

## Adding Cover Crops to Corn Stover for Improved Grazing

by Todd Higgins, James Caldwell and Kelly Forck

### Research Question: Can Cover Crops Improve the Grazing of Corn Stover on a Commercial Scale?

#### Methods:

- Three 100+ Acre Fields
- Sow Cover Crops and then Graze
- Measure Growth of Animals While on Trial
- Use a Bale of Hay To Differentiate Treatments
- Sow Oats/Turnips and Rye/Crimson Clover Aerially
- Broadcast Wheat/Barley



#### Results

- Calves grazing cover crops gained weight throughout the fall and winter
- Oat/Turnip ADG 2.68 lbs/day
- Rye/Crimson Clover ADG 1.58 lbs/day
- Wheat/Barley ADG 2.34 lbs/day

#### Lessons Learned

- Early Sowing = Early Grazing
- Avoid Water Haul
- Herbicide Carry-over in dry years may be a problem



#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This project was partially funded through a grant from the NRCS