



DESCRIPTION OF THE OPERATION

- ❖ Located in Waterville, NY, on 175 acres.
- ❖ 200 plus ewes.
- ❖ Focus on forage production.
- ❖ Mostly pasture lamb in April, May and June, with run in sheds available.
- ❖ Primarily market a 65 to 75 lb. lamb to local ethnic markets.
- ❖ Approximately 50 acres grazed with 60 acres of hay.



PASTURE DESCRIPTION

- ❖ Divided into several paddocks of varying size.
- ❖ Permanent pastures are seeded to Orchard Grass and Ladino Clover.
- ❖ In process of renovating permanent pastures through rotational plowing/planting.
- ❖ 8 - 10 acres of Brassicas per year as part of the renovation plan.
- ❖ Use of hay fields - after feed.

WHY BRASSICA'S IN THE FORAGE/GRAZING PLAN

- ❖ Needed to extend grazing season to reduce hay usage.
- ❖ Needed to develop a parasite control plan which involved the pasture(s).
- ❖ Better utilize limited acres.
- ❖ Provide improved nutritional forage late in the season.
- ❖ Provide a palatable forage late in the season.



BRASSICA CULTURAL PRACTICES

- ❖ You can utilize a number of different plants: radishes, kale, broccoli, swedes, etc. We use turnips.
- ❖ Plant in mid-August to early September.
- ❖ Plow, disc, and plant-cultipack.
- ❖ Use a mixture of turnip and either oats or rye.
- ❖ Seed turnips at 4 - 6#/acres
- ❖ 50# of a 12% nitrogen analysis.
- ❖ pH of 6.0 - 6.2.
- ❖ Graze at 45 - 60 days or at around 12 inches high.

TURNIP FORAGE NUTRITION

- ❖ University of Wisconsin study.
- ❖ 2 - 4 tons of dry matter/acre.
- ❖ Sheep eat leaves, stems, and roots.
- ❖ Leaves and stems contain approximately 20-25% CP, 60-80% IVDDM, 20% D Fiber.
- ❖ Roots contain: 10-14% XP, 80-85% IVDDM.
- ❖ Feed hay or other forage to compensate for fiber.
I also mix oats/rye to improve DF.

TURNIP VARIETIES

- ❖ Some emphasize leaves and stems over roots.
- ❖ Purple top turnips.
- ❖ Pasja, Berkant - Forage type
- ❖ Forage type oats.
- ❖ Deer mixes.

POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

CULTURAL:

- ❖ Weeds generally not a problem.
- ❖ Flea beetles.
- ❖ Aphids.
- ❖ Fungal Diseases
- ❖ Do not grow/produce as well on clay soils with a drainage problem
- ❖ Deer



POTENTIAL PROBLEMS, CONT'D.

NUTRITIONAL:

- ❖ Fiber
- ❖ Nitrogen Toxicity - do not over fertilize with nitrogen
- ❖ Graze before flowering
- ❖ Avoid breeding when grazing - good for flushing
- ❖ Milk can pickup flavor

LESSONS LEARNED IN MY OPERATION

- ❖ Plant a little later than mid-August
- ❖ Provide hay or other forage and mineral mix.
- ❖ Mix turnips with oats or rye
- ❖ Graze to 5 inches and move for re-growth
- ❖ Divide large fields with temporary fencing to limit waste
- ❖ Approximately 20 ewes/acre depending ?

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS