

TOM KILCER EMERGENCY FORAGE

WISCONSIN
DEMONSTRATION FARM NETWORKS



TRITICALE

Yields and Seed Treatments

- Planting **date** not **rate**, is the factor that influences higher yields. Plant ASAP in September, August if possible.
- Three-way seed treatment on winter triticale planted on time has led to 15% yield increase.
- Late plantings with a seed treatment have had as a 28% yield increase over non-treated.

Fertility

- Fall nitrogen and sulfur fertilizer is very important for fall tillering along with proper spring growth.
- Nitrogen and sulfur fertilizer is a must to achieve high **Crude Protein** levels for dairy cows.
- Liquid manure injected in fall with **low-disturbance injection** in the fall can provide all fertility requirements

COMPACTION

Soil Type

- Tillage and compaction have created major problems in clay and silt soils.
- Deep rip **AND** plant cover crops - roots to keep soil from re-compacting to alleviate compaction
- Decomposing plant stubble leaves channels to encourage water infiltration

Equipment

- Subsoiler 3/4 inch shank. Non-parabolic (straight) shank, no sweeps.

EMERGENCY FORAGE OPTIONS

Oats and Pearl Millet

- Plant ASAP to get maximum growth
- Leave stubble over the winter and no-till corn/soy/alfalfa in spring
- **Winter triticale can be planted with oats** - Cutter bar at least **4-inches** when cutting oats in fall to ensure viability and good stand of winter triticale the following spring
- **Fertilize** - apply nitrogen and sulfur on all grass forages to increase protein
 - 75% urea and 25% AMS fertilizer blend to gain N and S

HARVEST MANAGEMENT

Yields and Seed Treatments

- **Feekes 9 is ideal (flag leaf)**, best when the head is 2" below coming out the top of the stem.
- Error on the early side if weather does not allow harvest at optimum timing.

Other Harvest Considerations

- Windrow width after cutting needs to be at 85% of the cut width for best drying.
- The wetter the plant moisture at the time of chopping, the longer the cut length, up to 1-inch
- **Homolactic inoculant** is a must for proper fermentation and storage.

Subscribe to Tom Kilcer's newsletter. Email: tfk1@cornell.edu