2014 SARE PROJECT

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Our 2014 SARE consisted of a full Season Cover Crop that we planted on a 26 acre field. Spring started out very went and continued into June. Got a window to start seeding cover crop and planted this field on June 16, 2014. We seeded 35 # per acre of the following mix (Cowpea, Soybean, Mung Bean, Vetch, Red Clover, Pearl & Proso Millet, Sorghum Sudan, Nitro Radish, Winfred Hybrid Turnip, Sunflower and Oats) at a cost of $30.00 per acre. Seeding depth was at or near ¾ inch. We sprayed the field once with an application of roundup and no commercial fertilizer was applied. With the wet and damp summer we had, the emergence was very poor and with very few warm days most of the warm season legumes and grasses did not express themselves to their fullest potential, therefor we lack some total biomass produced this growing season. We averaged about 2.3 ton of dry matter per acre. On November 26, 2014 we let 254 coming 3rd trimester cows onto the field and grazed until December 5, 2014. Then on December 29 we brought in 150 head of bred heifers and young cows in and they grazed on the field for 7 days before we started to feed hay and silage and are currently feeding hay and silage on this piece of ground.

On last year's SARE project we did something very similar and we seeded a grain corn crop into that field and this past fall we harvested a 128 bushel per acre crop off the field and it was dry and had test weight. When we went to soil test the field this past fall we even had a bigger surprise in that we still had 51 # of nitrogen left in the profile . We have no direct answer into why this maybe happening but our hope is that the soil is starting to work for us.