Holistic Management and Improved Decision Making Workshop

With Phil Metzger of Holistic Management International

Morning activities:

Creating a Holistic Goal to guide your decision making – the cornerstone of managing holistically is to create a comprehensive farm/family goal that represents what you value and how you want your life to be on your farm. You will learn and practice the 3-step process for creating your own Holistic Goal. You will leave with a solid start on your Goal and the ability to complete this important process.

Whole Farm Resource Inventory to clarify what resources are available to you (and a management team) to enable you to manage holistically. This resource list will contain not only physical & natural resources but human, intellectual & financial resources as well. You will leave with a draft version of your own inventory and the ability to finalize it on your own.

Afternoon activities:

Improved Decision Making begins with understanding what you are managing towards and that your decisions are balanced between financial, ecological & social (people) considerations. Your farm’s future is uncertain if your on-farm decisions are not: (1) profitable, (2) good for the land, and (3) creating good will among people on or affected by your farm. You will learn and practice the 7 Testing Questions that help you filter your on-farm decisions to enable you to manage holistically and improve your decision making.

Monitoring is a key step in managing holistically. Despite our best efforts all of our decisions do not prove to be the correct ones. Good managers have a process to gauge whether their decisions are keeping them moving in the right direction. You will learn how to stay on track through monitoring and see how to catch when you are deviating from your intended path at the earliest possible time. Adjusting your course is almost always necessary to move toward your desired future. You will learn and practice creating a monitoring process and leave with the ability to employ this technique on your own.