

Cover Crops:

Cows like green stuff



Wade Dooley
6th Generation



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Home Farm

Google Earth



Cattle

Small Grains



Row-crops

Produce



Hay



- 1st used cover crop (rye) in 1997
- Seeded following silage harvest
- Grazed Fall/Winter every year, for 10 years
- Began experimenting w/ different practices in 2008



2008 1st try over-seeding with 3-
point broadcaster



2010 1st time aerial seeding with plane




2009 1st try at over-seeding w/ high-boy



Cattle prefer grass over stubble!



Seeding Rates matter!



Winter Wheat
flown-on 1bu/A



Winter Wheat flown-on 2bu/A

**Cover crops:
Better erosion control than tillage!**



Scavenge available fertility, don't let it wash away



Residual Nitrogen scavenged by Oats

Oats & Turnips
Late-summer seeding

Feed the critters above and below the soil

- Oats & Turnips seeded into pond areas
- 30 ac cover crop, 30 ac corn-stubble
- 80 cows, 30 days no hay



Using cover crops to fill flooded-out spots during the growing season can greatly reduce weed pressure for next year!

Oats & Radish





Not all cover crops do the same job!

Rapeseed



**Planting “Green” can provide early, mid,
and some late-season weed control**

Winter Wheat & Rape



**Mid-season
after planting
“green”**



Just before harvest, after planting “green”



0 500 ft

Lefroyth Ave

162B

162D

162C

162D2

**No-till 6-way mix,
grazed**

**No-till,
not
grazed**

162C2

11B

162B

162C2

162D2



Heifers grazing Dec. '15

**6-way mix flown into
standing soybeans**



A wide-angle photograph of a lush green field filled with numerous small yellow flowers. In the middle ground, five cows are grazing; four are black and one is brown. The field is bordered by a wire fence in the foreground and a line of trees and a brown field in the background.

Heifers grazing late April '16

May '16, prior to planting

- Winter wheat, rye, brassicas & lentils all over-wintered**
- Oats winter-killed**



Pre- and post-harvest Oct. '16





Cows turned out to graze end of Nov. '16

Late Feb. '17

- **Rye, winter wheat visible**
- **Oats, brassicas, & vetch not seen**





Glenwood
CENTURY FARM