

August 10, 2018

## *“Accessing Innovation”*

### Managing Your Forages Pt. 3 — Cover Crops: Ethan Noll

It’s apparent that everyone is short on hay this year. An option that some customers have had success with is flying on cover crops into standing corn. A blend of oats, rye, and brassicas can offer some relief from pastures and from using up your hay too quickly. The oats and brassicas provide quick growth in the Fall that can be grazed before they winterkill. After that, the rye should be tall enough to provide grazing through the winter and spring and can be utilized as haylage in the spring as well.

Because these cover crops are good nutrient scavengers, they can pull up some of the nitrogen left over in the soil, helping to reduce the amount of carry over nitrogen in next years bean crop. It also helps reduce nitrate leaching and runoff into our water sources. If you are in the Delaware Watershed, you may qualify for some Delaware WRAPS cost share. For more information, visit [www.delawarewraps.com](http://www.delawarewraps.com).

If you are chopping corn, I highly recommend seeding some form of cover crop this fall to reduce erosion and improve soil health. Bare soil is 10 degrees warmer during the summer, which leads to more evaporation as well as killing beneficial microorganisms. Also, increased organic matter increases available water capacity in the soil, thus helping mitigate drought stress in the future.

If you aren’t looking to graze, but want to seed a cover crop, we have other options. If you want the cover to winter-kill, we have an oat, turnip, radish blend. If having additional feed next spring is your concern, some will plant rye or triticale.

### Plot Season off to a Good Start!

The Rulo plot hosted brands including Dekalb, Mycogen, and Croplan. The following 5678 hybrid was showcased in particular.



Agronomist Preston Thomas (left), talked growers through a variety of hybrids at the first Ag Partners plot event of the summer season.



Area agronomist Levi (far right) and DSM Galen (left of Levi), enjoyed fielding a few questions from growers from the Humboldt area.



### Grain Market Update: Lincoln Hillyer

The USDA's August WASDE report dominated the news today and the numbers were not friendly. Corn and soybean yields came in much larger than anticipated and the weight of trade issues with China lowered the export number for soybeans from last year.

If there is any silver lining, while corn yields are impressive over a majority of the key production states we are looking at a reduction of carryout by 300 million bushels. The sentiment is very negative at the moment, but corn prices are still higher than a year ago and demand remains very strong. Hopefully that means a floor has been put in the corn market. Soybeans, on the other hand, are very dependent on political talks. If nothing is resolved soon expect both board price and basis to struggle going into new crop.

We continue to offer contracts that offer premiums over cash bids. In a time where every penny matters some of these offerings could be a fit for your operation. Give us a call or stop in to discuss. Have a great weekend.

**Click here to view Grain Bids!**

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