Forages to Fill the Gap

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Steps to follow for Interseeding

1. Soil Test (soil PH of at least 6.5 is recommended for grass, clovers, and bistort teefoil)
2. Remove the competitive nature of the grass
   - No nitrogen the previous fall or in spring before the legume interseeding
   - Graze closely (yes, overgraze)
   - Burn the cool season grass to weaken and allow for sunlight to help in seedling establishment.
3. Seed in early spring. "Late Freeze" can happen but is less of a threat than seeding too late.
4. Seeding rates and traits of legumes (continued…)
   - Red Clover
     - 6.0 to 8.0 lbs/acre
     - Easily established
   - White Clover
     - 6.0 to 8.0 lbs/acre
   - Alfalfa
     - 15 - 20 lbs/acre
   - Annual Lespedeza
     - Wide range of soils it can adapt to
     - Very palatable and non bloating
     - 20.0 to 25.0 lbs/acre
   - Annual Lespedeza
     - Drought resistant and excellent quality
     - 60 - 90 lbs/acre
     - High forage production and animal performance
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Steps to follow for Interseeding (continued....)

4. Seeding rates and traits of legumes (continued...)
   - Birdsfoot Trefoil
     - Hard to establish
     - Non bloating
     - 6.0 to 8.0 lbs/acre

Warm Season Annuals/Cover Crops

Know your goals:
- Forage Crop: Grazing the forage until almost nothing is left but keeping close eye on animal performance.
- Cover Crop: Grazing the forage for soil health. That means after the grazing event you are leaving a good amount of residue for nutrient cycling as well as protecting the soil.
- There is no mixture of a cover crop that is perfect to meet all of your objectives or the “do all” blend. Start with your main goal of the cover crop and proceed from there.

Fall Blend
- 1.0 lbs Purple Top Turnips
- 5.0 lbs Cowpeas
- 1.0 lbs Sunflower
- 2.5 lbs Spring Pea
- 1.0 lbs Hybrid Forage Collards
- 1.0 lbs Grease Podder Radish
- 1.0 lbs Red Clover
- 1.0 lbs Ensete Hybrid Forage Sorghum BMR Dwarf
- 2.0 lbs All Star Hybrid Pearl Millet

This blend produced 5,127 lbs of forage/acre. Growing days from date drilled to clipping consisted of 92 days. No additional fertilizer was applied. Drilled on 7/15 into wheat stubble. Twelve 1300 lb cows were grazed on 20 acres for 56 days on this blend. Cost of this blend was $32.22/acre.
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Diversifying Smooth Brome

- 10 lbs cowpeas
- 5 lbs Sunn Hemp
- 5 lbs Buckwheat
- 3 lbs Sunflower

Planted July 9, 2016

Photo August 6, 2016

Photo August 27, 2016
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Diversifying Smooth Brome

Photo August 27, 2016

Forages to Fill the Gap

Diversifying Smooth Brome

Photo September 19, 2016

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Examples of Cool Season Annuals

- Annual Ryegrass
- Cereal Ryegrass
- Triticale
- Wheat
- Oats
- Barley

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Questions???

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Questions???