

A large flock of sheep, including white, brown, and black varieties, is gathered in a field of dry, yellowish grass. The sheep are densely packed, filling most of the frame. In the background, there are several bare trees and a clear sky, suggesting a late autumn or winter setting. The lighting is bright, casting soft shadows on the ground.

# **Tracks, Hacks and More Greenbacks**

**A Few Things I've Learned Along the Way**







# Grazing Winter Cover Crops





# Details

- **What we graze**
- **When we graze**
- **How we graze**
- **Why we graze**
- **Where we graze**
- **Obstacles**



# Fencing











**Solar Charger Setup**



What about winter?





A photograph of a lush green field of grass, likely a pasture or meadow. The grass is dense and vibrant green, with some lighter green areas interspersed. The text "Grazing Summer Annuals" is overlaid in a bold, black, sans-serif font at the bottom center of the image.

**Grazing Summer Annuals**



7-21-23





8-17-23





# What about compaction?





# John Deere 9670 Combine

- Machine Weight = 32,660 lb
- Rear Tires – 750/65R26 (2)      Plate (inches sq.) – 467
- Front Tires – 520/85R42 (4)      Plate (inches sq.) – 440
- 250 Bu. Grain tank x 60 lbs/bu. = 15,000 lbs
- JD 630FD = 7,069 lbs
  
- Total Wt.= 54,729 lbs./2,694 sq. in. of plate = 20.32 lbs/sq. inch



# John Deere 8130 Tractor

- Machine Weight – 27,000 lbs
- Rear Tires – 480/80R46 (4) Plate (inches sq.) - 370
- Front Tires – 420/90R30 (2) Plate (inches sq.) - 240

# J&M 1000 Grain Cart

- Cart Weight – 14,078 lbs
- 1000 bu. X 60 lbs/bu. = 60,000 lbs
- Tires – IF900/65R32CFO Plate (inches sq.) – 643

Total Wt.= 101,078 lbs/3246 sq. in. plate = 31.14 lbs/sq. inch



# The Golden Hoof

## Sheep

- Sheep foot = 2"x1.5"
- 3" sq. x 4 feet =  
12 sq. in.
- 125# ewe  
12 sq. in
- 10.42 lbs/sq. in.

## Cattle

- Cow foot = 4"x4.5"
- 18" sq. x 4 feet =  
72 sq. in.
- 1250# cow  
72 sq. in.
- 17.36 lbs/sq. in.



A large flock of sheep of various colors (white, brown, spotted) is grazing in a grassy field. A white dog is visible in the background, standing and looking towards the camera. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

# Extending the Grazing Season



# Residue Management

- Takes grass to grow grass
- Important to keep solar panel growing and collecting sunlight for as many days per year possible
- Important for C4 plants going into fall and C3 plants going into winter (root reserves)
- Adequate residue captures rain, reduces evaporation, maintains proper soil temperature
- Residue feeds to soil microbes which feed the grass
- Stockpile whole farm rather than portion of farm































# Graze crop residues

- Graze corn stubble immediately after harvest before stalks deteriorate or winter mud arrives
- Single strand electric fence is easy and cheap to build and take down
- Can provide cheap feed for a couple months in the fall as grass grows for winter grazing
- Cover crops grown in the corn before harvest can provide a lot of feed















# Proper Allocation

- Temporary fencing
  - Polywire and step-in posts
- Cows eat with 5 mouths
- Short graze breaks (1-3 days)
- Cheaper than starting a tractor and feeding hay



# Flexible Stocking Rate

- Stock for winter carrying capacity
  - Smallest, resident herd/flock when feed supply is least
- Use others' animals to graze extra forage
- Custom grazing
- Carry calves over for spring lush







# Feed Hay in September?





# Feed Hay in September/October

- Allows grass to grow and stockpile for winter use
- Cows are not eating as much hay due to warm weather so less hay is required
- Nutrient requirements are not as high as in cold weather
- Higher quality stockpile available later when needed requiring less supplementation
- Feeding hay when the ground is firm and not muddy
- Pick a paddock that needs fertility and feed hay on it
- Gives CSG a chance to build root reserves before winter



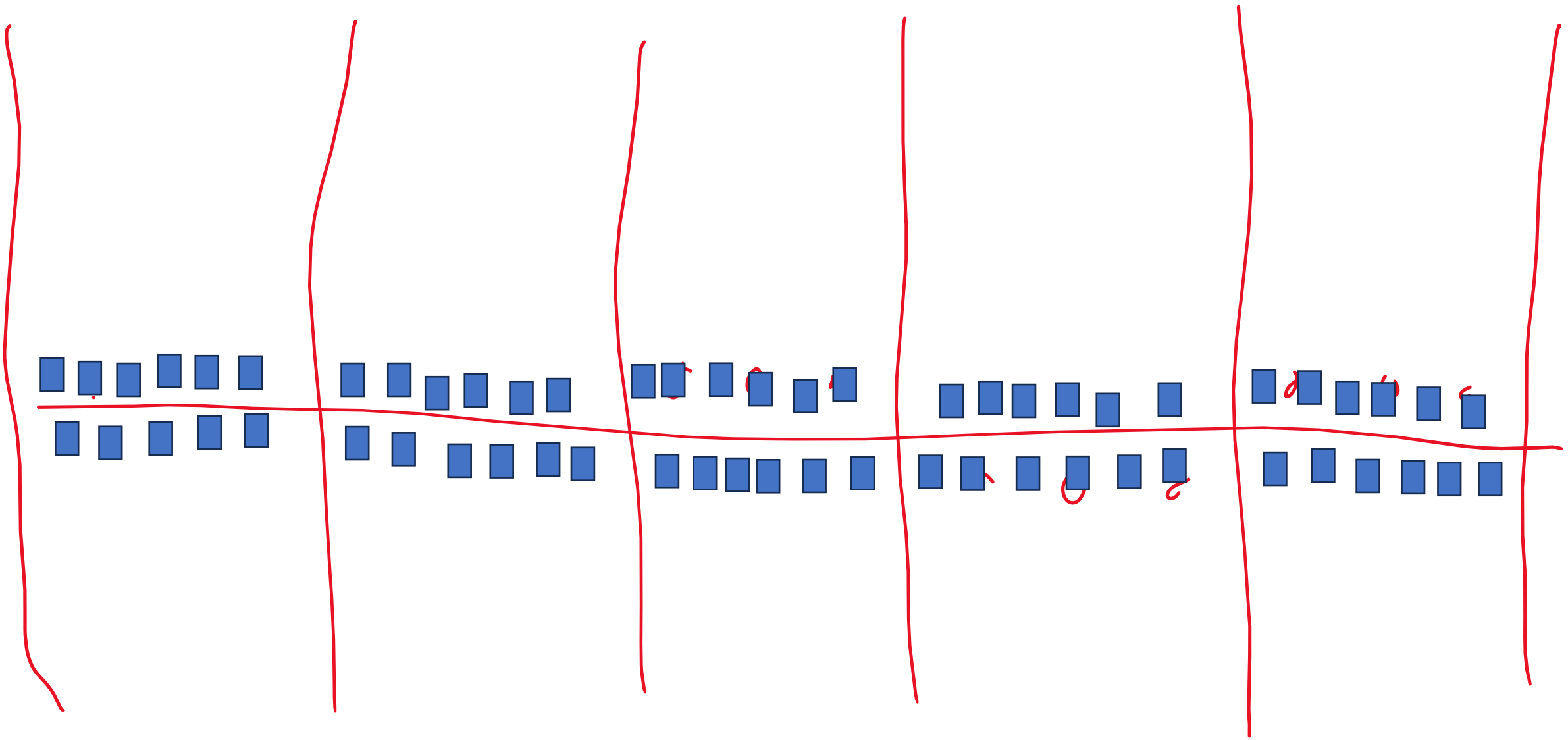




# Space bale feeding

- Place bales where you want to feed them on pasture in warm, dry weather
- Protect with polywire when grazing the paddock
- Place on single paddock or a few in different paddocks to reduce mud
- Unroll, use bale rings or just allocate a certain number of bales at a time
- Reduces starting tractor in cold weather and driving in muddy conditions







A herd of light brown cows is shown from behind, standing in a line in an open field. The sky is filled with white and grey clouds. The cows have long, thin tails and are looking towards the left. The ground is dark and appears to be dirt or mud.

# The End

# Questions?