

# SEED FOR SMALL ACREAGE & LIMITED EQUIPMENT



## MAKE PERENNIALS THE BASE OF YOUR SYSTEM

*In most cases, perennial grasses should make up the majority of your acreage. Perennials need about 6 months rest from the time of seeding until the first grazing.*

## USE ANNUALS TO SUPPLEMENT PERENNIAL GROWTH AND TO BUILD SOIL

*Worn out pastures are often too poor to support perennials. Use annual crops to supplement perennial growth and as a tool for renovation.*

## SEED AT THE RIGHT TIME

*Cool-season grasses should be seeded September through October and warm-season grasses should be seeded late April through early June. It is OKAY to seed outside of this window- it's just not as ideal.*



## DO NOT OVERGRAZE

*For the health of the livestock and forages, DO NOT OVERGRAZE. Rotate animals when the grasses reach a certain height and leave them off until the grasses grow to a certain height. It will vary depending on the type of grass. In general, let grasses get at least 6-8" tall.*

## SMALL RUMINANTS NEED A LITTLE EXTRA

*The base of your forage program should NOT look dramatically different from a cow- however, they do need more "gusto" in every bite. Add this through legumes and forbs! They pair well with grasses and add that extra energy they need.*

## SET THOSE SEEDS UP FOR SUCCESS

*Broadcast or drill into pasture that has been grazed or mowed down low enough to get seed to soil contact. Fertilize them according to soil tests or by visual analysis. STAY OFF of the pasture until the grasses are the appropriate height.*



# SEEDBED PREPARATION & CONSIDERATIONS



## SEED TO SOIL CONTACT IS EVERYTHING

There are many different ways to get seed in the ground or on top of the soil. Quite frankly, it doesn't matter HOW that happens it just matters that the seed has good, firm seed to soil contact. The first picture on the left illustrates a soil with limited residue- perfect for broadcasting or drilling. This was no-till drilled, but given how little residue is present this could have been broadcasted as well. The middle picture illustrates a "prepared" seed bed when a disk was run across the field to till up the soil, followed by a cultipacker to firm the seed bed. This could be drilled or broadcasted. Notice how they aren't leaving deep boot prints. The third picture on the right shows a field with heavy residue- this was broadcast followed by a shallow disking. Without the shallow disking, this seeding would not have been successful.

# SEED SIZE CONSIDERATIONS



## SEED SIZE MATTERS

When broadcasting, seed size is a huge consideration. The size of the seed is related to how deep in the ground it needs to go and how much water it needs to germinate. Large seeds, like the peas in the Nitro Boost mix above, do not consistently broadcast well. The crimson clover and radish do broadcast very well. The mixture in the middle is perfect for broadcasting! The seeds are relatively small and uniform. Examples of warm seasons that broadcast well: Bermuda, bahia, millet, sudangrass, crabgrass, lespedeza, mixtures like Summer Feast and Summer Solar. Examples of cool seasons that broadcast well: Fescue, orchardgrass, ryegrass, clovers, forbs like chicory and plantain, mixtures like Southern Broadcaster and Entice.