WISCONSIN - Interseeding Alfalfa with Corn Silage

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Establishment of alfalfa by interseeding into corn silage close to the time of corn planting could increase alfalfa yields the following year, but specific management choices can greatly impact success of corn and alfalfa. Our group is currently undertaking several experiments to formulate management recommendations for this system. For example, we are exploring N fertilizer rate and time of application impact on interseeded corn silage yield and alfalfa establishment. Preliminary results suggest interseeded alfalfa competes with corn for N at low N fertilization rates, but greater N rates can overcome this to achieve high corn productivity. Further analysis will attempt to identify the optimal N fertilization rate for corn with interseeded alfalfa. Additionally, we have recently received USDA funding to implement on-farm trials to better understand environmental and management factors influencing success of this interseeding system. We are currently looking for a handful of corn and alfalfa farmers in Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Idaho to participate in this research – if interested, please contact William Osterholz at wosterholz@wisc.edu by the end of January.