



BUIS BEEF RANCH



Fourth generation family owned & operated farm

2 full time 2 part time 3 seasonal

750 acres growing

- corn (sweet ,seed and commercial)

-soybeans ,wheat ,hay &pasture



225 spring calving cows 75 fall calving cows
Background and Finish all calves
Grow some replacements



On Farm Retail Market

Our beef is hand selected from the best of our mixed herd. It is raised in an environmentally friendly manner with the cattle grazing our local fields and pastures and finished on a corn based diet. This means the best of grass fed and corn fed beef. Since we raise our own cattle from birth to beef there are no hormones, antibiotics or additives in our meat.

Selling our own farm raised Beef

As individual cuts, sides and quarters

Fully traceable ,chosen pre-harvest by

ultrasound, no added hormones /antibiotics

The challenge

Large Cow Herd

Retail outlet

Very expensive Land

High value cropping choices

Limited affordable staff available

HOW CAN WE MAKE IT WORK

In the middle of

CASHCROPPING

COUNTRY ?????



Southwestern Ontario ???



Traditional System



Cows require lots of land

- Grazing Season 100 to 150 days
- Permanent grass pasture ,acres of hay
- Capacity **2 acres per animal** or more
- Rely on stored feed for 200 days
- Calving indoors Feb /March

Traditional beef production model in Ontario

Tradition is nice

>>>>>BUT >>>>>





• Pasture OR Cropland ???

- Peas / Snapping beans ?
- Sweet corn / Seed Corn ?
- Tomatoes? Cucumbers ?
- Corn ,Soybeans
- Wheat



OR ???





**WHY NOT
???????**

2007



**RYE VS OATS
Dec 20/ 2015**



JAN 9 / 2016

**What have I
Learned ????
.....>.....>
“Make ONE new
mistake EVERY
Year”**

Oats in wheat stubble



Now What ?



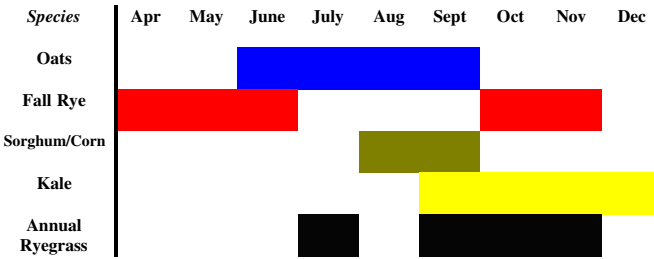
January fencing



Is this as good as it gets ?

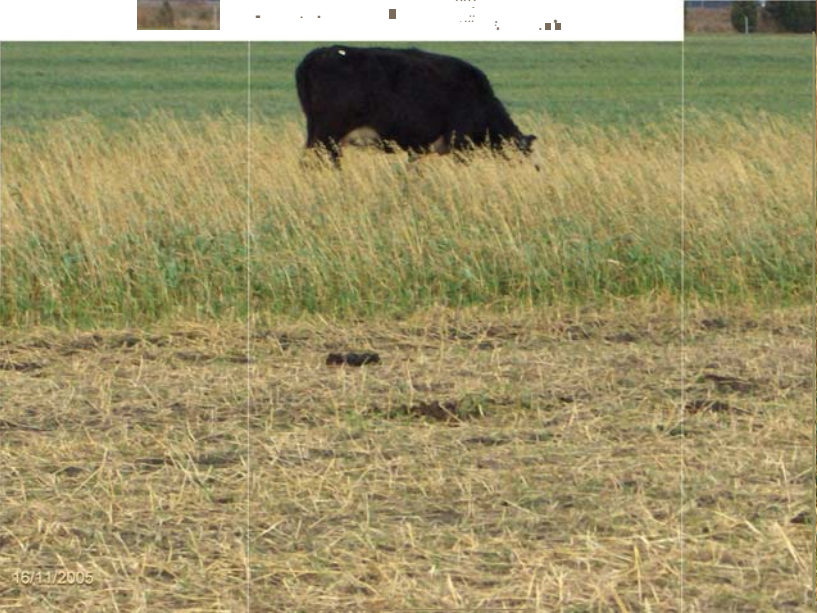


Annual Forages as Pasture



Yield of Annual Forages

Species	Average Yield TDM/ha
Corn	12.0 +
Oats	5.5 – 8.5
Fall Rye (pasture)	1.0 – 1.5
Forage Sorghum	7.0 – 9.0
Kale (pasture, green feed)	9.0 – 12.0
Annual Ryegrass	8.0 – 12.0



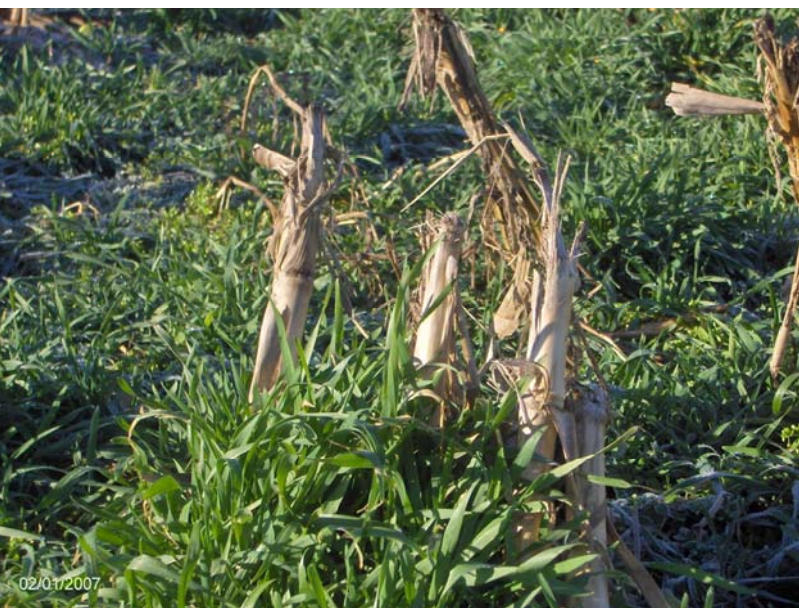


We need a grazing plan !



Grazing Options

Rye seeded in sweet corn stubble-20 acres
Alfalfa 4th cut still standing- 40 acres
Corn silage ground seeded to oats- 40 acres
Oats & Rye after snapbeans- 25 acres
Rye seeded after tomatoes- 20 acres





Jan Alfalfa



Jan 2007(oats & rye)

02/01/2007



Oats in March



March Rye pasture

24/03/2006

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

160 cows Jan 8 to Mar 30

145 acres

Grazing Schedule

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2. Jan 29 Alfalfa 4th cut 40 acres
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NO EXTRA FEED ADDED


160 cows Jan 8 to Mar 30

Winter Pasture yield

- 145 acres of crop residue and cover crops
- 160 cows **82 days**
- 14,000 lbs / day of silage before Jan 8
- **1,148,000 lbs 574 tons**
- **Value = \$14,350.00**
- **Cover crop return \$99 acre**

Cover Crops

- No harvest costs
- No feed storage and delivery to cows
- No manure to haul or bedding to put in
- Improved organic matter
- Erosion protection (wind water)
- Roots to aid soil structure
- Improved water holding capacity



Cover-crops

Not just above ground



I have not failed ...
I've just found 10,000 ways
THAT WON'T WORK
Thomas Edison

Find crop that works



GETTING IT PLANTED

Broadcast



Nitro Enhanced Maize

- 60% nitro Italian rye grass
- 25% Crimson clover
- 10% Nitro Radish
- 5% hairy vetch
- Target seeding rate 15-17
- \$1.70 lb \$25-\$29 acre





After liquid manure application

Sorghum Sudan
Planted after wheat
No till drilled
Rye grass and turnips
Put on top



Sept 12 2016



Seven weeks after planting

Seed cost
\$ 1.10 lb

@ 15 lb

\$16.50 Ac



Yield
6 bales/ac
(4 X 5)

Cost at feeding
\$ 14 bale

Sorghum Sudan Grass Analysis

Moisture 66.8

DM protein 13.6 %
TDN 53.66 %

Similar to late-bloom alfalfa silage



ROOTS !!!

Clean ,good quality
SEEDalways
(you get what you pay for)



CLIMATE CHANGE ?





What did I learn ????

- Seed Costs & Availability
- Establishing in the crop / fencing
- Timing of harvest(Clovers,grasses,Turnips)
- Moving Livestock (daily,farm to farm)
- Water source ? SNOW ?
- No-Till ? MUD ?
- EACH Field has specific advantage





Winter wheat

Every "NORMAL" year
Always has the same
Growing conditions



DEC 20 2015



March 20 2007





Oat balage



Swath grazing



Bale grazing



Opportunity Feeds



Corn Distillers soluble



TRADITION

29/05/2005

Challenges

- Need summer feeding areas
- MUD ,MUD& more MUD
- Growing season variability
- Ration balance is a challenge
- Need Plan “B” feed supply
- Crop rotation & grazing plan have to fit



YES We Can Raise cows in cash-crop country

- Grazing season extended to 365 days
- Unlimited forage choices - annual/perennial
- Options /vegetables planted /harvested early
- Utilize crop residue and cover crops
- Reduce harvesting & storage of winter feed
- Healthy cows calving outside
- Permanent pasture optional



QUESTIONS

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