

## Perennial Forage Mix for Extended Grazing

**Project #:** 2008D

**Cooperator:** Bob Aasman

**By:** *Grey Wooded Forage Association*

Over the past few years, with the costs of feed and feeding livestock and the returns in beef production dwindling for many, there has been an increase in extending the grazing season. We have come to understand that some forage species are better than others for stockpiling for use in winter. With that in mind, this project was born.

The field where this project is taking place is the same field where we've tried corn and Perennial Cereal Rye. It has soil zones ranging from wetland peat to grey wooded and even sandy on the hill tops.

Kirk Seaborn, of Seaborn Seeds, put together a diverse mix of grasses and legumes keeping in mind that the intended use of the pasture would be for winter grazing.

### This mix included:

- 23% Meadow Brome
- 23% MV Alfalfa Blend (inoculated)
- 15% PAY Brand Orchardgrass
- 8% White Clover (inoculated)
- 8% Alsike Clover (inoculated)
- 8% Birdsfoot Trefoil (inoculated)
- 7% Reed Canarygrass (low alkaloid)
- 5% Canada Bluegrass
- 3% Creeping Garrison Foxtail

The plan was to seed this mix into the same field we had Perennial Cereal Rye before. Due to wet field conditions it didn't get seeded until fall. Bob seeded and rolled the field on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008.

Most of the field turned out pretty good, although, on the higher, sandy ground, the forages did not establish well. It was decided to seed some more of the same mix plus some annual ryegrass on that high ground. Kirk Seaborn suggested to use about 1.5 to 2 lbs per acre, and seed half in fall and half in spring.

