FORAGE VALUE OF COVER CROP SPECIES USED FOR GRAZING

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COVER CROP OPTIONS
SMALL GRAINS

- Rye and wheat best if spring cover is required
- Oats make good autumn growth but won’t overwinter
- Vegetative growth excellent quality feed
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ADG</th>
<th>Total Gain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereal Rye</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# NUTRITIVE VALUE OF OAT FORAGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Yield</th>
<th>CP</th>
<th>TDN</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vegetative</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boot</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heading</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milk</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Dough</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ANNUAL RYEGRASS

- Easily established
- Rapid fall growth
- Retains green tissue nearly all winter
- Remains vegetative into early May
- Can be difficult to terminate
ANNUAL RYEGRASS READY FOR GRAZING

- Grazing often can begin 60 days after planting
- Rotational grazing a must for best utilization
- Graze no shorter than 3” to encourage regrowth
ANNUAL RYEGRASS STOCKPILES WELL
ANNUAL RYEGRASS QUALITY

ADF (%)

Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun
## ANIMAL GAINS ON ANNUAL RYEGRASS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Grazing Days</th>
<th>ADG</th>
<th>Total Gain</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>511</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>314</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
BRASSICAS; ADVANTAGES

- Rapid growth; capable of producing 3 tons/acre
- Handle heat fairly well
- Continue to grow after killing frosts
- Both above and below ground portions can be grazed
BRASSICAS

- Strip grazing offers best utilization
- Watch for bloat
- Offer some dry roughage for stock
BRASSICA FORAGE QUALITY

- ADF (%)

Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr
COVER LEGUMES
LEGUMES

- Develop a rosette but little autumn/winter growth
- Fine for cover but not much feed to stock
- Excellent quality