USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Science and Technology

2016 Webinars

Webinar Host
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Upcoming Webinars

Date	Title
05/17/2016	Alternative Strategies for Grazing Annual Crops
05/24/2016	Online Tool for Designing Manure Pit Ventilation Systems to Reduce Entry Risk
05/25/2016	Newest Research on the Value of Habitat for Pest Management
05/26/2016	Introducing the NRCS National Organic Farming Handbook
06/07/2016	Weed Management in Organic Cropping Systems
06/08/2016	Conserving Nature's Stage: The Relevance of Geodiversity to Conservation Planning
06/14/2016	Managing Soil Quality in Forests
06/22/2016	COR Webinar Series, Part 1 - Developing Requirements (Including Duties, Responsibilities, Authority, and Ethics of the COR)

* View an updated list of USDA NRCS ***Planned Conservation Webinars*** for the current year.

On-demand replays are available within a couple of days of the live webinar.
http://conservationwebinars.net

Participant Feedback, CEUs, and Certificates

Return to the webinar portal and complete Step 2 when the presentation has concluded

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We submit Professional CEUs the first of the month on your behalf (AFGC, ARPAS, CCA, SAF, SRM, and/or TWS), but not for Conservation Planner or other state-specific certification programs

Join information for our webinars is made available at the Science and Technology Training Library at ConservationWebinars.net. The webinar portal at ConservationWebinars.net is provided in partnership with Southern Regional Extension Forestry.

SREF

Alternative Strategies For Grazing Annual Crops

Doug Peterson
Regional Soil Health Specialist
Soil Health Division
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Understanding the Why

- “I want to plant some of those Cover Crop things”
- “Corn prices are really bad so I am just going to graze my crop field”
- “I want to finish some grass fed beef”

Why do you want to plant/graze them?

- You will need a specific game plan
- Select species
- Time of year to graze
- Time of year to plant
- Existing plant control
- Water and fence equipment

Why do you want to plant/graze them?

- Summer forage to combat summer slump
- Interim grazing crop when converting from fescue
- Winter forage to reduce hay expenses
- Year round high quality forage chain
- Soil remediation
- Supplemental profit after a cash crop

Summer Forage To Combat Summer Slump

Summer Forage To Combat Summer Slump

- In predominantly introduced cool season perennial pastures we usually get a dramatic decrease drop in performance
- Producers are always looking for a way to increase performance in the summer
- Clovers and other things can be used
- Colin Seis-Pasture Cropping

Summer Forage To Combat Summer Slump

Summer Forage To Combat Summer Slump

Summer Forage To Combat Summer Slump

Summer Forage To Combat Summer Slump

Annuals

- Where did annuals fit in a natural ecosystem???

Annuals

- What will our disturbance be??
- Over Grazing
- Chemical
- Fire

Understanding Succession

Adam Boman

Interim Grazing Crop When Converting From Fescue

Interim Grazing Crop When Converting From Fescue

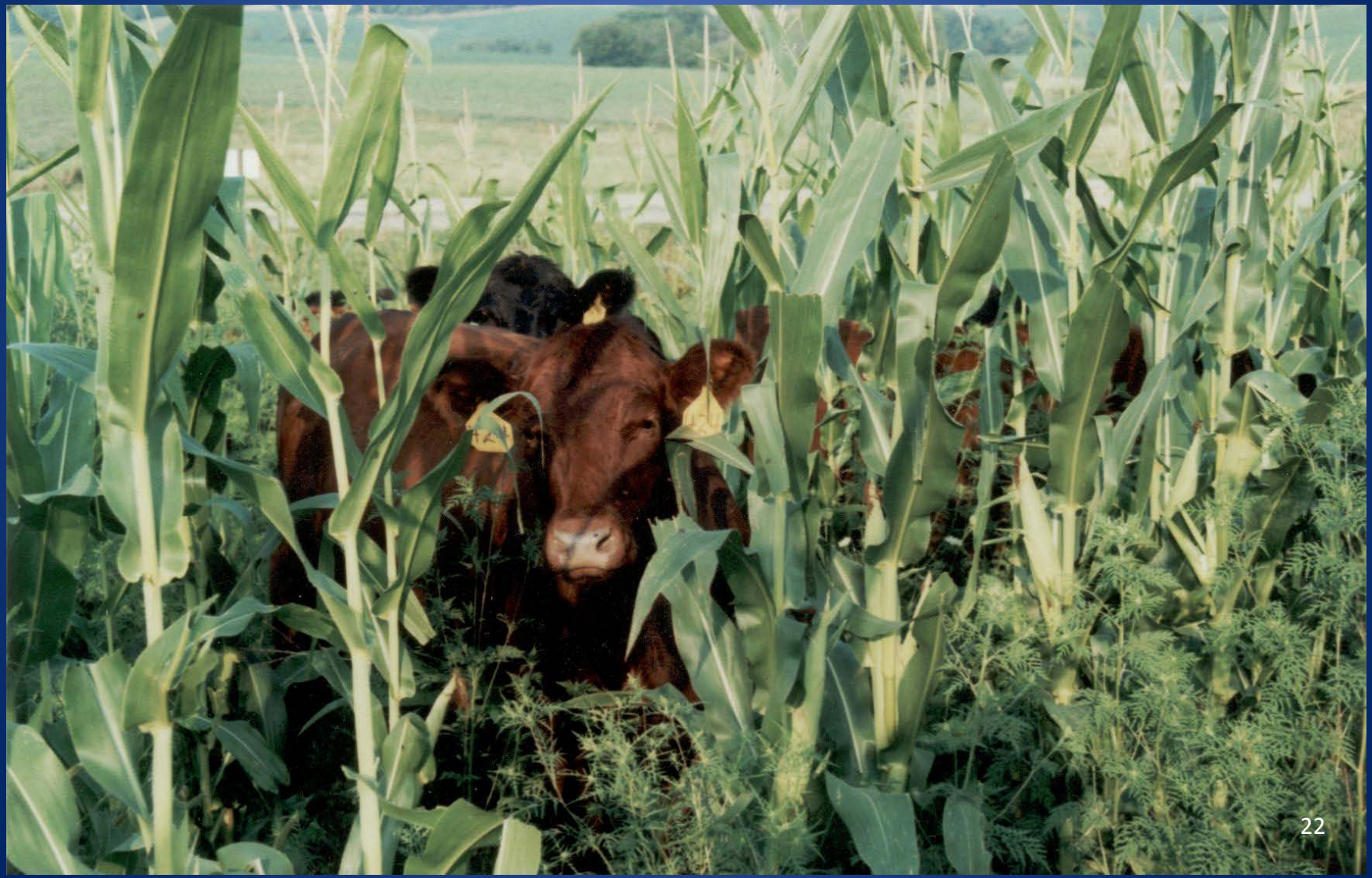
- Many producers say they would do it but they can't afford the production loss in the establishment year

Interim Grazing Crop When Converting From Fescue

- Terminated fescue with glyphosate
- Planted corn/eastern gama grass/virginia wildrye/big bluestem/forbs
- Grazed the corn off to let the seeding thrive

Interim Grazing Crop When Converting From Fescue

Interim Grazing Crop When Converting From Fescue



Interim Grazing Crop When Converting From Fescue

Interim grazing crop when converting from fescue

- Mycorrhizal based seed mixture
- Sorghum-Sudan, BMR corn, cowpeas, soybeans, pearl millet, sunflower
- **How would nature seed a field down???**

Winter Forage To Reduce Hay Expenses

Winter Forage To Reduce Hay Expenses

- What is the typical winter feed for most producers in the United States?

OVERSIZE LOAD
OVERSIZE LOAD
OVERSIZE LOAD

03/02/2009

01/03/2009

Driving Force in Beef Profit

- Cost of Feed
  - Over 60% of operating cost is feed.
  - Impacting feed cost will quickly affect profit.
    - What drives feed cost?
      - Purchased feed
      - Machinery

“Why do people rely so much on feeding hay?”

- “Recreational” feeding – a chore to occupy time between row crop harvest and planting

“Why do people rely so much on feeding hay?”

- The pastures are overstocked.
- If stocking is right there should be enough grass to graze March through December.

08/27/2008

“Why do people rely so much on feeding hay in the winter?”

- Traditional feeding – This is the way it has always been done.

11/07/2008

04/28/2009

Winter Forage To Reduce Hay Expenses

- Planting annuals behind a cash grain crop

November 1

December 23rd

February 3

Kenneth Nimrick, Illinois

Winter Forage To Reduce Hay Expenses

- Planting annuals as the primary crop to be grazed in the winter

Graze the Primary Crop

Graze the Primary Crop

Graze the Primary Crop

Year-round High Quality Forage Chain

Year-round High Quality Forage Chain

- Takes advantage of different seasons of growth
- High quality feed
- Higher cost means use animals with a higher return on investment (stockers, finishers, dairy)
- Takes a very high level of management (planting dates, species, water system, fence system)

Year-round High Quality Forage Chain

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Year-round High Quality Forage Chain

Soil Remediation

Soil Remediation

- Jim Elizondo-North Central Florida
- Tree production
- Glyphosate twice a month for 27 years

Soil Remediation

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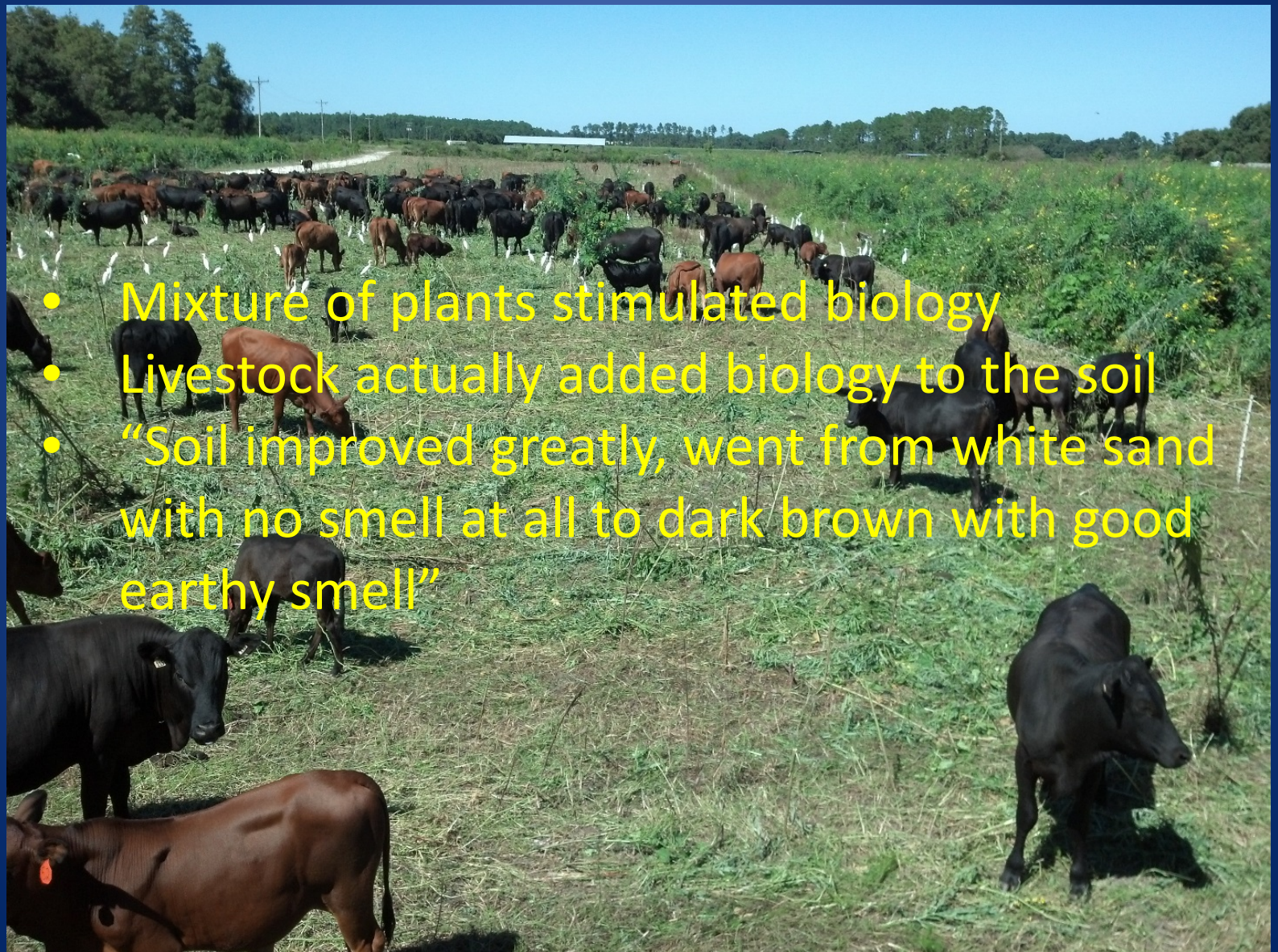

- Mixture of plants stimulated biology
- Livestock actually added biology to the soil
- "Soil improved greatly, went from white sand with no smell at all to dark brown with good earthy smell"

Supplemental Profit After a Cash Crop

Supplemental Profit After a Cash Crop

- **Jason Saunders**
- 2012 Drought
- Did not get adequate ROI for his Nitrogen

Supplemental Profit After a Cash Crop

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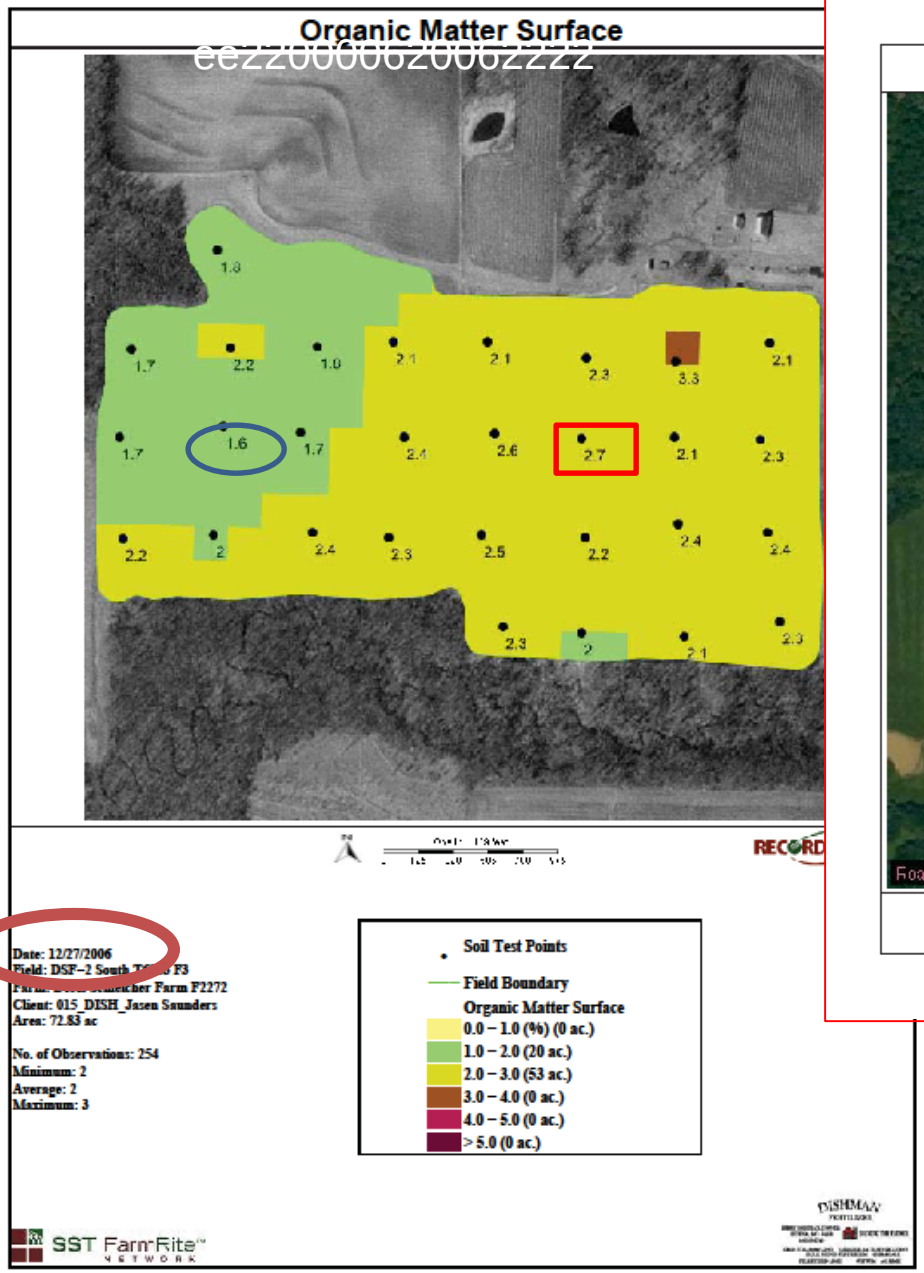
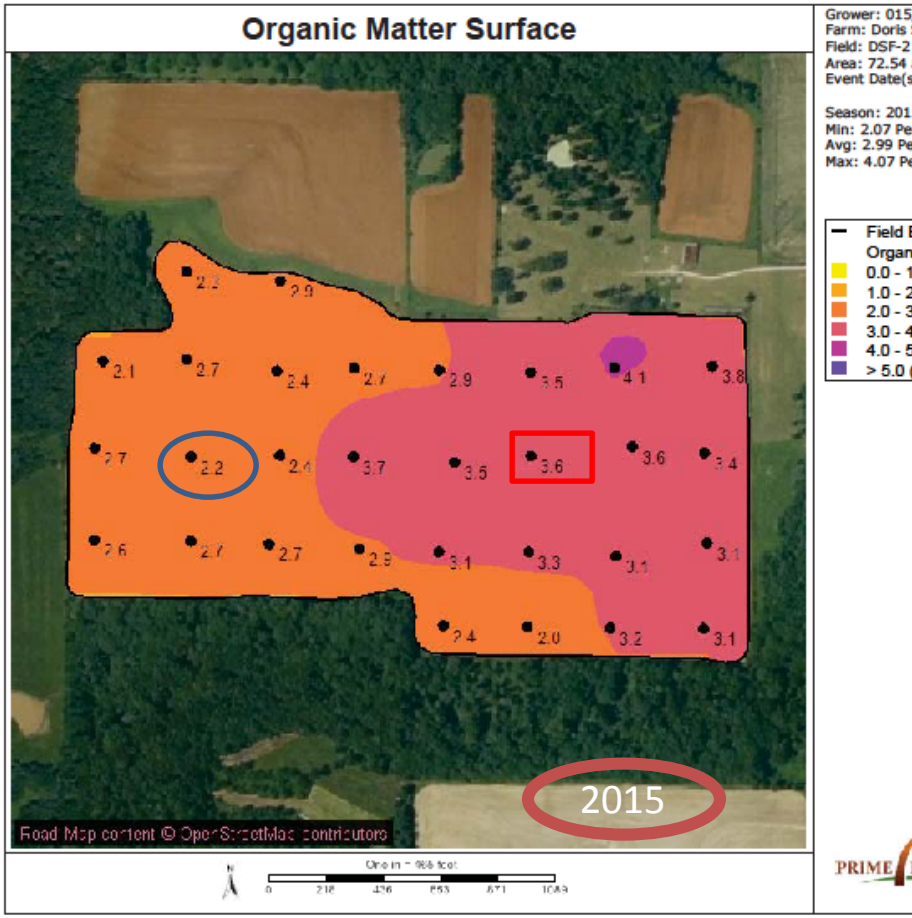
Supplemental Profit After a Cash Crop

- Prior to 2006 – conventional tillage (previous operator) corn soybean rotation
- 2006 – no-till soybeans
- 2007 – no-till corn
- 2008 – no-till soybeans
- 2009 – no-till corn
- 2010 – no-till soybeans
- 2011 – no-till wheat, hairy vetch cover crop planted August 2011
- 2012 – no-till corn into vetch then in September 2012 after corn harvest planted rye, peas, lentils, radish, turnip
- 2013 – no-till soybeans, Wheat no-till planted for a cash crop in October 2013
- 2014 – Wheat crop failed, no-tilled soybeans in to terminated wheat, Late October planted rye, hairy vetch, crimson clover, peas
- 2015 – Will be no-till corn


Organic Matter Surface
Date: 12/27/2006
Client: 015_DISH_Jasen Saunders
Area: 72.83 ac
No. of Observations: 254
Minimum: 2
Average: 2
Maximum: 3
Soil Test Points
Field Boundary
Organic Matter Surface
0.0 – 1.0 (%) (0 ac.)
1.0 – 2.0 (20 ac.)
2.0 – 3.0 (53 ac.)
3.0 – 4.0 (0 ac.)
4.0 – 5.0 (0 ac.)
> 5.0 (0 ac.)
SST FarmRite NETWORK


Organic Matter Surface
2015
Road Map content © OpenStreetMap contributors

Summary

- Don’t overlook annuals in a forage system
- You will need a specific game plan
- What and when are you growing the forage for
- Select species based on specific criteria
- Time of year to graze
- Time of year to plant
- Existing plant control
- Water and fence equipment

Questions??

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Natural Resources Conservation Service