Southwestern Ontario ???
• Pastureland?
• Peas / Snapping beans?
• Sweet corn / Seed Corn?
• Tomatoes?
• Cucumbers?

Competition or opportunity?
Oats in wheat stubble
January fencing
Annual Forages as Pasture

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sept</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall Rye</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sorghum/Corn</td>
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<td>Kale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annual Ryegrass</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Yield of Annual Forages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Average Yield TDM/ha</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>12.0 +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>5.5 – 8.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Rye (pasture)</td>
<td>1.0 – 1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forage Sorghum</td>
<td>7.0 – 9.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kale (pasture, green feed)</td>
<td>9.0 – 12.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Ryegrass</td>
<td>8.0 – 12.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Oats after corn silage
Grazing Schedule

1. Jan 8     Rye and sweet corn - 20 acres
2. Jan 29    Alfalfa 4th cut - 40 acres
   – Plus Corn silage ground - 40 acres
3. March 5   Oats & Rye - 25 acres
4. March 20  Sweet corn & Rye - 20 acres
Oats in March
January alfalfa
Jan Alfalfa
Grazing Schedule

1. Jan 8       Rye and sweet corn 20 acres
2. Jan 29     Alfalfa 4th cut 40 acres
   – Plus Corn silage ground 40 acres
3. March 5     Oats & Rye 25 acres
4. March 20    Sweet corn & Rye 20 acres

NO EXTRA FEED ADDED

160 cows Jan 8 to Mar 30
Winter Pasture yield

- 145 acres of crop residue and cover crops
- 160 cows
- 14000 lbs / day of silage before Jan 8
- Jan 8 – Mar 30 82 days
- 1148,000 lbs 574 tons Value $14350.00
- no harvesting, feeding or manure hauling
- Cover crop return $ 99 acre PLUS ROOTS
planting options

drill, broadcast, equipment

availability ... standing crop
Have a plan  SEED …
* COST & availability
*Next years’ crop plan
Do it RIGHT NOW
..a few days delay in planting makes huge differences
Watch for maturity, seed production
Consider mixes
Tillage is optional ..
but can help establishment or fill ruts
March Rye pasture
Winter wheat
Challenges
Challenges to cover-crop pasture

• Seed Costs, Availability & quality
• Establishing in the crop / fencing
• Timing of harvest (Alfalfa, Turnips)
• Moving Livestock (daily, farm to farm)
• Water source? SNOW?
• No-Till? MUD?
• Find Field specific advantage
Seed supply

Quality - low germ or discard seed available, bin run, weed seeds !!!!!!!!
chickweed
Winter wheat
March 26 2005

Every year is different ……
WATCH the crop not the calendar
Jan
Rye
PLAN “B”