

Information on Speaking Engagements

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Presentations

My basic presentation runs about an hour and a half. Since the concept that animals learn what to eat is new to many, I take participants through the behavior science behind the training process. I use lots of video throughout to demonstrate the newest concepts about how animals choose and learn about foods, and show folks that what they've seen their animals doing all along could be used to make their work easier and more profitable.

Next we cover the training steps, from knowing about the target plant, to choosing the right trainees, to introducing them to new foods. Again, I have lots of videos showing animals going through the training process so participants will know what to expect when they start their own training. Since knowing about the target plant's nutrients and toxins is the key to success, I spend a lot of time going over local plants so that the audience members have an idea what they can quickly and easily turn into forage.

I finish with what we know about our new tool (effectiveness, animal health and productivity, economics, etc.), and thoughts about how to manage our new weed management herds. Since it helps folks to see the people who have trained their cows, I include video interviews with them as well.

Presentations can be altered to fit your group's needs, time slots available etc. I have been a keynote speaker and my presentations have included: using livestock, including cattle, to manage brush; the benefits of making peace with weeds; and how to start thinking outside the box to develop unusual solutions to old problems.

Costs for a presentation include:

Speaking fee: \$1000 per day and \$400 on travel days. A one day event with travel is usually \$1800.

Travel Costs: Airfare, lodging, rental car if necessary.

Workshops

If you have folks ready to get started, a more **in-depth, day-long workshop** might be what you're looking for. I start with everything included in the basic presentation, and then take the next step to build training plans for each participant.

I have specific questions that help me get the information I need to adapt the training process to fit how and where operators work with their animals. Then together, we create individualized training plans to meet the needs of each operator. That way, when the weeds start coming up, they know exactly what to do.

Since I won't be with participants when they start training, I want them to know what to expect from their animals and what to do when they don't get the responses they want. So I show video of animals responding to new tubs, new foods and new weeds. I talk about what I watch for, let them see video of that, and then describe what I do when things don't go quite as I expected.

The workshop includes a copy of my book and DVD, and a 20 page handout with the slides and information on local target weeds. It also includes as many phone calls or emails as they need when they start training to solve any challenges they might run into.

To ensure each participant gets adequate assistance, I generally limit participation to 15 ranches/farms (with as many participants from each ranch as they'd like to bring. Adjustments to participant numbers can be made to fit your needs.

Costs for a workshop include:

Speaking fee: \$2350

Workshop Materials fee/farm or ranch: \$75

Travel Costs: Airfare, lodging, rental car if necessary.

“Kathy’s teaching style is effective, knowledge of content is thorough, and her passion is contagious! Well done!”

“I expected a few new techniques. I experienced a paradigm shift. Thank you!”

Vermont Grazing & Livestock Conference workshop attendees

Speaker Bio

In 2004, Kathy Voth invented a method for training cows to eat weeds. She started by taking a close look at the last century of animal behavior research. Then she took all the different pieces and translated them into an easy-to-understand process that adapts easily to any producer's needs.

Kathy has now trained over 1000 cows to eat many of our most problematic weeds, adapting her process for small herds of 10 cows to as many as 110 pairs, for dry lot and pasture, and for novice and experienced producers. Her book, "Cows Eat Weeds" was published in 2010 and her articles appear in BEEF magazine, Stockman Grass Farmer, and Acres USA.

Kathy is known for her entertaining and inspiring presentation style that includes lots of video, unusual "snacks" and examples from producers she's worked with.

Kathy is also known for thinking up unusual solutions to problems:

- When her community was suffering from an economic downturn she became one of two head volunteers building a mountain bike trail from Grand Junction, Colorado to Moab, Utah. The result - today the Grand Valley is a mountain biking mecca with a healthier economy. Her efforts earned her the Department of the Interior's National Conservation Service Award.
- Her seven years of research on using goats to reduce fire danger in suburban areas resulted in the only handbook describing how to manage goats to increase firefighter safety and save homes.
- For developing a novel internship program to help students transition into agency employees, Kathy was awarded the Bureau of Land Management's "Excellence in Environmental Education" award.



"You are an innovator. I am so inspired!"

"You really think outside the box, but it makes so much sense!"

Audience members, Manitoba Grazing School

Kathy's experience includes twelve years as an educator and public information officer with the Bureau of Land Management where she focused on her goal of helping communities live sustainably in their environment. She lives in Loveland, Colorado with her husband, a cat, two goats, and a flock of chickens.

To Learn More:

Website: www.livestockforlandscapes.com

Blog: www.thetaoofcow.com

Youtube Channel with videos of animals learning: www.Youtube.com/KathyVoth

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