



"I've Underseeded Red Clover with Oats Before Corn - Now What?"

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Clover Lane Farm



# Who is this guy?

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- Grew up in NW Iowa
- Business/missions work in SE Asia (~15 years)
- Returned to family farm in 2018
- Farm about 270 acres and 50 beef cows and in the flat lands of Pocahontas county
- I enjoying reading, gardening, small farm viability, and experimenting.





## My goals in growing oats/clover

- Corn and beans are boring, need to do something different
- Desire to use less inputs, be more self reliant.
- Graze clover in September to bridge to cornstalks
- I have a motto for my farm – Land as canvas, Farm something beautiful
  - Oats are beautiful





## What I did in 2022

- Bought an old swather, pickup head, and grain drill.
- Planted oats and red clover March 21
- Swathed (July 18) and combined oats (July 21)
- Grazed clover September 9 - 27







# What worked?

- Oats did grow
- Good red clover stand despite being planted with the oats in the furrow (really too deep)
- New to me machines all worked ok (fun but stressful to use new things)
- Swathing did allow me to harvest 7-10 days earlier
- Very few weeds in the oats
- No problems grazing (bloat) and even had turnips sprout from hard seed from cover crop seeding the previous fall



# What could have gone better?

- Too hot and dry
- Don't swath straight with the rows
- Yield wasn't really very good ~80 bu oats, 35 small squares/acre.
- No one will spray for you the first week of October!
- Several people inquired about buying oats but wanted enough to fill a semi load (I didn't get enough extra to do that)







## Hopes for next year

- Better rain!
- Try a new variety
- Returning customers for oats and straw
- Better storage options for the straw





# Lingering questions

- What is the best way to terminate red clover before corn?
- Is underseeding red clover a better option than a late summer cover crop?
- I see a lot of oats around that have herbicide carryover injury. Which herbicides are the main offenders?
- If I feed oats to creep/weaned calves at what age do I need to start grinding the oats?
- Finding a really well-suited variety is still hard.
- Do small grains help make small farms viable?
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