



Patrick Scallon

Small Farm Owner

Farm & Industry Short Course — Dairy Herd Management Certificate
UW-Madison — B.A. in Political Science, with minor in Dairy Science

“It is never too late to continue your education. Farming as a second career following retirement, I encourage younger students to pay attention in class and find a mentor who will help along the road. You never know where life will take you.”

- Patrick Scallon

He spends his time in the pasture

As a retired herd manager, Patrick uses his knowledge from the UW-Madison Farm and Industry Short Course to manage his growing operation. Currently, he is running an extensive grazing program for his Ayrshire cattle.

Patrick had already received a bachelor degree in Political Science with a minor in Dairy Science from UW-Madison many years prior to joining the Short Course program, which is housed in the university’s College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. He knew that the agricultural industry had changed dramatically over the years, and he wanted to brush up his knowledge and skills before starting his own business.

In his current herd manager position, Patrick monitors the cattle, enforces appropriate pasture management actions, and keeps an accurate record of cattle information. He performs a lot of small tasks, but he is happy to find that the pasture program isn’t overly labor intensive, as the cattle do most of the work.

“Enjoying what you do is a major reward in this industry,” says Patrick. “Granted, your first priority is to pay the expenses.”

Luckily, Patrick has someone to share the joys and challenges of farmwork with.

“Teamwork is a major aspect of my job,” says Patrick, referring to the important role his wife plays on the farm. They spend anywhere from one to two hours each day working directly with the cattle, and a fair amount of time keeping records.

Herd management isn’t the only thing that Patrick does. He is also on the Board of Directors for Grassworks, an organization for cattle grazers who meet monthly to talk about important issues in the cattle grazing industry. As part of the organization, Patrick also has the opportunity to make contracts with other growers who may want to purchase his cattle.

He is enthusiastic about the endless opportunities in front of him, and looks forward to promoting grass-fed cattle in Wisconsin and across the agricultural industry.

“I like the lifestyle,” says Patrick, “and quality of life.”