

Derrick Dukart, Project Farmer-Cooperator, SARE Project LNC 11-335, 2013 Cover Crop
Grazing with Bulls



Start Grazing



Grazing along electric wire





Residue after grazing was completed.

Our 2013 SARE project consisted of a Full season Cover crop planted on a 42 acre field. With the very wet spring we had our initial crop was going to be grain corn. However with the excess moisture and poor seeding conditions we decided to switch it to a full season cover crop. We seeded the cover crop on June 16th 2013 at a rate of 30lb per acre at about $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch seeding depth. We did apply 2 applications of roundup along with 46 units of nitrogen in thoughts this was going to be grain corn. The mix was made up of Cowpea (3#), Soybean (3#), Common Vetch (3#), Crimson Clover (1#), Berseem Clover (1#), BMR Grazing Corn(3#), Sorghum Sudan(4#), Pearl Millet (2#), Proso Millet (2#), Nitro Radish (1#), Winfred Turnip(1#), Sunflower (1#) and Buckwheat (1#). We took 16 acres of the 42 acre field and subdivided into roughly 5 acre paddocks using poly wire and a solar fencer. We put a portable water tank in and hauled water as needed. On September 14, 2013 we turned 34 yearling bulls into the first paddock for 5 days and then moved them to the 2 second paddock and got 6 days out of it and turned into the final paddock for another 5 days. We grazed the 16 acre field for a total of 16 days. We did a clipping on it and came up with 3.5 ton of Dry matter per acre available. The bulls gained a $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a body condition score while grazing. Next year this acreage will be grain corn and on part of the field we plan on not using any fertilizer.