

North-Central Farm Club Notes

Wednesday July 11, 2018 at the Brouwers

Group Discussion:

Intercropping

- Choices on seeding – what is the best pairing?
 - o Different seed sizes
 - o Similar maturity
 - o Colour variance
 - o Seeding rates – $\frac{3}{4}$ of normal when intercropping
 - o Pick your main crop – other is companion
- Weed control
 - o Natural control
 - o Ground cover
 - o Multi-species plants
- Best Way to Separate
 - o Snowco – screen can be purchased at Flaman's
 - o Spiral cleaner – round seeds
 - o Gjesdal cleaner (Harvey)
 - o Mobile cleaning
 - o Possible for cooperation – cleaning
- Storage
 - o Aeration to bins
 - o Time/labour intense for separation – time

SEE MORE INFO ON INTERCROPPING HERE:

<http://www.pivotandgrow.com/resources/production/intercropping/>

Marketing Small Quantities /Networking small supply (how to bulk)

- Cleaning system – on farm/commercial – small vs large seeds
- Transportation – rail/truck – costs
- Rotation of farmland --- networking with neighbour/home base rotations
- Make website to sell stuff or a coop!
- Organic beef?
- *Missing: who to setup a website so any member can join? Denise!*

You may find this useful in the meantime, the Business to Business Directory:

<http://www.pivotandgrow.com/resources/business-to-business-directory/>

Soil Health

Marketing – mixed crop and cleaning

Networking – Association website

- Tabs with information on website
 - Seed cleaning contacts and sellers – equipment
 - Transportation contacts
 - Small quantities
 - Organic sprayer inputs
 - Buy/sell equipment for sale

Conclusion:

Soil Health Improves with intercropping

Intercropping involves separating of seeds in order to market

Intercropping decreases weed pressure

Wild Oat Control

We checked in with organic expert Brenda Frick of Saskatchewan what she has seen that works on wild oats. Brenda let us know that she has seen a few cases where farmers were able to successfully control their wild oats by cutting them above the crop canopy. What seemed to work best was if the cut was not clean, the more mangled the better. For example, a weed whacker would do a great job because the cut isn't clean. The reason this may be effective could be because since the main stem is not completely severed, the plant still sends energy to the main stem, and not the tillers. When the cut is clean, the energy goes to the tillers. The tillers can then take over, and still set seed.

In terms of timing, if you can mangle up the wild oat no later than the milk stage, you should be able to stop it from setting seed. You may have to go out a second time to get the tillers.

Cutting your wild oats above the crop canopy will not reduce competition for this year's crop, but can help reduce your seed bank.

Let us know if you have any follow up questions!!