



DGA Welcomes New Apprenticeship Manager



Jessica Matthews Joins DGA Team as new Apprenticeship Manager.

Jessica has run the full DGA gamut. She started as an Apprentice, graduated to Journeyworker, then moved to an Education Coordinator role while at PASA. She is now joining the DGA Staff as our Apprenticeship Manager. We are thrilled to have her on board!

WELCOME JESSICA!!!

A little bit about Jessica:

Jessica started as a part-time DGA Apprentice at Hameau Farm in Belleville, PA, in 2017. She is a first generation farmer; her original career was in social work. She had some experience working with vegetable farming and raising chickens but her dream was to make dairy farming a full-time career.

During her apprenticeship, she began working with PASA Sustainable Agriculture to deliver DGA programming, connect new and beginning farmers together, and help Mentors find the right candidate for their farm. She organized pasture walks, signed on new Mentors, and provided educational support for Apprentices.

In 2020, she relocated to Seven Stars Farm in southeastern PA and achieved her dream of becoming a full-time dairy farmer, graduating to Journey Dairy Grazier status the following year. As someone committed to dairy farming who knows firsthand the value of beginning farmer education, worked with PASA as DGA Education Coordinator, before joining DGA's staff.

JESSICA MATTHEWS
DGA APPRENTICESHIP MANAGER
E: jessicam@dga-national.org
P: 484-904-9540

DGA Adds New Education Coordinators

Kelsey Vance
Southern Wisconsin Education Coordinator
kelsey@dga-national.org
608-769-6943 P



Kelsey comes to us as a former Dairy Grazier, now Mentor Grazier.

Kelsey has an untraditional background, when it comes to farming. She went to UW- Stevens Point and majored in Health Care Administration. She graduated and spent some time in AmeriCorp before getting a career in HR. After 5 years in HR, she decided the office life was not for her and decided she HAD to try farming since it had been a burning curiosity.

Kelsey started out on a sheep farm, working there for a couple years milking sheep and making sheep cheese. She decided farming was definitely a passion she wanted to pursue. She knew she would need years of farming experience before she could ever secure funding to begin a farm of her own. Enter the DGA!

Kelsey spent two years in Gays Mills working with Mentor Grazier, Don Boland. Kelsey has since had three kids and taken a break from farming to stay home with them, however, their family will be moving out to her in-laws farm soon where she will get back to grazing!

Kelsey joins our team with a passion for grazing, improving our environment, and a hope to grow family farms with others that have an untraditional farming background, like her, that know they belong on a farm!

WELCOME KELSEY!!!



Zan McKenna
Easter New York Education Coordinator
zan@dga-national.org
518-728-7475 P

Hi, I'm Zan! I grew up in suburban New England, but as a teenager felt the pull of an agrarian lifestyle. I started farming in 2012 where through various apprenticeships I found and fell in love with grazing livestock. Most recently I was managing a pasture-based goat dairy and diversified livestock farm in the Adirondacks before switching gears during the pandemic to be at home with my two littles and finish my degree in Sustainability Studies. I am excited to be joining the DGA team as Education Coordinator for Eastern NY and am really looking forward to meeting all the farmers and apprentices in my area!

WELCOME ZAN!!

MGIC SUMMER SESSION ANNOUNCEMENT



**MANAGED
GRAZING**
INNOVATION CENTER

MGIC SUMMER REGISTRATION WILL OPEN JUNE 26TH

Summer Session Starts July 10th
Summer Session Ends August 18th

Classes Offered:

Milk Quality
Farm Business Management
Dairy Cattle Nutrition, Feeds, & Feeding
Dairy Cattle Health & Wellness
Managed Grazing Systems for Dairy Cattle

VETERANS qualify for MGIC tuition reimbursement with funding support from a USDA AgVets Grant.

**Instructors
Wanted**

MANAGED GRAZING INNOVATION CENTER IS LOOKING FOR INDEPENDENT (1099) INSTRUCTORS! IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE PLEASE CONTACT MGIC DIRECTOR, JESSICA DURAN JESSICA@DGA-NATIONAL.ORG

Mentors!
DGA has a discussion forum just for you!

Join us
On the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8pm Central for an informal conversation to build relationships with other

grazing farmers and Mentors...and maybe even bring something back to your own farm that can improve efficiencies, profitability and quality of life.



Please watch your email monthly for the Zoom Link.

Next Scheduled discussion is set for
Tuesday, July 11th from 6:30-8pm Central

****NOTE: NO CALL SCHEDULED FOR JUNE**



'Creating Herd Health Protocol'

MONDAY, JUNE 5TH @ 11:30AM CENTRAL

All Mentors, Journey Graziers, Apprentices & Apprentice Candidates & Interns are welcome to attend!

At this month's DGA webinar we will discuss creating herd health protocols for your farm. We will define what a protocol is, what makes a good protocol, and how to best utilize them. Participants will have the opportunity to practice creating a protocol during this webinar, a skill that can then be used on your own operation.

This webinar will feature special guest Dr. Dayna Locitzer, DVM.



***Dr. Dana Locitzer Bio:** Dr. Dayna Locitzer has over 10 years of experience working with pasture-based dairies in the Northeast. She worked on organic dairy farms in the Hudson Valley of New York for 6 years before starting vet school. Dr. Locitzer currently works as a large animal veterinarian at Green Mountain Bovine Clinic in Chesterfield, NH where she provides services for the small dairies in that region.*

The Zoom Link for the monthly webinars comes directly to your email one week prior to the webinar

date.

**Webinars will now be moderated by DGA's new Apprenticeship Manager, Jessica Matthews.

**Got webinar topic ideas??? Send your suggestions to Jessicam@dga-national.org. If your topic is selected you will receive a DGA hat!

**Webinars are recorded and available anytime on the DGA website to all our participants. Go to your dashboard and click the "Resource" button to find them.



Have an upcoming DGA Event? Send it to Dana@dga-national.org to have it placed in our monthly newsletter!

[VIEW FULL DGA CALENDAR HERE](#)

MAY 23RD: NRCS/DGA/PaddockTrac MO Event, Granby, MO

JUNE 1ST: NRCS/DGA/PaddockTrac OH Event, St Marys, OH

JUNE 5TH: DGA Monthly Webinar 11:30am Central

JUNE 14TH: WI State FFA Convention, Madison, WI

JUNE 15th: DGA Board of Director's Summer Meeting

JUNE 16TH: NRCS/DGA/PaddockTrac MN Event, Villard, MN

JUNE 26TH: MGIC Summer Registration opens

DGA Mentor, Derek Schmitz to host upcoming Soil Health Academy
June 20-22, 2023

[Learn More HERE](#)



• FOR YOUR INFORMATION •



United States
Department of
Agriculture

USDA Offers Assistance to Help Organic Dairy Producers Cover Increased Costs

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announces assistance for dairy producers with the new Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program (ODMAP). ODMAP is established to help mitigate market volatility, higher input and transportation costs, and unstable feed supply and prices that have created unique hardships in the organic dairy industry. Specifically, under the ODMAP, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is making \$104 million available to organic dairy operations to assist with projected marketing costs in 2023, calculated using their marketing costs in 2022.

How to Apply:

FSA offices are accepting applications from May 24 to July 24, 2023. To apply, producers should contact FSA at their local USDA Service Center. To complete the ODMAP application, producers must certify to pounds of 2022 milk production, how documentation of their organic certification, and submit a completed application form.



****NEW FARM COMMONS OFFERING****

FARM COMMONS WORKSHOP: Guiding Resilience
... a great introduction to the breadth of legal issues farms face.

DGA HAS 11 SPOTS AVAILABLE FOR THIS WORKSHOP.
THESE ARE OPEN TO FIRST COME FIRST SERVE MENTORS. PLEASE
CONTACT JESSICA MATTHEWS (jessicam@dga-national.org) TO CLAIM
YOUR SPOT.

REGISTRATION CLOSSES MAY 29TH. SESSION STARTS JUNE 1ST.

DETAILS ON FARM COMMONS: GUIDING RESILIENCE CAN BE FOUND
[HERE](#)

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DGA has joined Farm Commons!  
One of the Institutional-Organization benefits includes a coupon code for **30% Off a Farm Commons Producer Membership**, which we can offer to all of our participants. Coupon code valid until **10/31/2023**. Your code is **dga30**.

**DGA HAS ALSO CREATED A  
FARM COMMON RESOURCE PAGE!!  
CLICK BELOW TO CHECK IT OUT!**

DGA FARM COMMONS PAGE

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## WE WANT YOUR FARM VIDEOS AND PHOTOS!

WANT TO SHARE THE  
CRAZY/WONDERFUL/NOT SO  
FUN/AMAZING THINGS THAT HAPPEN  
ON YOUR FARM?? FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS BELOW  
AND YOUR PHOTOS AND CLIPS COULD BE USED ON  
OUR SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS!



1. Start at <https://www.dga-national.org/socialupload>
2. Choose a file from your phone or computer.
3. Click the pencil icon to rename the image or video to include your name and location for credit.
4. Click the upload button.
5. Wait for the "Upload Success" message to ensure everything worked correctly. Longer videos will take some time to complete



THE DGA LOGO STORE IS READY  
FOR YOUR ORDERS!!!!

For every item you purchase \$3 goes  
back to DGA to support dairy grazing  
training and initiatives.

Get your DGA Logo Gear TODAY!!

DGA Store

DAIRY  GRAZING  
— APPRENTICESHIP —



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INNOVATION CENTER

Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship | 247606 Gad Rd, Medford, WI 54451

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