

Moderator Biographies

Cliff Schuette, District Sales Manager for Stine Seed Company

Business-Philanthropy (Clinton County)

Cliff Schuette graduated from Southern Illinois University – Carbondale with a Bachelor in General Agriculture and Minor in Agriculture Business. He is currently the District Sales Manager for Stine Seed Company. He oversees ten dealers in a six-county area. He has been with Stine Seed Company for 25 years. He is also a dealer for Pennington, Center Seeds and AMPAC Seed Company. He won the MVP award for District Manager Sales Team and had the highest corn market share in the company for 2011. Schuette is a lifetime cattle producer and farmer, and for the past twelve years he has been doing so in conjunction with his District Sales Manager position. He has served as the President of the Illinois Beef Association, and served two years as Vice President, and has been a member since 2000. He received the Illinois Beef Association Commercial Producer of the year award for the state of Illinois and the following year received the IBA Environmental Stewardship of the Year award.

Schuette has been the Vice President for the Clinton County Farm Bureau since 2006, and a member since 2001. In 2004, he received the Farm Family Award for Clinton County Soil & Water District. He was past Vice Chair and Director of the Clinton County Soil & Water District and has served as treasurer since 2010. He has been active in hosting forage and grazing meetings. In 2000, he hosted the Forage Expo for the State of Illinois. Schuette has been Chairman of the Illinois Grazing Land Conservation Initiative since 2006. Schuette lives in St. Rose with his wife and have two children.

Edward N. Ballard

Retired Animal Systems Educator, University of Illinois Extension

Edward N. Ballard, Retired Animal Systems Educator, University of Illinois Extension. B.S. Agriculture Economics, Southern Illinois University, M.S. Agricultural Extension, University of Illinois. Ed was an animal systems educator who works with producers and industry groups to enhance farm profitability and sustainability. His areas of specialization include forages and grazing management, nutrition, environmental management, animal care and behavior, fences, energy conservation, nutrient management and economics. Ed has taught over 250 Management Intensive Grazing Schools for Illinois producers. Ed is co-author of the Illinois Grazing Handbook, and National Extended Grazing Publications. Ed has made grazing presentations at the Ohio Forage Council, Western Ohio Grazing School, The Ohio State Extended Grazing Conference, Heart of America Grazing Conferences, Great Lakes International Grazing Conference, University of Kentucky Grazing School, 3 times, 2nd National Grassland Grazing Conference, Nashville, TN, 3rd National Grazing Conference, St. Louis, MO, Wisconsin Grazing Conference, University of Kentucky Grazing Conference, Missouri Grazing Conference, Missouri Livestock Symposium and Michigan Forage Council. Ed coordinated the forage and grazing research and demonstration projects for the University of Illinois Animal Systems team. He represents the University of Illinois on the Great Lakes Grazing Council and the Illinois Grasslands Conservation Initiative Committee. He currently serves as liaison and farm manager for the University of Illinois Dudley Smith Research Farm.

Ballard was also on the original executive committee that formed the HOAGC.

Moderator Biographies continued

Warren King

Pasture Project, Wallace Center at Winrock International

Warren King co-leads the Pasture Project, an initiative of the Wallace Center at Winrock International. The Pasture Project is focused on accelerating shifts toward regenerative agriculture and improving farm incomes in the Upper Midwest using cover crops, adaptive grazing and the marketing of grassfed beef. He has 30 years of consulting and industry experience, including serving as Assistant Vice-President of Cargill, Inc. and General Manager of Goodness Greenness. King and his wife, Kate, are the founders of WellSpring, a company that promotes the stewardship of natural resources; particularly our land and water. King's passion for the land is rooted in his northern California upbringing and his work on the farm as a young man. He possesses an MBA in Marketing from DePaul University and is a graduate of UC-Davis with degrees in Economics and International Relations. King also serves on the boards of Kidz Express, The Food Commons, and is a former chairman of FamilyFarmed. Today, his work centers on developing the capacity and resiliency of regional and urban food systems to deliver products and services that will protect and enhance the health of people and the planet.

Elton Mau,

McLean County Sheep Farmer

Elton Mau was raised on a successful conventional corn & soybean farm with sheep as his 4-H project. He graduated from Illinois State University with a major in Agriculture and a major in Business. He worked in agriculture, construction and owns rental properties to be able to save up his money to buy his first farm of 7.5 acres. At that point, Mau started back in the sheep business with six bred ewes. Eventually, he bought the rest of the 80 acres and started no-till farming with cover crops. By keeping a living root in the ground 365 days a year he has been able to expand his flock to the current 126 ewes. He has highly prolific grass based genetics in his sheep that consistently have a 98 percent conception rate with a 200 percent lamb crop sonogramed inside the ewes. Therefore, when they lamb in May, out on pasture **and** by themselves, the forage must be dairy quality to support the ewe and her multiple lambs. Mau has used perennial pastures, summer annuals, winter annuals and crop residue/cover crops to raise and finish the lamb crop that is marketed before Christmas. He has a 4-year rotation of corn/cereal rye, soybeans/wheat, wheat/winter annuals and the 4th year is the regrowth of cereal rye/summer annuals. Hay is made off of the excess growth **of spring forage** and the four free farmsteads that he also grazes with the old ewe flock after weaning and up to breeding in Dec. In 2017, **Mau** grazed up to Jan. 16 before starting to feed baleage and dry big round hay bales. The **sheep** will be on these until about April 1 when the regrowth of the cereal rye, in the corn stalk field, will be tall enough to graze and lamb out the ewes on.

Mau has had several pasture walks on his farm, is President of the Illinois Lamb and Wool Producers, and is involved in several local organizations. He lives in McLean County with his wife. All four of their daughters had sheep as their 4-H projects.