

# *Increasing Profitability on Small Grain Acres with Cover Crops and Livestock*

*PrairieEarth Farm*

Atlanta, Illinois





# (Re) Designing the Production System, Adding Value, and Marketing.







# DIVERSITY

is the antidote to adversity





# Diversity

A diverse mix of plants and animals acting together across the farmscape is necessary to create a regenerative farming system.

It is the interactions of plants and animals on the land that provides the ecosystem services required to both produce food and to maintain and improve the health of the soil.

Diversity creates an economically healthy farm that is capable of acting ecologically.

# Where's the money?

**Producing raw materials**

**Value adding**

**Marketing**

15/85





**How are you spending your time?**



**How do I keep every acre working for me**

**all year around?**



# Cover Crops



**Increase soil tilth and porosity**  
**Sequester nutrients**  
**Add Nutrients**  
**Reduce erosion**  
**Increase organic matter**  
**Reduce weed & pest pressure**  
**Reduce soil borne pathogens & disease**  
**Reduce compaction**









## **STONE MILLING PRESERVES FLAVOR AND NUTRITION**

Our mill was custom-made especially for us by Engsko, a Danish company that has been in the milling business for over a century. Although it's brand new, this is the most ancient type of mill, feeding whole grain kernels between stationary and rotating mill stones. We carefully monitor the temperature of the stones to ensure that they stay cool and preserve all the nutrition of the whole kernel--including the bran and germ, with all of their essential proteins, oils, vitamins, and minerals. Even our sifted flours contain 70-90% of the whole kernel, so you get more flavor, and more nutrition.



# *An Heirloom Wheat with Rich, Complex Flavors*

Milled from Turkey Red, a hard red winter wheat. Freshly stone-ground, whole-kernel flour (100% extraction).

3 pounds (1.36 kg)

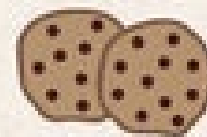
Ingredient: Organic  
wheat flour

Contains: Wheat

**FLOUR**

## **TURKEY RED**

Ideal for:





**Getting ready to install mobile fertilizer manufacturing and processing facilities on a field of wheat stubble. This equipment will process vegetation and spread a balanced fertilizer formulation across the field. (C.O.W.S.)**





# Meet Your New Fertilizer Guy



**“I like signing the back of the check, not the front.”**

*Gabe Brown*











# **Grazing after small grains**

- 12 - 15 lbs red clover frost seeded in late winter
- 1 animal unit per acre
- grazing 75 days (mid July thru September)
- gaining 3 lbs/day (225 lbs)
- valued at \$2.10/lb ( direct market price)
- cost of cover crop (includes \$10 machine costs) - \$55
- N credit (red clover in the ground 15 months) - \$80
- \$552 additional income per acre
- net - \$497



A small, single-engine propeller plane is flying in the upper right portion of the frame against a sky filled with soft, white clouds. Below the plane, a vast field of tall, green corn stretches across the middle ground. In the foreground, a patch of shorter, greener grass is visible, suggesting a grazing area. The overall scene is rural and agricultural.

# Grazing after corn

- ◆ 2 - 3 bu cereal rye
- ◆ 1 animal unit per acre
- ◆ gaining 1.7/lbs/day valued at \$2.10
- ◆ grazing 60 (102 lbs) to 90 days (153 lbs)
- ◆ cover crop cost flown on - around \$48
- ◆ additional income per acre - \$214 - \$321
- ◆ net \$166 - \$273



# Role of Plants & Livestock in Soil Fertility

Cover crops (or forage crops), incorporated as green manure, mineralize quickly to provide fertility for grain production. Composted (stabilized) livestock manure builds soil organic matter, sequesters carbon, and provides materials for the long term health of soil organisms.





# Dealing with adversity





**SF**

February 2020

# Successful Farming

## What's Your Plan B?

CHANGE COURSE?  
GROW HEMP?  
START TRUCKING?  
TRY NICHE FARMING?  
CUT COSTS?  
GO ORGANIC?  
START OVER?  
P. 34



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*Diversity is the antidote to Adversity*





**Summer grazing a cover crop  
made it possible to keep the cows**





**Converting a failed grain crop into a  
successful forage crop**



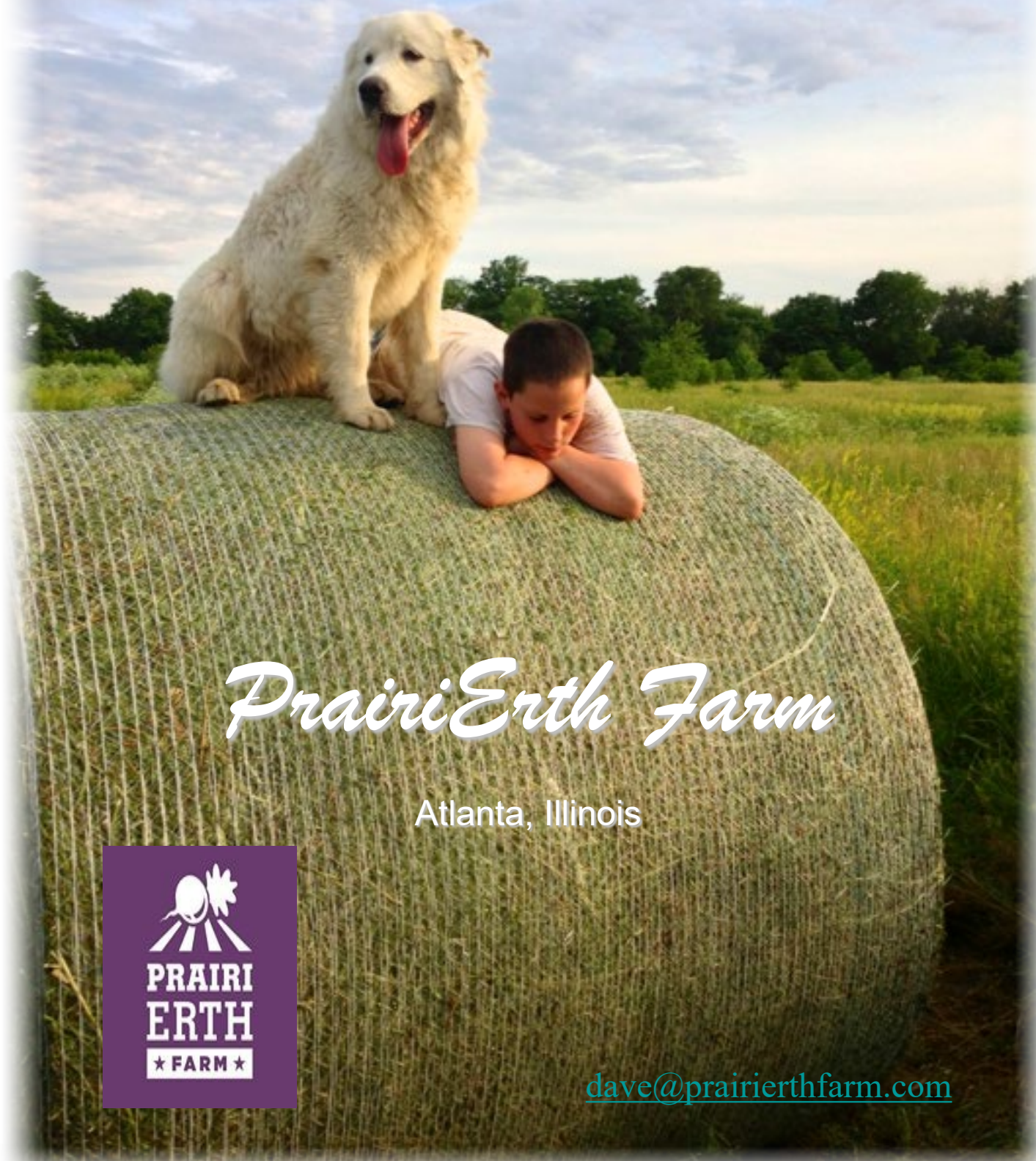


**Diversity and Economic Survival**



*"We are as children on this land, a shadow on the still life of time"*

*Kent Nerburn*



*PrairieErth Farm*

Atlanta, Illinois



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