Extending the Grazing Season by Overseeding Corn with Annual Ryegrass. (C06-kallenbach170951-Poster)

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Abstract:

Grazing corn residue is a common practice in the Midwest. However, the quality of corn residue is below the nutrient requirements of most grazing livestock. We hypothesized that annual ryegrass could be overseeded into corn to improve the quality of corn residue pasture. Our objective was to determine the forage yield and quality of corn residue pasture when overseeded with annual ryegrass. The treatments in this experiment were: 1) corn overseeded with 28 kg ha-1 of annual ryegrass in mid August, (Overseeded) and 2) fields not overseeded (Control). Each treatment was replicated five times in a RCBD and the experiment was conducted for 2 yr. Corn grain was combine harvested in late September each yr. Forage yield and quality were measured approx.10 d after corn harvest and again in spring before corn planting. Overseeding did not increase (P>0.05) the yield or quality of forage for autumn grazing compared to control plots. However, overseeded plots produced 3,725 kg ha-1 of forage in early spring while control plots produced none. We conclude that overseeding does not improve the yield or quality of corn residue for autumn grazing but can provide forage for early spring grazing.

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