

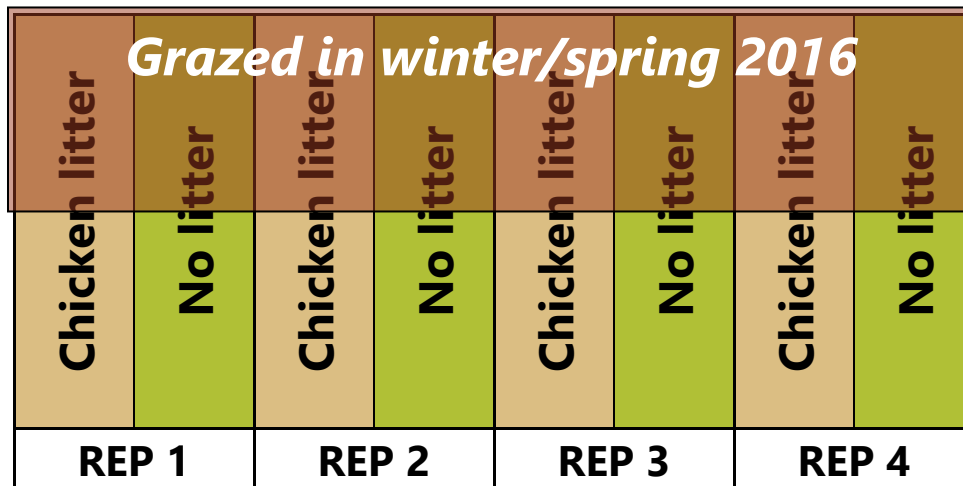
Field Crops Research Protocols

Cover crop and chicken litter to establish summer annual forage

Objective: 1) Should chicken litter be applied to cereal rye+hairy vetch cover crop to maximize cover crop biomass and provide N for the summer annual forage mix? 2) How will fall grazing of the cover crops affect performance the following year ahead of the summer forage mix?

Farmer-cooperator, Dave Schmidt, will:

- Take photos throughout the project.
- Keep in contact with PFI with updates and questions.
- **Late summer/early fall 2015**, establish a minimum of 4 replications at the time of chicken litter application as shown in the diagram below with paired, replicated strips of:
 - Cereal rye+hairy vetch cover crop with chicken litter (Chicken litter)
 - Cereal rye+hairy vetch cover crop without chicken litter (No litter)
- Strips will be 50 feet wide and run the length of the field
- **Late winter/early spring 2016**, graze half of all the strips as indicated in diagram below.
- **Later spring 2016**, collect biomass samples of cover crops prior to termination by rolling.
- Plant summer annual forage mix to all strips.
- **Summer 2016**, collect biomass samples of summer annual forage from each strip.
- Turn in data to Practical Farmers of Iowa at the end of project.



Practical Farmers of Iowa will:

- Help set up monitoring protocol, monitor progress of project and provide support when needed
- Publish results in a PFI research report, on PFI website, and potentially other outlets
- Provide \$550 compensation at conclusion of the project in 2016

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