Science Societies

U.S. to Host International Grassland Congress

March 24, 2023



In 1948, the 892-page "Yearbook of Agriculture" was simply titled *Grass*. In the book's foreword, then-Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson wrote to a nation recovering from war:

“Many of the people with whom I have talked look upon grassland as the foundation of security in agriculture. They believe in grass, and so do I, in the way we believe in the practice of conservation, or in good farming, or prosperity, or cooperation. For grass is all those things; it is not just a crop. Grassland agriculture is a good way to farm and to live, the best way I know of to use and improve soil, the thing on which our life and civilization rest.”

Too often we tend to take notice of corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton as they develop and paint the rural landscape, but it’s grass and other forage acres that cover more than a quarter of the land area in the U.S. and the world. Privately owned grasslands account for 528 million U.S. acres. Grass and other forage lands are as important today as they were in 1948 and before—maybe, even more so.

In 2023, and for the first time in more than 40 years, the American Forage and Grassland Council will host the International Grassland Congress (IGC). It will be held in **Covington, KY, from 14 to 19 May** and offer producers, researchers, extension agents and specialists, and others a unique opportunity to listen and talk to more than 1,000 grassland scientists, farmers, ranchers, and industry leaders from over 60 countries around the world. The theme of the conference is “Grassland for Soil, Animal, and Human Health.”

The IGC program is packed with academic presentations on the production, storage, and utilization of forages and will offer discussions of grassland policies, social issues, and ecosystem services. There will also be a trade show marketplace where people can gather to visit with sponsors and exhibitors, network at evening receptions, and view scientific posters.

One day during the congress is reserved for area tours (included with registration) in Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio. There will also be optional pre- and post-congress tours in the Southern Plains, Southeast, Northeast, and Pacific Northwest regions of the U.S.

For additional information or to register for the IGC, visit

https://internationalgrasslands.org/2023igc or follow @IGC2023 on Twitter.

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