



# Grazing Trical Products

## TRICAL® TRITICALE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

### **Grazing Application:**

- TRICAL® triticale grazing programs are typically a late fall, winter and early spring system.
- After the cash crop is harvested, TRICAL® triticale can be planted as early as mid July. In the heat of the summer it usually takes at least 45 days to establish the triticale with an adequate secondary root system.
- TRICAL® winter forages are usually prostrate in their early growth habit, covering the ground quickly and growing more tillers. Stem elongation does not occur until vernalization or over wintering.
- Fall grazing must be restricted to approximately two animal heads per acre per day as the plants are growing slowly. Once they break dormancy in the spring, head numbers can be increased to five or six head of five weight animals per acre per day. Typical rates of gain will be in the area of 2.5 pounds of gain per head per day. This can be sustained for up to 90 days with adequate management.

### **Grazing Tips, Optimizing grazing productivity is contingent on several things:**

- Researching variety characteristics and stand establishment are critical.
- Using a straight winter type of product like TRICAL® 102, or a blended product like TRICAL® 102 and 2700 together can impact productivity. The blended product will add a boost in fall grazing as the spring growth habit of the TRICAL® 2700 will continue to grow rapidly until winter frosts begins. In mild winters the spring Triticale product will survive and add grazing material again in the spring.
- Adequate plant nutrition is crucial to maximizing productivity.
- Periodic fertilizer applications, as necessary, will aid forage productivity.
- Rotation grazing with back fencing provides excellent results. Grazing pasture with large numbers of animals for shorter periods of time and then moving them to new regenerated areas is recommended.
- Tissue testing of the leaves will provide an accurate measurement of fertility needs as will periodic soil sampling. This also allows the manager to time fertilizer applications and grazing periods to avoid nitrate toxicity. This is easily avoided by waiting until the plants grow more biomass thereby diluting out the effects of too much nitrogen. This usually only takes a few days.
- **Always test for nitrates before feeding.**

### **Grazing successfully:**

- A commonly under-utilized approach to grazing is to plant winter triticale in the spring. Without a vernalization period the winter Triticale does not elongate its stem, or enter the reproductive stage of growth. It only puts on more tillers. Consequently with proper fertility and water and a little bit more management a producer can realistically graze triticale all spring, all summer and fall.
- If the plants are left in a healthy state going into winter, they will vernalize and produce even more vigorous grazing or a great hay crop in May. The hay crop typically produces about four to six tons per acre. Management of this grazing system requires moving the animals frequently so the pasture will have adequate time to regenerate.