BUUIS BEEF
Southwestern Ontario ???
• Pastureland?
• Peas / Snapping beans?
• Sweet corn / Seed Corn?
• Tomatoes?
• Cucumbers?
• Corn
• Soybeans

Competition or opportunity?
Oats in wheat stubble
January fencing
Annual Forages as Pasture

Species | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---
Oats | | | | | | | | | |
Fall Rye | | | | | | | | | |
Sorghum/Corn | | | | | | | | | |
Kale | | | | | | | | | |
Annual Ryegrass | | | | | | | | | |
Yield of Annual Forages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Average Yield TDM/ha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>12.0 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>5.5 – 8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Rye (pasture)</td>
<td>1.0 – 1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forage Sorghum</td>
<td>7.0 – 9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kale (pasture, green feed)</td>
<td>9.0 – 12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Ryegrass</td>
<td>8.0 – 12.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Oats after Corn silage
Oats in March
Grazing Plan

Jan.8  - 20 ac of Rye in Sweetcorn stubble
Jan.29 -40ac of Alfalfa 3\textsuperscript{th} cut regrowth
         - 40 acres Rye & Oats in Corn silage ground
Mar. 5  -25 ac of Oats & Rye in Wheat stubble
Mar. 20 -20 acres of Sweetcorn with Rye
January Alfalfa
Jan 07  Oats & Rye
Winter Pasture

• 145 acres of crop residue and cover crops

• 160 cows

• 14000 lbs / day of silage Jan 7

• Jan 8 out to field to graze
Winter Pasture

- 145 acres of crop residue and cover crops
- 160 cows
- 14000 lbs / day of silage Jan 7
  From Jan 8 – Mar 30
- 160 cows grazed (82 DAYS)
- NO EXTRA FEED ADDED!
DID IT PAY ???

- 1,148,000 lbs  574 tons !!
- $14,350  Value in feed savings
- No harvesting or feeding cost
- No manure hauling expense
- Cover crop return $ 99 / acre in feed value alone
- **Bonus**- roots, soil structure and nutrient capture
- **Bonus**- wind /water erosion control
Nov 2013 Barley Oats & Radish
Planting Options

Drill or Broadcast? Equipment availability? Standing crop?
Tillage is optional ...

Help establishment or fill in ruts
Have a plan

* Seed cost
* Seed availability
* Next year’s crop plan
Do it RIGHT NOW

A few days delay in planting makes huge differences

03/11/2005
Watch for maturity (seed production)
Consider mixes
Try It small first...small issues
March Rye pasture
Winter wheat

24/03/2006
Challenges
Challenges to Cover-crop Pasture

- Seed Costs, Availability /quality
- Establishing in the crop, fencing
- Regrowth /Killing
- Timing of harvest (Alfalfa, Turnips)
- Moving Livestock (daily, farm to farm)
- Water source? SNOW?
- No-Till? MUD?
- Find Field specific advantage
Seed Supply

Quality - low germ or discard seed available, bin run, weed seeds !!!!!!!!
Chickweed
Winter wheat
Weather unpredictable
March 26 2005

Every year is different ...... WATCH the crop not the calendar
PLAN “B”