

# OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION KNOWS HOW TO EXTEND THE GRAZING SEASON WITH WINTER ANNUALS



## SO YOU WANT TO GRAZE LONGER?

*Grazing is more economical than feeding hay. Utilizing stockpiled forage and winter annual forages can help keep animals grazing longer into the cold months of the year in Ohio. A study at the Eastern Agricultural Research Station in Caldwell, OH in 2019 demonstrated the effectiveness of these strategies for sustaining and growing weaned lambs in a grazing system during the months of November and December. The forages tested were stockpiled tall fescue pasture, oats, and turnips.*

## WHAT YOU'LL NEED TO DO:

- Perform a soil test and apply any necessary amendments for the intended crop.
- Buy reliable, proven, quality seed from a reputable source.
- Suppress existing cover with appropriate herbicides, close mowing or grazing, and/or strategic tillage.
- Abstain from planting until conducive weather allows for firm and uniform seedbed.
- Service, calibrate, and test your planting equipment to ensure proper seeding rate and depth.
- Allow forages to grow 40-60 days before grazing events.
- Limit pasture access based on stocking density and forage growth rate to prolong forage availability.
- Always provide free choice fresh water and species-specific mineral.

## REAL RESULTS:

Lamb Growth	Average Daily Gain
Stockpiled Fescue	0.07 lb./day <sup>a</sup>
Oats	0.03 lb./day <sup>a</sup>
Turnips	0.24 lb./day <sup>b</sup>
Forage Growth	Average Dry Matter on Nov. 1
Stockpiled Fescue	3176 lb./ac.
Oats	3032 lb./ac.
Turnips	3081 lb./ac.

<sup>a,b</sup>Means within column with different superscripts statistically differ ( $P < 0.05$ ).

## REAL NUMBERS FROM THIS STUDY:

- Herbicide was applied on August 9, 2019. Forages were drilled into existing cover on August 16, 2019.
- Oats were seeded at 50 lbs. per acre. Turnips were seeded at 3 lbs. per acre. No fertilizer was applied.
- Lambs strip grazed pastures from November 5 to December 31, 2019.

## CONTACT INFORMATION