

Craig Lang

**President
The Prairie Strategy
Group**



- > February, 17-19, 2014
- > Omaha, Nebraska
- > 20 million acres by 2020 is an achievable goal.
- > Every farmer should experiment with some cover crops.



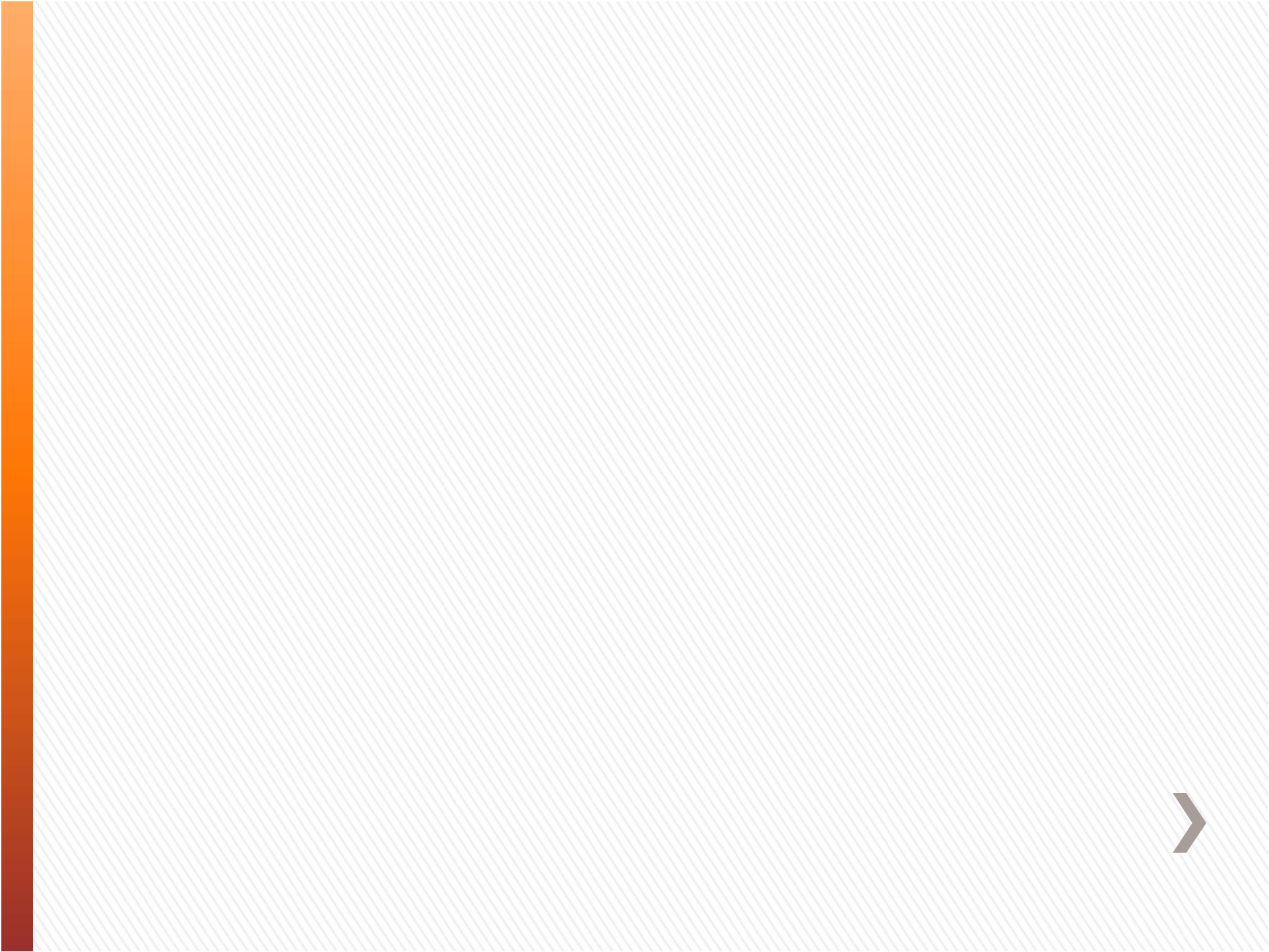
Cover Crops and Soil Health ➤



No Cover Crop







Our experience.....Cover Crops make sense!

» WHY?

- » They provide more diversity in agriculture.
- » Create greater value for farm and community.
- » Protect our soils in harsh weather.
- » Protect water from nutrient run off.
- » Provide our dairy animals with a valuable feed source.
- » Provides fall pasture late into the fall.
- » Improving soil tilth.
- » Allow for double cropping on our farm.
- » Provides our family with a more productive future.
- » Helps guarantee our kids will have a more productive farm.





Cover Crops can provide an immediate solution

Farmers are being asked to feed and energize a hungry world by maximizing production on every available acre. ..I say this makes our task difficult...but not impossible.

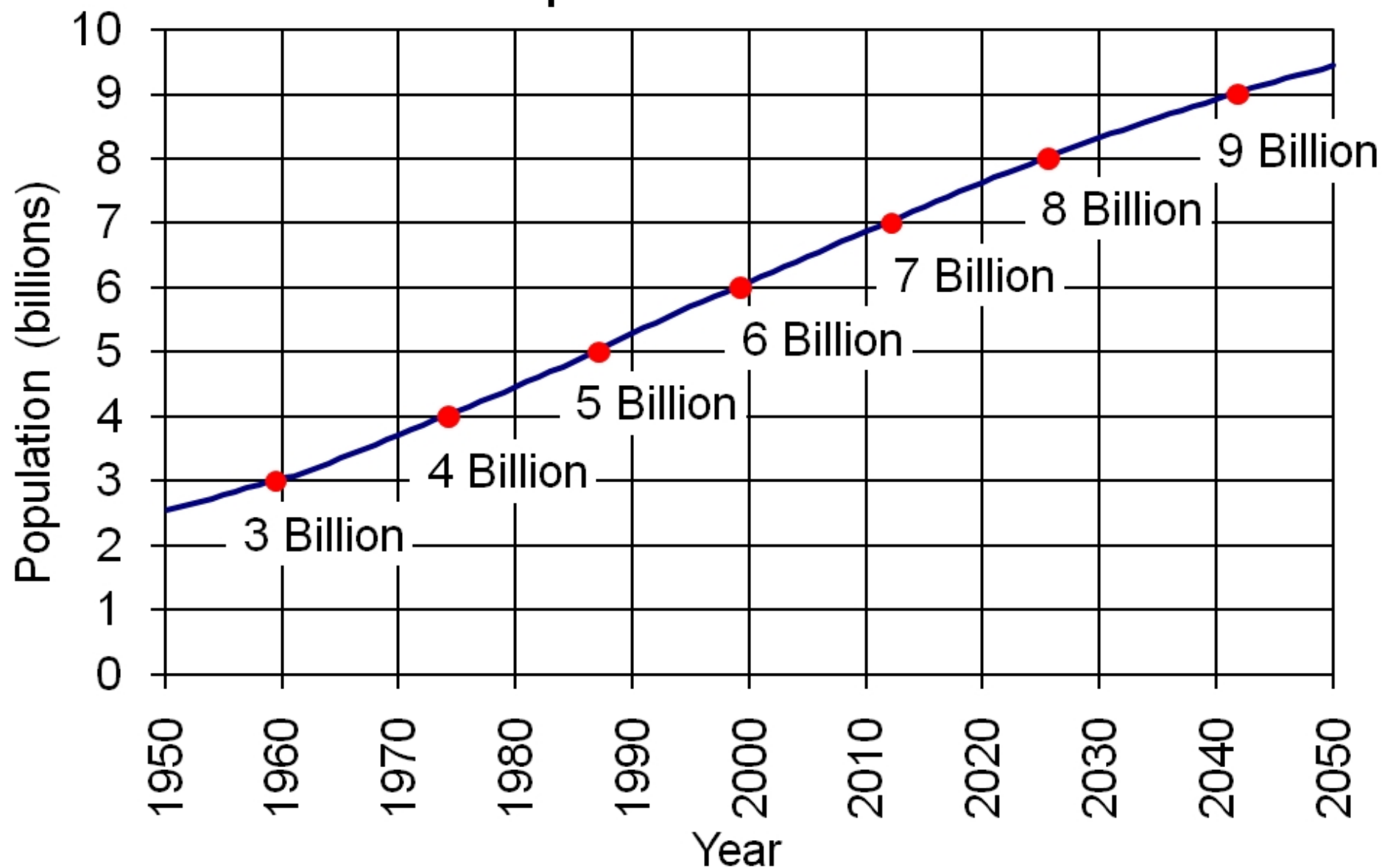
Award-winning filmmaker Ken Burns' project, "The Dust Bowl," premiered on PBS November of 2012. This environmental tragedy was termed by PBS to be "the worst man made disaster in American history." Although the film focused on stories of generations past, many parallels exist between the circumstances that led to the Dust Bowl of the 1930's and today.

Mankind should never allow this kind of disaster to ever reoccur.

U.S. farmers should set the example for farmers around the world

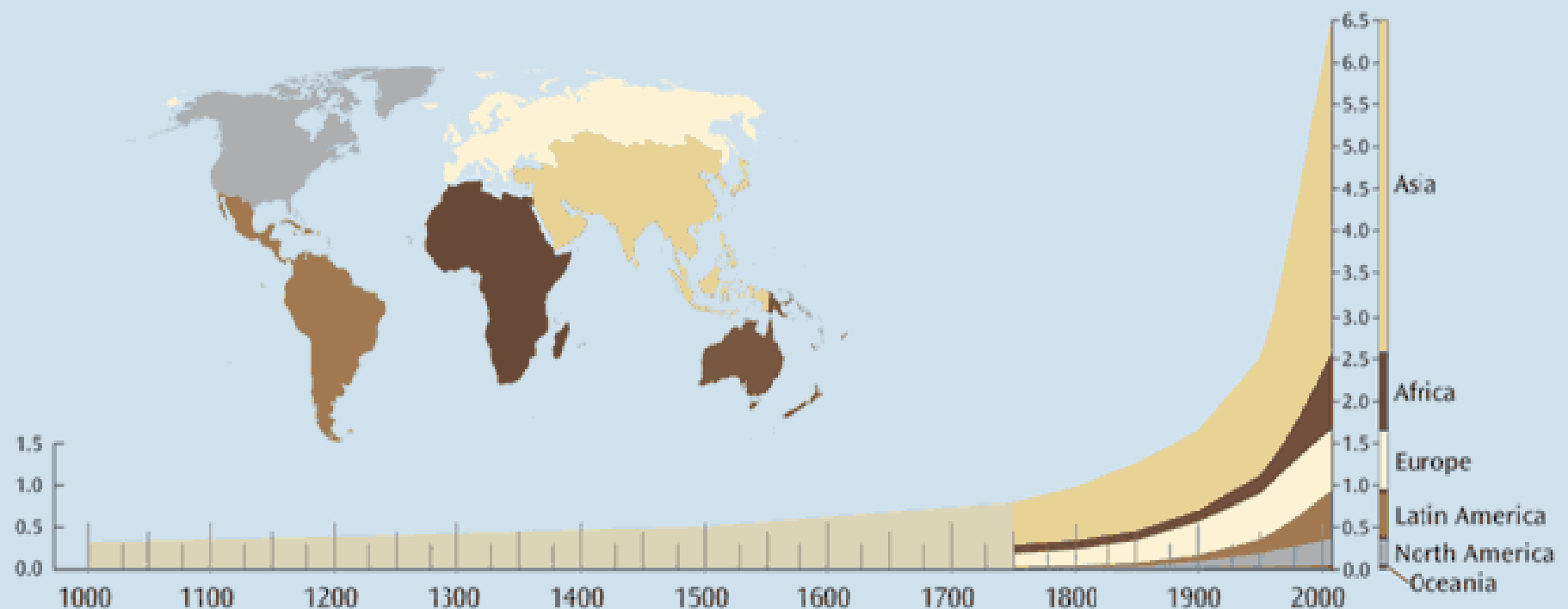
Are you.....and are we? >

World Population: 1950-2050



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base, June 2011 Update.

Where is the Population?



Sources: 1 - The World at Six Billion; Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, World Population Prospects: The 2004 Revision and World Urbanization Prospects: The 2003 Revision, <<http://esa.un.org/unpp>> 2 - United Nations, 1973. 'The Determinants and Consequences of Population Trends, Vol.1' (United Nations, New York). United Nations, (forthcoming). 'World Population Prospects: The 1998 Revision' (United Nations, New York). <<http://www.geohive.com/global/>>



Nairobi, Kenya





WE can't feed the world with continued soil loss



Nairobi, Kenya





1250 calories/day >

India....1.3 Billion



» Wet Markets

» Ocean Shipping



China Another
Billion +++



Cover Crops are easy

- A valuable feed
- Protects our soils
- Easy to handle
- Winter and weather hardy
- Protects our water
- Relatively inexpensive
- Can be fall and winter grazed
- There are many grasses to choose from
- Proven success

Enhance the following crops





80 to 90% relative
feed value

FEED AND FORAGE REPORT

DAIRYLAND LABS
De Pere, WI 54115-3913
Telephone 920-336-4521

Report date: 11/15/2012
Sample number: 000723

TO: Yarrabee Farms
1932 400th Avenue

ACCOUNT # 4509 (26)
SAMPLED BY: Yarrabee Farms

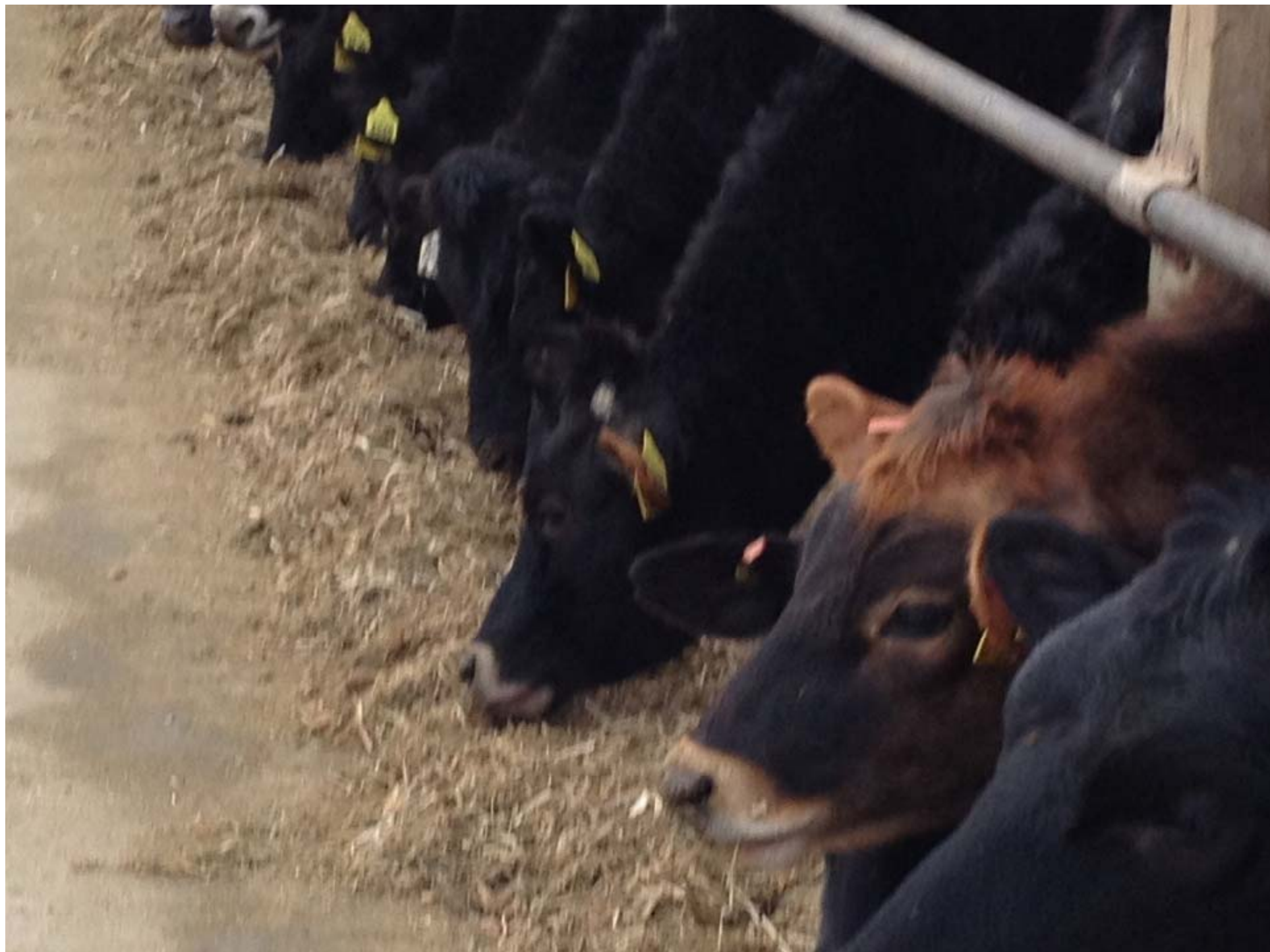
Brooklyn, IA 52211

SAMPLED FOR: YARRABEE FARMS

PRODUCT: Triticale (7 - N7 TS)

Moisture % 67.88%
Dry Matter % 32.12%
pH 4.15

		Dry Basis	Average	Normal Range
Crude Protein	%DM	11.53%	13.32	6.28 - 20.36
ADF	%DM	41.70%	37.98	28.02 - 47.94
aNDF (w/ Na2SO3)	%DM	60.61%	53.07	39.75 - 66.39
Lignin (Sulfuric Acid)	%DM	5.00%	5.81	3.11 - 8.51
Lignin	%NDF	8.25%		
AD-ICP	%DM	0.71%	1.11	0.39 - 1.83
ND-ICP est (w/o Na2SO3)	%DM	1.84%	2.19	0.12 - 4.26
Protein Sol.	%CP	73.72%	51.37	25.63 - 77.11
Starch	%DM	0.19%	5.03	0.01 - 16.29
Fat (EE)	%DM	3.79%	3.36	1.76 - 4.96
Ash	%DM	11.12%	11.29	8.09 - 14.49
Calcium	%DM	0.31%	1.30	0.70 - 1.90
Phosphorus	%DM	0.38%	0.33	0.21 - 0.45
Magnesium	%DM	0.13%	0.29	0.19 - 0.39
Potassium	%DM	2.67%	2.34	1.40 - 3.28
Sulfur	%DM	0.18%	0.25	0.13 - 0.37
Sugar (ESC)	%DM	0.23%	8.73	3.25 - 14.21
TDN 1x - OARDC	%	56.46%		
Adjusted Crude Protein	%	11.53%		
NFC	%	13.52%		
Nel 3x - OARDC	Mcal/cwt	57.42		
Nel 3x - ADF	Mcal/cwt	65.02		
Neg - OARDC	Mcal/cwt	29.49		
Nem - OARDC	Mcal/cwt	55.14		



- » They aid soil fertility.
- » They protect the soil and water.
- » They aid in soil sustainability.
- » They are valuable feed sources
- » They allow us to double crop
- » They are easily planted and harvested
- » They aid to feeding and possibly energizing the world.
- » They are easily adapted to any farming practice.

Cover crops make
sense!



Triticale and deep till radish >>>



Early October.....2012





Green as early as mid March makes winter seem shorter.

April 2013

Spring 2013





















4 inches of rain early
April







- » Because it makes a difference.....
- » Protect our soil from wind and rain
- » Helps build soil fertility
- » Adds value to the soil structure
- » Provides as natural herbicide
- » Can serve as a deep tillage
- » Valuable feed for forage
- » Allows farmers to grow a second crop

Why use cover crops? >



February 1st after 3 inches of snow

