

Integrating Cover Crops and Livestock



- Who We Are
- Benefits of Using Cover Crops
- How Livestock Creates Opportunities With Cover Crops



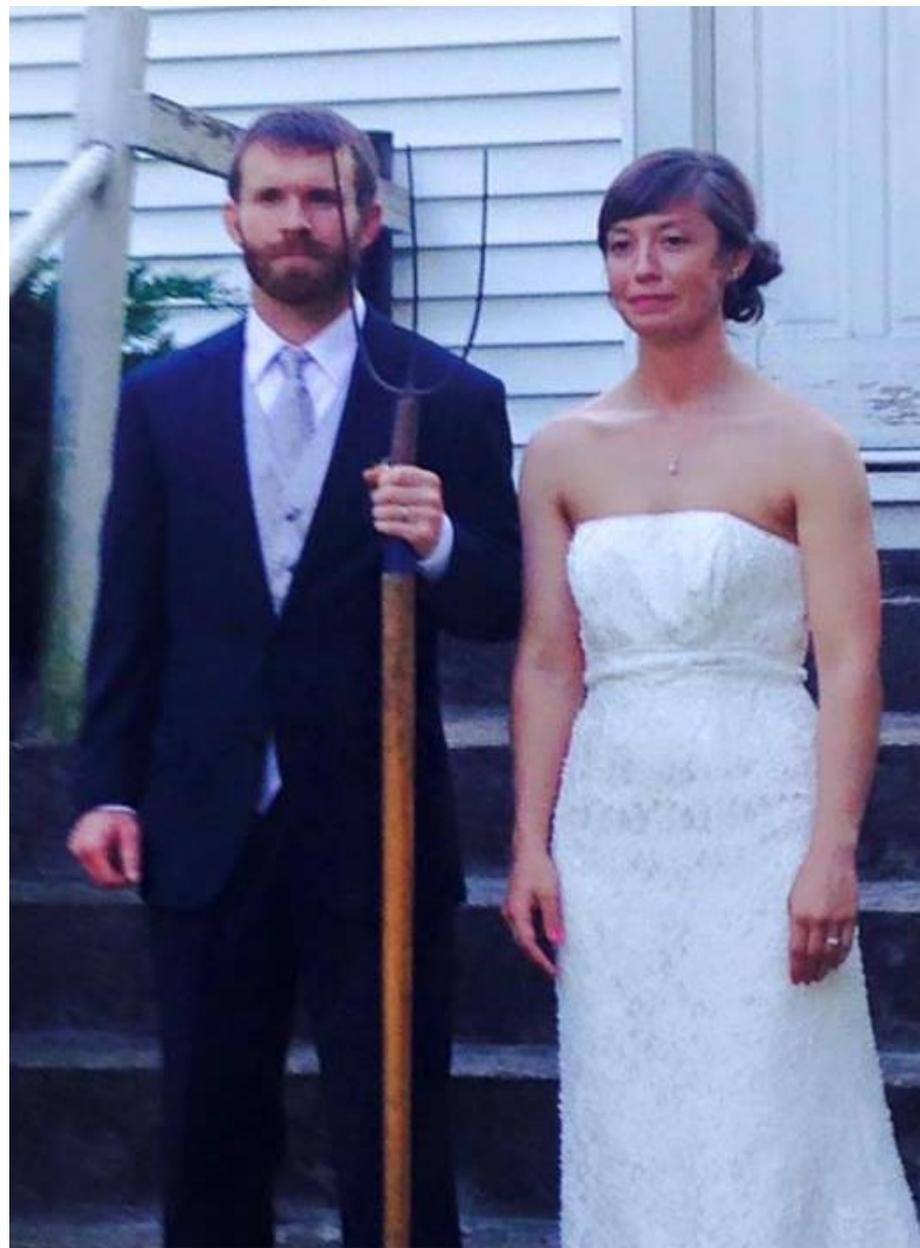
PROFILES IN soil health

s, Wheat, Rye

unlock the
SECRETS
IN THE
SOIL







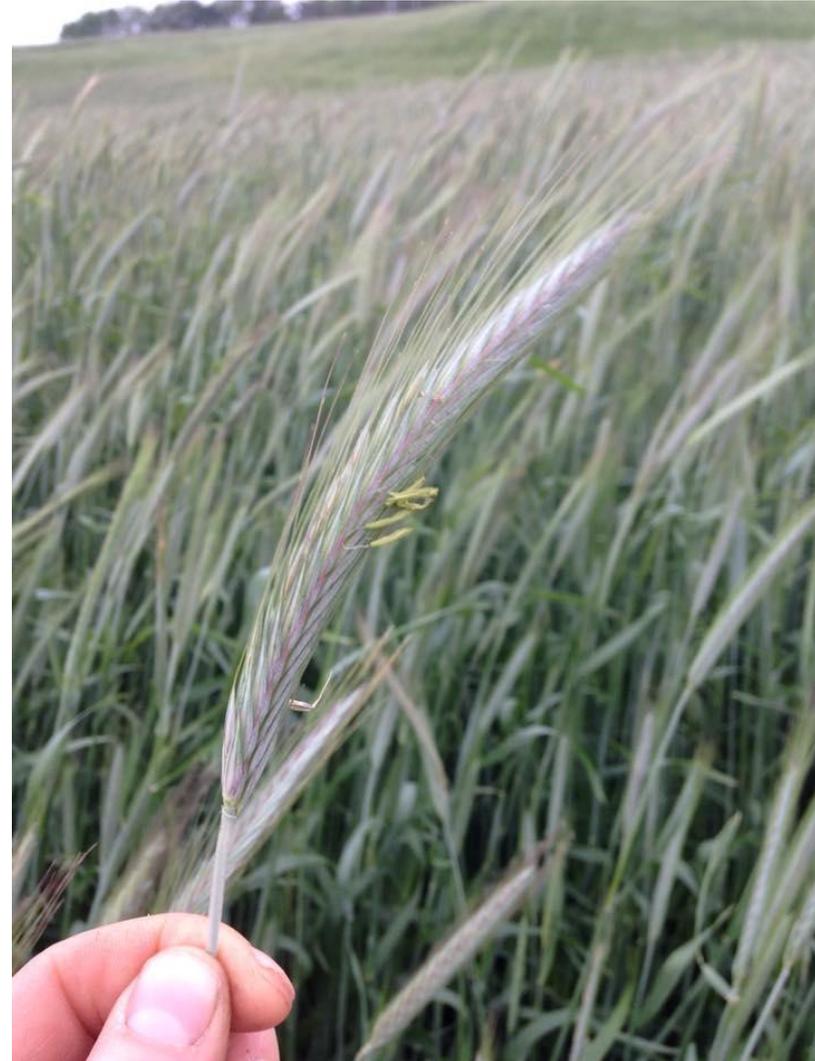
What We Do

- Cow/Calf
- Feeders
- Corn/Bean
- Hay
- Oats
- Rye
- Wheat
- Dogs, Horses, Goats, Chickens, Ducks, Dogs, Rabbits, etc. etc.



Raising Small Grains

- Drill Behind Beans/Corn (Nov. 6)
- 1.5-2 bu. Per Acre
- Vernalization
- May need Fungicide/2-4-D
- Pollination (May 28)
- Swathe Grain Mid July
- Combine (Jul 26)
- Bale
- Reseed (Aug 4)



Advantages of Adding a 3rd Crop

- Spreads out your work load
- Equipment/storage is available
- Find out what's going to break before bean harvest
- Reduced Weed/Pest Pressure
- Smaller Input Costs
- Abundance of Straw
- Pasture Relief





Challenges

- Seeding During Harvest
- It's Wet In Iowa
- It's Windy In Iowa
- Lower Yields
- Marketing

N-P-K Replacement

Grain

N: 1.1 lbs/bu

P: .41 lbs/bu

K: .31 lbs/bu

Straw

N: 8.6 lbs/ton

P: 3.7 lbs/ton

K: 21 lbs/ton

Cost/lbs

N: \$.585/lbs

P: \$.56/lbs

K: \$.37/lbs



2015 Results

Rye Grain: 40 bu./Acre

Straw: 2.3 Tons/Acre

Inputs

Grain NPK Replacement	\$39.51
Straw NPK Replacement	\$34.20
Roundup	\$3.60
Seed	\$24.00
Labor	
Disking	\$8.00
Spraying	\$4.50
Drilling	\$10.00
Combining	\$20.00
Raking	\$4.00
Baling	\$52.00
Total Cost of Production:	\$199.81

Revenue

40 bu. @ \$8/bu. =	\$320.00
4.3 bales @ \$40/bale =	\$172.00
Total Revenue:	\$492.00

Profit (Before Land Cost)

\$292.19

Grazing Benefits

Oats: \$4.00/Bu.

Turnips: \$1.50/lbs.

Soybeans: \$0.00/Bu.

Kale: \$3.75/lbs.

Drilling Cost: \$10.00

Applied @ 70 lbs/Acre

Applied @ 3 lbs/Acre

Applied @ 6.25 lbs/Acre

Applied @ 1.5 lbs/Acre

A photograph of a herd of black and white cows grazing in a lush green field. The cows are in the foreground and middle ground, with a white cow with a black face and a yellow ear tag in the foreground. The background shows a flat landscape under a clear sky.

Total Seeding Cost: \$28.12

Grazing Benefits

- **\$28.12 Total Cost**
- **If We Can Stock 2 Cow/Calf Pairs/Acre For 21 Days....**
- **2.4 Animal Units**
- **\$.55/Day/Animal Unit**

Additional Benefits

- Higher Quality Forage Late In Season
- Clean Place to Calve
- More Room to Roam = Less Fence Pressure
- Increase The Amount of Cattle With Same Acreage
- Less Haying/Feeding in Winter Months
- All Of These Things = Less Labor

Conclusion

- **Cover crops are providing us with an opportunity to use our creativity to solve a local problem that has global consequences. We have a chance to increase our biodiversity, build our soils, and help preserve our waters, all while making a profit in the process.**