

## FORAGE FOLLOWING WHEAT

Once your wheat is gone, how do you plan to use that ground after harvest? With good moisture and lots of growing season left this year there are many forage possibilities.

Wheat harvest soon will be here. Afterwards, there will be lots of growing season remaining for producing more forage.

For example, with good moisture an early maturing corn is one possibility for silage if you plant it thick. A better dryland choice might be a high grain producing forage sorghum if chinch bugs and other insects are not a problem. Sunflowers can be a surprisingly good choice for a short-season silage. They survive light frost and yield well under many conditions.

For hay instead of silage, plant sorghum-sudan hybrids, teff, or pearl or foxtail millet when chinch bugs aren't a problem. A hay crop exceeding two tons per acre can be grown easily if planted soon after harvest and rain is timely. Another hay or silage alternative is solid-seeded soybeans. A couple tons of good forage can be grown from taller, full season varieties planted after wheat. Oats planted in early August is another option. Yields over two tons are common when moisture is good, fertility high, and your hard freeze comes a little late.

Definitely consider turnips, as well as oats, for fall pasture planted into wheat stubble in late July or early August. With a few timely rains in August and September, both oats and turnips produce much high quality feed in a short time. And, they are relatively inexpensive to plant.

Don't automatically let your wheat ground sit idle the rest of the year, especially if you could use more forage. When moisture is available, there are many forage options. One might be right for you.

Dr. Bruce Anderson, Extension Forage Specialist  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
314 Keim Hall—East Campus  
Lincoln NE 68583-0915  
402-4742-2577  
[banderson1@unl.edu](mailto:banderson1@unl.edu)

