

Grazing Cover Crops

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PRACTICE



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Fall grazing pairs

Cows!!

We've been constantly trying to find ways to feed them as cheaply as possible the past 15 years



**Same field, spring
grazing pairs 154 days
earlier, prior to
planting**



**Spring grazing drilled
rye before corn**

Challenges

- Infrastructure needs (i.e. poly fencing, water sourcing)
- Learning curve to manage soil moisture in the spring
- Knowing when to get after the rye
- Generally wetter spring conditions so avoiding compaction is important
- Patience required with planting



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Benefits

- Diversity in the rotation
- Boost in soil life
- Cheap feed source
- Improved residue management in no-till
- Enhanced newborn calf health
- Rejuvenation of permanent pastures



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**Fall babies grazing
aerial applied oats
before we used the
combine**

**Summer
cocktail
mix following
a spring-
harvested
cereal crop**



Questions?

