pounds. Stockers are purchased in the winter and fed concentrate until pastures emerge in the spring; no additional supplementation is offered after pasture is available. The cow herd grazes stockpiled fescue during the winter. All cattle graze intensively managed pastures comprised of a mixture of grass and clover. Mike retains ownership on all raised calves and most of the stocker cattle. Retained ownership provides information to Mike on the quality and yields of beef from his cattle. The tour will begin with Mike Goldwasser, owner and operator of Goldwasser Farm providing a general overview of the farm and its current enterprises. Participants will then be transported through a series of educational stops covering the topics listed below. The meeting will conclude with a catered meal.



Stocker cattle grazing pastures at Mike Goldwasser's farm.

### Tour will feature the following topics:



- Rotational grazing with light stockers – compare and contrast with mob grazing
- Improving soil productivity through grazing management
- Water management in rotational grazing paddocks
- Is weed control in pastures profitable?
- USDA and SWCD programs for grazing operations
- Dollar value of pasture
- When is retained ownership of cattle economical?

For more information on this tour and other Virginia Forage and Grassland Council sponsored events, please visit [www.vaforages.org](http://www.vaforages.org).

**Directions:**

**From South, from I-77 Exit 8:**

Turn between gas stations, north on Kelley Road, 0.9 miles to T.  
Turn right onto Stable Rd (702)  
Go 2.0 miles  
Turn left onto Birchtree Rd (709)  
Go 0.8 miles  
Driveway on right, 790 Birchtree Rd.

**From North, East or West, from I-77 Exit 14**

(if from East or West, take Rt 58 to this Exit)

Turn between truck stop and McDonalds, south on Farmers Market Road, 2.4 miles to T.  
Turn left onto Joy Ranch Rd (701)  
Go 1.2 miles  
Fork left onto Birchtree Rd (709)  
Go 1.8 miles  
Driveway on left, 790 Birchtree Rd.



*This meeting is a joint effort of the Virginia Forage and Grassland Council, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Natural Resource Conservation Service and, Farm Service Agency.*

**Pre-register for this event by completing the following information and mail it along with a check to: Carroll Co. Extension Office, 205 Oak Street Suite 102, Hillsville, Virginia 24343.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of participants to register \_\_\_\_\_.

Make your check payable to VCE Carroll Co., with a note in the memo line for VFGC Forage Tour. \$5 per participant postmarked by September 15<sup>th</sup>. **Please register early so we can plan for your meal.**

Questions call the Carroll County Extension office at 276-730-3110.