



Oechsner Farm -
Attempts at Cultural
Weed Control

Newfield, New York



Cash crops



- Corn – feed, distilling and food grade
- Wheat – SWW, HRW, HRSW
- Rye – milling, distilling and seed
- Buckwheat – mill and seed
- Red clover – seed, baleage and soil building
- Grass mixed hay – horse and cattle markets
- Triticale – feed and malt

Cover crops

Red clover

Annual ryegrass

Forage rape / Forage turnip

Buckwheat

Cereal rye

Winter pea

Some thoughts about crop rotation and weed control

- Diversity of crop species
 - Key to disease and weed control
 - Nutrient demands – try to vary fertility needs of crops
 - Vary tillage and planting dates to keep weeds off balance
- Bare fallow period w/ smother crop to control perennial weeds
- Know thy enemy – study up on weed ecology
- Plant cover crops whenever possible to compete with weeds, build and protect soil
- Mow/till weeds to prevent seed shed (keep soil weed seed bank low)
- Many little hammers approach to weed management



Year 1: Corn

- Heavy feeder
- Plant mid to late May
- Seed annual rye grass after last cultivation
- Provides good clover for seed predators

Second cultivation @ around canopy over – speed up and throw dirt (rocks)



Over seed annual ryegrass @ 15 lbs/acre





Year 2: Buckwheat

- Bare fallow until planting in mid-June to early July
- Very light feeder
- Lines up possible no-till
- Acts as a smother crop
- Control of tough perennial weeds
 - Quackgrass
 - Bindweed
 - Canadian thistle





No-till rye in clean fields @ 2.5-3.0 bu/acre







Year 3: Winter grain

- Rye (No-till) on clean fields
- Medium feeder
- HRW/SWW on weedy fields
- Heavy feeder
- Seed early October
- Frost seed red clover

A photograph showing a field of young red clover plants. The plants are arranged in distinct, parallel rows, spaced evenly across the field. The ground between the rows is covered with dark, decomposing organic matter, likely straw or wood chips, which serves as mulch. The plants themselves are a vibrant green color, indicating they are in the early stages of growth. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day, and the overall scene is a typical agricultural setting for a cover crop or pasture establishment.

Frost seed red clover @ 18 lbs/acre





Year 4-5: Red clover

- Established by frost seeding in March into winter grain from the previous year
- Break-up plow pan
- Lets soil rest
- Fixes nitrogen
- Can stay in one to two years
- Harvest year one
- Mow and leave on field to build soil year two

First cutting baled and wrapped @ 10-20% bloom



Second growth baled or swathed and combined for seed in early fall



Yields about 100-250 lbs/ acre





Year 6: Spring wheat

- Seed in late March/early April
- Clover plow down
- Heavy feeder

- Also allows time for summer tillage and/or cover crop seeding after harvest in July
- Buckwheat or cover crop cocktails
- Allows for timely planting of winter grain







Chisel plow with 22 inch ridge-till sweeps
For late summer CC planting and weed control



5 inch overlap



15 inches on center





min-till plant into tilled stubble





Year 7: Winter grain

- HRW, SWW or Rye
- Medium or heavy feeder
- Seed mid-late September
- Frost seed red clover

Back to corn

