

MSc Defence

**Influence of Grazing Management Strategies on Forage Quality/quantity and
Animal Performance in an Ontario Cow Calf System**

Jade St. Peter

Date: May 16th 2023 at 9:00am

The MSc Defence for Jade St. Peter has been scheduled for May 16th, 2023 at 9:00am. The defence will be held online via Teams and in room 141: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_M2M4ODYzOGEtODM5YS00YmI1LWJmYjgtNjM2NzY1ODNINjE1%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22be62a12b-2cad-49a1-a5fa-85f4f3156a7d%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22fbd28915-dda5-478f-8ecb-a3682dcf0c3a%22%7d

The exam committee will consist of:

Examining Chair: Dr. Vern Osborne

Advisor: Dr. Katie Wood

Advisory Committee Member: Dr. Ira Mandell

Additional Committee Member: Dr. Marcio Duarte

Abstract:

These studies sought to develop best grazing management practices for optimizing forage growth/quality and cattle performance. Cow-calf pairs were grazed from May through September to evaluate the effectiveness of set stocking, rotational, strip, and continuous grazing on animal performance and forage growth. While different grazing methods did not increase forage biomass, sward height or animal performance, intensive grazing management (strip, rotational) was found to increase days on pasture and dry matter intake as a percentage of body weight. Fall stockpile grazing was studied using yearling heifers to evaluate effectiveness of grasses, alfalfa or birdsfoot trefoil in an extended grazing system. The study found harvesting forages more than once prior to grazing may decrease available pasture during the fall and decrease grazing days. Heifer performance was not affected by pasture forage species. Considerations to forage/grazing management can directly benefit producers by lengthening the grazing season in both spring and fall.