

## FORAGE RESEARCH UPDATES: Focus on Small Grain Forage

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### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

#### **Summer-Planted Spring Small Grains Extend the Grazing Season**

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The Midwest grazing season is often limited by lack of fall-pasture forage. No-till seeding spring cereals in August can provide fall forage. The establishment success and fall forage potential of several summer-sown spring small grains planted into various seedbeds at different seeding dates is being determined. 'Robust' barley, 'Russ' wheat, 'Loyal' oats, and 'Frank' triticale were no-till planted into oat stubble or broadcast seeded into standing corn on 1 and 15 Aug. and 1 and 15 Sept. '02 at Brookings. Broadcast seeding into standing corn failed at all dates, producing insufficient forage to harvest in fall. No-till seeding spring cereals in Sept. produced insufficient

forage to harvest. However, warmer than average temperatures during late fall '02 enabled high forage production of Aug. no-till seeded cereals through mid-Nov. Yields then decreased due to tissue death and leaf loss. Planting on 1 Aug. resulted in 700 lb/ac more than planting 15 Aug. Later planting resulted in higher CP content.