



This newsletter is a joint effort from the following organizations:



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*If you would like to receive this newsletter by email please send a request to:*  
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## Winter Grazing Extravaganza

Saturday, March 8

10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Room 108, Fillmore County Office Building, Preston

- 9:45 am Registration (\$10.00 registration fee; includes lunch)
- 10:00 am Dr. Tim Goldsmith, U of M Veterinary Medicine, "Economics of AI vs. Bull Ownership; Cost Effectiveness of Heifers vs. Purchasing"
- 11:30 am Jerry Tesmer, Extension Educator Fillmore/Houston Counties, "Grazing Rental Considerations"
- 12:00 noon Lunch: pizza or sandwich shop
- 1:00 pm Dr. Craig Sheaffer, U of M Dept. of Agronomy, "Variety Response to K Fertilization", Variety selection; frost seeding & pasture renovation
- Scott Wells, New U of M Forage Extension Agronomist, "Winterkill, What happened last winter?"
- 2:30 pm Dean Thomas, SWCD Grazing Specialist "To Hay or Graze?"
- 3:00 pm Adjourn

Pre-registration is not required.  
Contact Jerry Tesmer, John Zinn, or Dean Thomas with any questions.



## 2013 Cover Crop Update

Dean Thomas, Grazing Management Specialist

Farmers, government agencies and agronomists have learned a lot about cover crops in 2013. With an abnormally wet spring a large number of cropland acres went unplanted in southeastern Minnesota. Over 600,000 acres of cropland were considered prevented planting this past spring. Farmers who didn't plant a cover crop this past growing season risk the "fallow effect". The soil is living and needs food just as humans, and when there are no roots growing the soil starts to become starved and stops producing.

With the prevented planting acres this past season we all have been learning about the different seeding mixes with tillage radishes, crimson clover and annual rye. These species don't normally get planted in the county because the harvest season runs late and the time to plant the radishes runs out.

Back in September we held a field day where we dug a trench in a field that was planted with Tillage Root Max Annual Rye and Radishes on July 16 (see photo on the right). The radish roots from ground level went down 34 inches and the rye roots were down 12 to 20 inches. It would be great to be able to plant radishes every year, but the best time to seed them is from about August 1 to September 1. At this time there is no good seeding method available to be able to seed the cover crops while the corn/beans are still in the field. The most popular cover crop seeded in this area is winter rye because of its winter hardiness plus it is easy to establish into late October once the cash crops are harvested.

In the 2013 general EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) sign up, there were 17 contracts approved on 3700 acres of cropland. About half of those acres are corn for grain and soybeans with no livestock while the other half is on acres for corn silage and bedding used on livestock. Cover crops are a proven practice for improving soil health by increasing organic matter and adding biologic activity.

Some livestock producers are using the cover crop for a feed source either by grazing or harvesting the cover crop. Under the new rules, the cover crop must be harvested/terminated at least five days prior to planting the commodity crop to remain eligible for crop insurance. Anyone interested in cover crops can contact the SWCD office to get advice and/or sign up for EQIP for financial assistance with establishing cover crops. Call Dean Thomas at 507-765-3878 ext. 3 or email [dean.thomas@fillmoreswcd.org](mailto:dean.thomas@fillmoreswcd.org).



Tillage radish roots more than 2 feet below ground after about 6 weeks of growth

## Forages For "U" Workshop

Thursday, March 27

9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

St Charles at the City Hall



Key forage production and management issues for Minnesota will be addressed.

This program is developed by the University of Minnesota Extension and is aimed at current issues and research in forage production and management with the intent to increase producers' forage production and farm profitability.

Past participants expressed that they have benefited from the useful, research based, and timely information the University of Minnesota Extension brings to these meetings and the open discussion format designed to encourage audience participation. This program targets crop management information for producers and Ag professionals.

Pre-registration is preferred by March 14<sup>th</sup>. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. with the program dismissing at 3:00 p.m. Program agendas can be mailed or emailed upon request. For more information contact Jake Overgaard at 507-457-6440 or [over0128@umn.edu](mailto:over0128@umn.edu)




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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### February

- 22 Private Treaty Bull Sale, Schafer Farms, Goodhue MN
- 25 Private Pesticide Applicator Training, 12:30-3:00 pm, Wilson Townhall
- 27 Private Pesticide Applicator Training, 6:30-9:30 pm, Room 108, Fillmore Co Office Building, Preston
- Feb 27-Mar 1 Midwest Organic Conference, La Crosse WI

### March

- 8 SE MN Winter Grazing Extravaganza
- 27 Forages for "U" workshop





**29th Annual**

**Private Treaty Bull Sale**

~ selling 50 Balancer and Gelbvieh Bulls ~

Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

At the farm, Goodhue, MN



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