



# Forage Field Day

## July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### Takala Farms, Iron MN

**Farm Description:** The following is a description of what you can see & hear at the Takala Farm field day to be held July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013, and hosted by the Northeast Forage & Grassland Council, here in NE MN.

- Farm Description:** Takala Farms is a commercial dairy operation that milks 250 cows in a double eight parallel milking parlor. It includes 240 head of young stock, and 100 grass fed beef cattle for the Thousand Hills Cattle Co. They need & produce 5000 round bales as stored forage, manage 400 acres of pasture, and have a 3-cuttings/acre forage system.
- Forage Goals:** Takala Farms have the following forage & production goals for 2013:
  - To produce 5000 round bales of high quality hay/baleage
  - To reduce stored forage needs through grazing management
  - To increase or extend the grazing season using annuals
  - To double crop with winter rye, turnips after harvest of annuals
  - To use summer annuals to avoid the Summer Slump: Goal is to increase forage tonnages during the hot, dry weather of summer.

**Summer annuals consist of:**

- Grazing corn, variety called Master Graze
  - Double cropping of oats, annual rye & turnips for fall grazing
  - Triticale (80 lb/ac), Peas (20 lb/ac), turnips (2.5 lb/ac) annual pastures
  - Triticale, peas, turnips, & millet (20 lb/ac) annual pastures
- Land Base:** Takala Farm utilizes approximately 1000 acres of mostly forage and pasture crops. 300 acres are in rotational grazing for the dairy herd and young stock. The beef herd is fattened only on hay/baleage and pasture.
  - Grass Fed Beef:** John Takala & Jake Grass will discuss their management & insights on fattening 142 beef cattle on forages only, daily gains, etc., for the grass-fed retail market.
  - Alfalfa Varieties:** See and discuss eight different alfalfa varieties planted into plots, with an oats over-seeding. Varieties have a spreading root system (instead of a tap root) and superior in clay soils. This superior genetics in these varieties were created for increased stand life, excellent root rot resistance in our heavy clay soils that result in longer stand life, less cost for tear up and reseeding, enhanced yields, greater digestibility with finer stems. Planted at 12-15 lbs/acre alfalfa, and 1.5-2 bu of oats per acre. Varieties provided by Dairyland Seed and Widdes Feeds @Esko, MN.
  - Cell Wall Digestibility:** Takala Farms, through the use of different varieties, are trying to achieve high NDF (Neutral Detergent Fiber) digestibility and higher plant sugar content. This provides higher total digestibility of the plants material, including cell wall structure, and greater utilization of the complete plant material.



Grass fed beef for retail market



Alfalfa-Oats Under-Seeding



Turnips, peas, Italian Rye Grass



## Northeast Minnesota Forage and Grassland Council

### NE MN Grazing Workshop & Forage Field Day Saturday, July 20, 2013 Host: Jim, John & Jan Takala

#### Agenda:

- 9:30 a.m. **Registration** (\$5 RSVP/ \$15 non-RSVP)
- 10:00 a.m. **Introduce the hosts & tour of home farm**
- 11:30 a.m. **Lunch at the Clinton Town Hall**  
**Introduction of Implement Dealers & Vendors**
- 12:30 p.m. **Presentation on Grass Fed Beef by Jake Grass**
- 1:15 p.m. **Tour alfalfa & grass test plots**
- 2:00 p.m. **Look at a variety of grazing forages (ryegrass to sorghum-sudangrass)**
- 2:30 p.m. **Check out Vendor equipment**
- 3:00 p.m. **Door Prizes**

**Please RSVP by July 12<sup>th</sup> for a meal count at (218) 384-3511. People who RSVP will pay \$5. Those who don't RSVP will pay \$15**

**Directions to the Takala Farm:** Address: 9279 Hwy 37, Iron, MN 55751

**From the West:** From HWY 169 on south edge of Hibbing, go east on Hwy 37 towards Cherry about 13 miles, Follow Signs

**From the East:** From HWY 53 take Hwy 37 west about 7 miles, Follow Signs

**Lunch Sponsored by:** AgStar Financial Service, Arrowhead Area Farm Bureau, Lulich Implement, Munson Lakes Nutrition

**Co- Sponsored by:** The Midwest Forage Association, AMPI, Aitkin Pet & Farm Supply, Famo Feeds, Floodwood Farm & Feed, Itasca Farm Service, Lester Buildings, Moose Lake CO-OP, Northern Star Cenex, Northwood Implement, Producer's Choice, Schaeffer's Oil, Stearn's Vet Outlet, Timmer Implement Inc, Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, Widde's Feeds, Dairyland Seeds, AgStar Financial Service, Arrowhead Area Farm Bureau, Lulich Implement, Munson Lakes Nutrition

