

Notes from Dr. Dave Barker, OSU

****Oats** – planted the first two weeks of August will provide the most tonnage and good quality forage. This should produce around 4-5 ton/acre harvested as silage in mid October. It will die off in the spring, so nothing to spray. There are forage varieties available as well as commercial oats, the forage varieties do produce somewhat better, but given our situation, either will do.

Oats/Cereal Rye combination – will produce well in both fall and spring – but watch the spring regrowth, as you may need to harvest in March or it will get away from you. The cereal rye often comes ready before we can actually get harvesting equipment in the field.

Annual Ryegrass or Italian Ryegrass – similar creatures, if planted in the first two weeks of August, can get both a fall and spring harvest. There are varieties that can experience winter kill, so ask questions if you choose one of these two options.

Brassicas – like turnips, etc – you can graze these until Christmas, but not chop. Watch prior chemical applications, read the label

Tricale – can get both fall and spring varieties, one type you get just a fall cutting from and the other you can get both fall and spring cuttings from, ask your supplier what is best adapted for this area – right product right acre. I have found decent data on grain yields, but not on forage yields.

Cover Crop – along with the standard cover crops that are promoted here in Northeast Indiana, **crimson clover** is an excellent builder of soil nitrogen, easy to kill, but seed has to be brought up from the south, so unsure of the availability for us.

****Most of the resulting forages will get wrapped, it is unlikely that anything will get dry enough to bale**

****all results rest on getting a stand established due to the lack of rainfall**