Sustainable Feed Production
A Farm System Approach

- High prices of feed, fertilizer, and fuel can in part be off-set by optimizing the cropping system.
- Optimizing the system requires early planting of corn, use of effective cover crops for N recovery, integration of pasture, optimum harvest of haycrops, and use of accepted best nutrient management practices.

**Corn**
- Choose early maturity hybrids.
- Plant early, 60% by opt. date.

**Pasture & Haycrop**

**Nutrients**
- Intensify grazing management.
- Rotate pastures daily.
- Back-fence to prevent re-grazing.
- Balance rations to account for pasture consumed.

**Haycrop**
- First cut quality declines rapidly.
- Retain legume leaves.
- Avoid rain!

**Cover Crops**
- Reduce surface soil and P loss.
- N loss by leaching is rapid in fall.
- Seed early save 90 -110 lb N/ac.
- Plant by Sep. 7 or earlier in hills.

**Nutrients**
- Soil test P, K, pH.
- Eliminate starter & broadcast N.
- Use manure efficiently: storage and handling, manure analysis, field prioritization, spreader calibration, timely incorporation.
- Use PSNT, CSNT, and FPT.

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