



Fall 2019

Plan Ahead for Potential Spring Forage Shortage

2019 has been a challenging crop year start to finish. Along with late planting and difficult harvest windows for forages, the final chapter was late corn silage harvest which, in most cases, made planting fall cereals impossible. Many of the fall cereal grain crops (Triticale, Rye and Wheat) are put in for early spring forages. While we can't go back and correct this situation we can plan ahead.

We have several great options for some quick forage (55-60 days) in the spring/early summer that will provide us with a great ROI from a seed to forage. Note 30 hour NDFd quality rivals the best forages.

Green River Mix: 60% Laker Forage Oats + 40% Forage Peas

White River Mix: 60% 2700 Spring Triticale + 40% Forage Peas

OPT Mix: 30% Laker Forage Oats + 30% 2700 Spring Triticale + 40% Forage Peas

Spring Forage Mix: 50% Laker Forage Oats + 50% 2700 Spring Triticale

Seeding rates: **90-110#/acre** when used as a nurse crop for underseeded

120-125#/acre when seeded alone

Yields of 2-5 ton DM can be achieved with good fertility depending on growing conditions.

Crop fertility needs are **70-80 units of N, 40P, 60K. Sulfur at a rate of 20#/ acre** will also provide a nice yield increase, but will also promote higher forage protein levels.

Fertilizers should be based on soil tests. Much of the crops nutrients can come from manure applications, but care must be taken to watch nitrate and potassium levels in forage where heavy applications of manure are made. It is recommended to apply some commercial Nitrogen to get the crop off to a fast start when soil temperatures are below 60 degrees F. Ammonium Sulfate works well to get both Nitrogen and Sulfur all in one.



2019 Small grain Plot Harvest Data Planting Date: 5/14/19 Harvest Date: 7/8/19

3 rep harvested White Lake, WI.

Variety	DM Tons	Protein	NDFd30	RFQ	Milk/ton	Milk/acre
Green River Mix (Laker Forage Oats/Forage peas)	1.96	14.92	60.38	187.4	3474	6809
White River Mix (T2700 SpringTriticale/ Forage peas)	1.47	13.57	67.42	183.9	3248	4775
OPT Forage Mix (Laker ForageOats /T2700SpringTriticale/ Forage peas)	1.68	11.93	60.02	168.6	3114	5232

Pea mixes were 40% peas/ 60 small grain

Simple Economics Example for Maximizing ROI per acre of forage:

<p>Investment in crop: All are estimates per acre based on farm location</p> <p>Seed cost: \$50 Fertilizer: \$65 Tillage: \$20 Planting: \$20 Cutting: \$15 Harvest: \$40</p> <p>Total: <u>\$210/ acre without storage costs</u></p>	<p>Return in Milk per acre: Using the average of the 3 products in chart</p> <p>5,600 # milk per acre 56 cwt milk @ \$18.00/cwt = \$1,008 gross return</p>
<p>Gross Return of \$1,008 - \$210 inputs = Net return of \$798 per acre (minus storage costs)</p>	

This program allows for a variation of options from planting early in spring to allow a double crop situation, such as short day corn or sorghum sudangrass, depending on your location or taking time to apply manure in spring, plant and harvest the crop to set up a fall seeding of legumes or cereals such as winter triticale.