Evaluating a single-pass alfalfa-corn silage intercrop to enhance forage production, profitability, & soil and water health

Treatments

- 1 30" corn silage control
- 2 Spring-planted alfalfa control
- 3 60" corn silage (same population as 30")
- 4 30" corn silage with alfalfa
- 5 60" corn silage with alfalfa (same population as 30")

Materials & Methods Overview

Corn silage = shorter day Brevant corn silage

Tillage = all yr. 1 and corn only in yr 2; strip tillage for yr 2

Fertilizer = following manure management plan

Alfalfa = shade tolerant, glyphosate-resistant

Planter = Lemken

Forage harvester: CLAAS chopper

Measured data

Baseline and final soil tests
Weekly staging
Stand counts @ V2 and harvest
Plant heights weekly through 4th wk.
Crop yield (alfalfa, corn silage+alfalfa, corn silage)
Forage and silage quality

Experiment Design

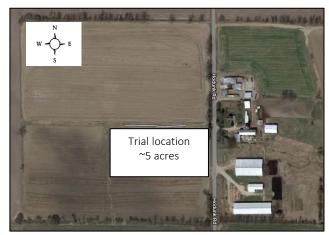
Randomized complete block with 3 Replications

Experiment Size: 630' x 300'

Plot size: 630' x 20', (8 rows of 30" corn or 4 rows of 60" corn)

4.4 acres total = 189,000 square ft.

Trial Location - GPS coordiantes 42°7′N 88°4′ W



Soil types: MyB, Miami and MpB, McHenry silt loams, both 2-6% slopes, and Ph Pella silt loam, 0-2% slopes 3 access points: from the road, to the N and W of trial.

<u>Map</u>

$$W \stackrel{N}{\rightleftharpoons} E$$

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_	Plot # Treatment #	_	
Rep 3	305 4	20'	Т
	304 3	20'	1
	303 5	20'	1
	302 1	20'	1
	301 2	20'	1
Rep 2	205 5	20'	- 1
	204 1	20'	1
	203 4	20'	300 ft.
	202 2	20'	1
	201 3	20'	1
Rep 1	105 5	20'	- 1
	104 2	20'	1
	103 1	20'	1
	102 3	20'	1
	101 4	20'	<u>I</u>