

GRAFTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
3855 Dartmouth College Highway
North Haverhill, NH 03774
January 9, 2018

PRESENT: Commissioners Lauer, Ahern and Piper, County Administrator Libby, Admin. Asst. Norcross.

OTHERS PRESENT: GC Conservation- Pam Gilbert, Donnie Kimball, FM & Heather Bryant, UNH Coop Extension, County Attorney Saffo, Nursing Home Administrator Labore

Commissioner Lauer called the meeting to order at 9:00am and began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pam Gilbert, Heather Bryant and FM Kimball arrived to discuss the covered crop demonstration project. They handed out and discussed the attached presentation with the Commissioners.

FM Kimball arrived and gave the following report:

- 1) Milking 76 cows, shipping 6,250 lbs. daily, averaging 82 per cow.
- 2) Price of milk is 19.04 staying up.
- 3) Ben has been on 2 weeks' vacation. He will be back Saturday.
- 4) Been a rough time with cold weather but getting by.

FM Kimball stated that he was told the Commissioners were discussing an Open Barn Day this year and they need to set a date. After a discussion, everyone was in agreement to set a date of June 16th from 10:00am – 2:00pm. FM Kimball stated that they need to act soon on this and start planning to make sure vendors are available. They discussed dates for an Open Barn Day Committee meeting and all agreed to meet January 16th at 1:00pm.

Atty. Saffo arrived and apologized for not having a written monthly report as she has been working diligently on Northern Pass. She stated that she would email the Commissioners her statistics and answer and questions they have. She noted that they have a new attorney who will be starting January 21st. Atty. Saffo stated that they are hoping to have this new attorney take some of the work load from the Plymouth area off of Atty. Fitzgerald.

9:55 AM Commissioner Ahern moved to temporarily adjourn this meeting for the purpose of consulting legal counsel. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Commissioner Lauer stated that they will now adjourn this public meeting for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel. The public must leave the meeting room and the door will be closed.

10:15 AM Commissioner Lauer reconvened the meeting.

Commissioner Lauer asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from the January 2nd meeting. Commissioner Piper and Commissioner Lauer had edits.

Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the minutes from the January 2nd meeting as amended. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The Commissioners signed check registers 1107; 1110 & 1111.

Nursing Home Administrator Labore arrived and gave the following report:

Grafton County Nursing Home
Commissioner's Report
January 09, 2018

Census:

Medicare: 5
Medicaid: 95
Private: 29
Total: 129

Year-To-Date Numbers:

<u>2017 Totals</u>	<u>2018</u>
Admissions (YTD) 69	Admissions 2
Deaths (YTD) 53	Deaths 1
Discharges (YTD) 18	Discharges 0

Other Topics:

- 1) Write off Request – NHA Labore handed out a list of three (3) write off requests totaling \$1,889.67. He explained that one of the write offs was a Medicare denial due to a certification not being signed by a physician. Commissioner Ahern asked who was responsible for making sure that paperwork is signed off on. NHA Labore stated that ultimately, he is responsible for making sure all the paperwork is signed and he takes responsibility for that oversight. Commissioner Ahern asked who under NHA Labore is responsible for making sure that paperwork is signed. NHA Labore stated that the nursing department and business departments review these forms as well but he is ultimately responsible for it and unfortunately there was an error that happened.

Commissioner Ahern moved to write off \$1,889.67 as requested by NHA Labore. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Commissioner Ahern stated that he hopes a process has been put in place to ensure that this oversight does not happen again. NHA Labore stated that they have since put a system in place.

The Commissioners voted on the motion and all were in favor.

- 2) January 19th Elder Forum – Alice Peck Day – NHA Labore stated that he has been asked by former Representative Harding to speak at this forum. He noted that he had attended one a couple of years ago to talk about county nursing homes dealing with the challenges within the State of New Hampshire and things that are unique to them that their colleagues on the private side do not have to deal with. He stated that he has been asked to return and give an update on the work they have been doing with the Department of Health and Human Services and studying the long-term services and support within the state.
- 3) SNF Payment Final Rule – October 18th
 - a. Quality Reporting Program – NHA Labore explained that for the past couple of years they have been living under the Quality Reporting Program. This is part of the requirements under the Affordable Care Act. Skilled Nursing Facilities have had to report on specific measures for each resident under the minimum data set. They had to report on three (3) specific measures. The three (3) areas were considered voluntary reporting but if you did not report you would lose 2% of your reimbursement from Medicare. The three (3) measures were as follows: percentage of residents with one (1) or more falls with a major injury; percentage of residents with pressure ulcers that are new or worsened and the third NHA Labore stated that they have not formally begun to calculate is the percentage of residents with an admission or discharge functional assessment. He explained that percentage-wise Grafton County is well within the accepted range of what CMS is looking for in Skilled Nursing Facilities. There have been no decreases in reimbursements. The Nursing Home has been doing their reporting as required since October of 2016. NHA Labore stated that beginning in October 2018 CMS is adding another measure into the mix. He explained that effective October 1st of this year, instead of getting a decrease in the percent for not reporting, CMS is going to decrease the percentage automatically and the nursing facilities will have to earn it back. He stated that continuing to go through the reporting process will allow them to get the 2% reimbursement.
- 4) Request for Non – Public Session

* 10:40 AM – Commissioner Ahern moved to enter into non-public session for the purposes of matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to

pay or poverty of the applicant according to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) Commissioner Piper seconded the motion. This motion requires a roll call vote, Commissioner Lauer called the roll. Commissioner Lauer "yes"; Commissioner Ahern "yes"; Commissioner Piper "yes" Commissioner Lauer stated that a majority of the board voted "yes" and would now go into non-public session.

*11:07 AM Commissioner Lauer declared the meeting back in public session.

Commissioner Ahern moved to permanently seal the minutes from the just completed non-public session because they could affect the reputation of someone other than those of the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Commissioner Ahern stated he had a discussion with one of the new administrators at Rivier College regarding the need for LNAs and Nurses at the Grafton County Nursing Home. He stated that the administrator will get in touch with him regarding having nurses come up to Grafton County and he will have the administrator get in touch with NHA Labore.

CA Libby submitted the Superior Court Report for the month of Decembers for the Commissioners to review.

CA Libby handed out a list of Appropriation Transfers totaling \$90,494.00 for the Commissioners approval. She discussed each of the transfers with the Commissioners and answered questions.

Commissioner Ahern moved to approve the appropriation transfers as requested by the County Administrator. Commissioner Piper seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Commissioner Lauer opened bids for the sale of the Corrections Van. Two (2) bids were received as follows:

Bayridge Motors – \$ 1,835.00

Richard Woosley – \$ 2,222.00

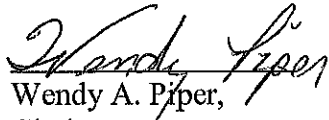
Commissioner Piper moved to accept the bid from Richard Woosley in the amount of \$2,222.00. Commissioner Ahern seconded the motion and all were in favor.

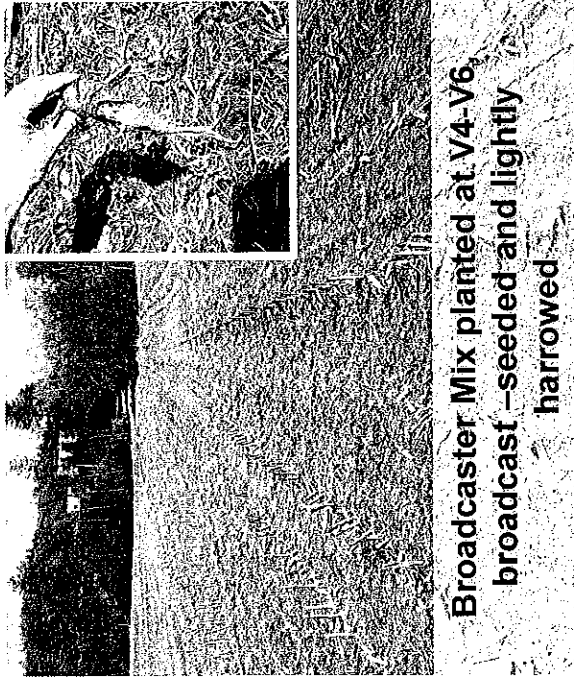
CA Libby noted that they are not seeing very good things with health insurance. She explained that because of the county's high claims experience they have been declined from almost everyone who they have asked quotes from. She stated that it looks like they will have to look at a risk pool which is where the county would be pooled with other groups across the state. Those risk pool providers are Health Trust, Cigna School Care and New Hampshire Interlocal Trust. She went on to state that it may make more sense to use a higher number for the budget

preparations because it is looking like they will more than likely not see rates less than 35%. She stated that she feels they should use 30% as a budgetary number. CA Libby noted that they have not received the claims for the last four (4) months of the year and she is hoping that their claims experience will get better once those claims come in.

11:25 AM with no further business the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,


Wendy A. Piper,
Clerk



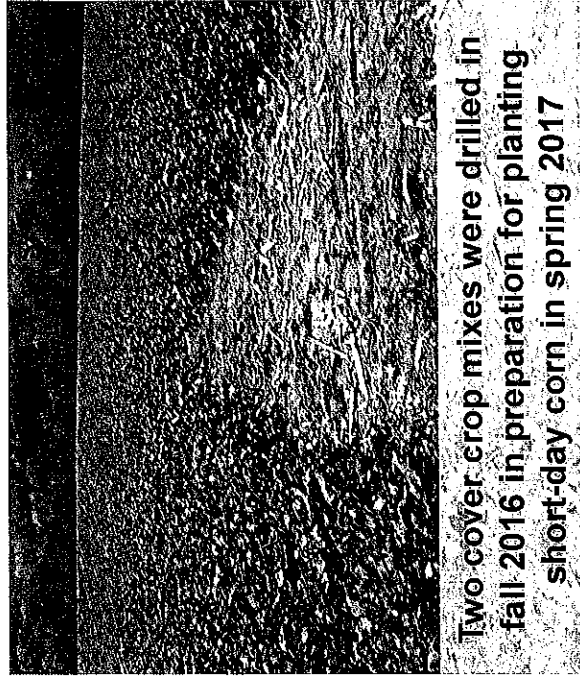
Broadcaster Mix planted at V4-V6
broadcast -seeded and lightly
harrowed



Broadcaster Mix planted at V4-V6,
aerial -seeded

**GRAFTON COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
19 ARCHERTOWN ROAD
ORFORD, NH 03777**

Grafton County Farm Cover Crop Demonstration Project



Two cover crop mixes were drilled in
fall 2016 in preparation for planting
short-day corn in spring 2017

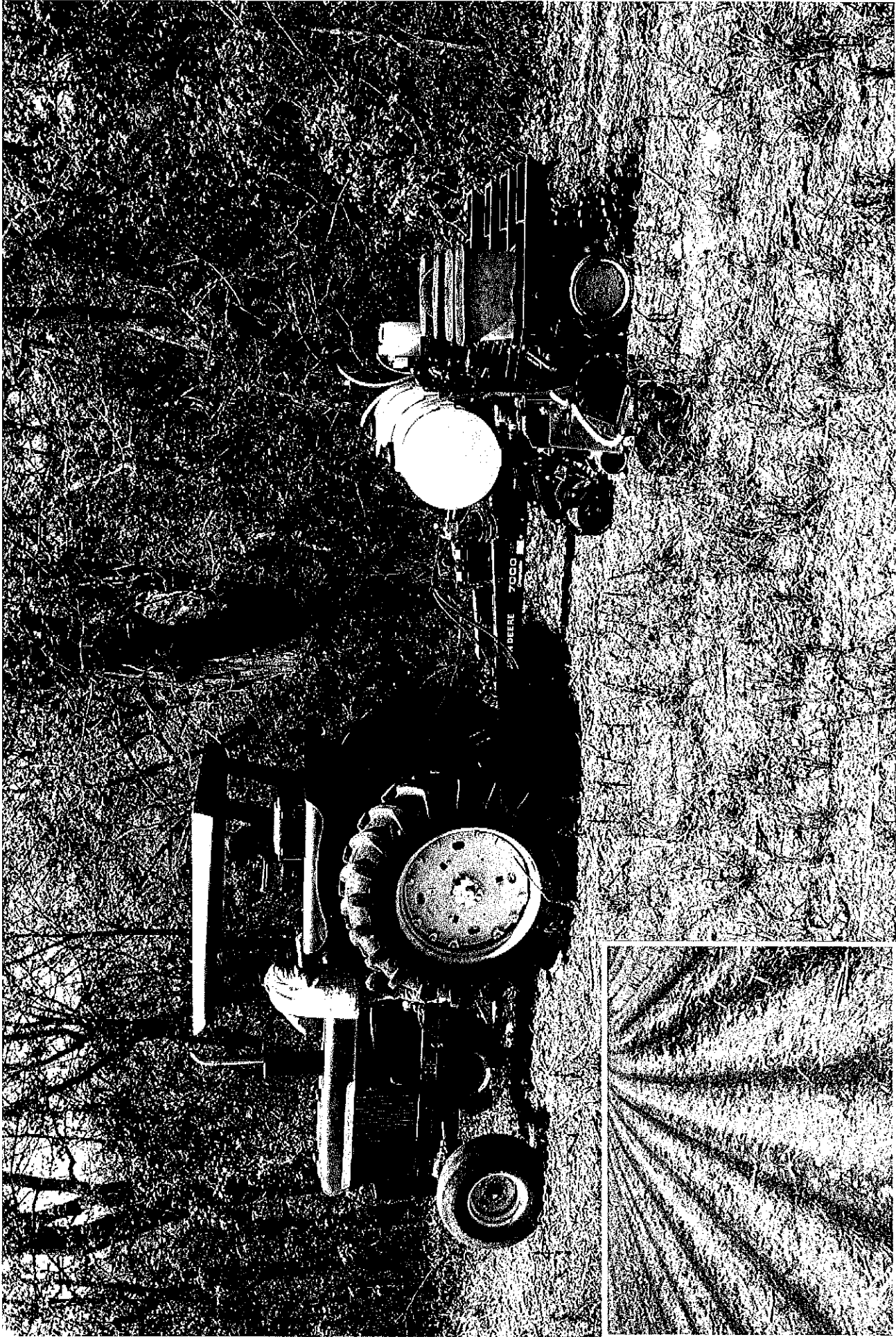


Winter rye control in spring 2017,
drilled fall 2016

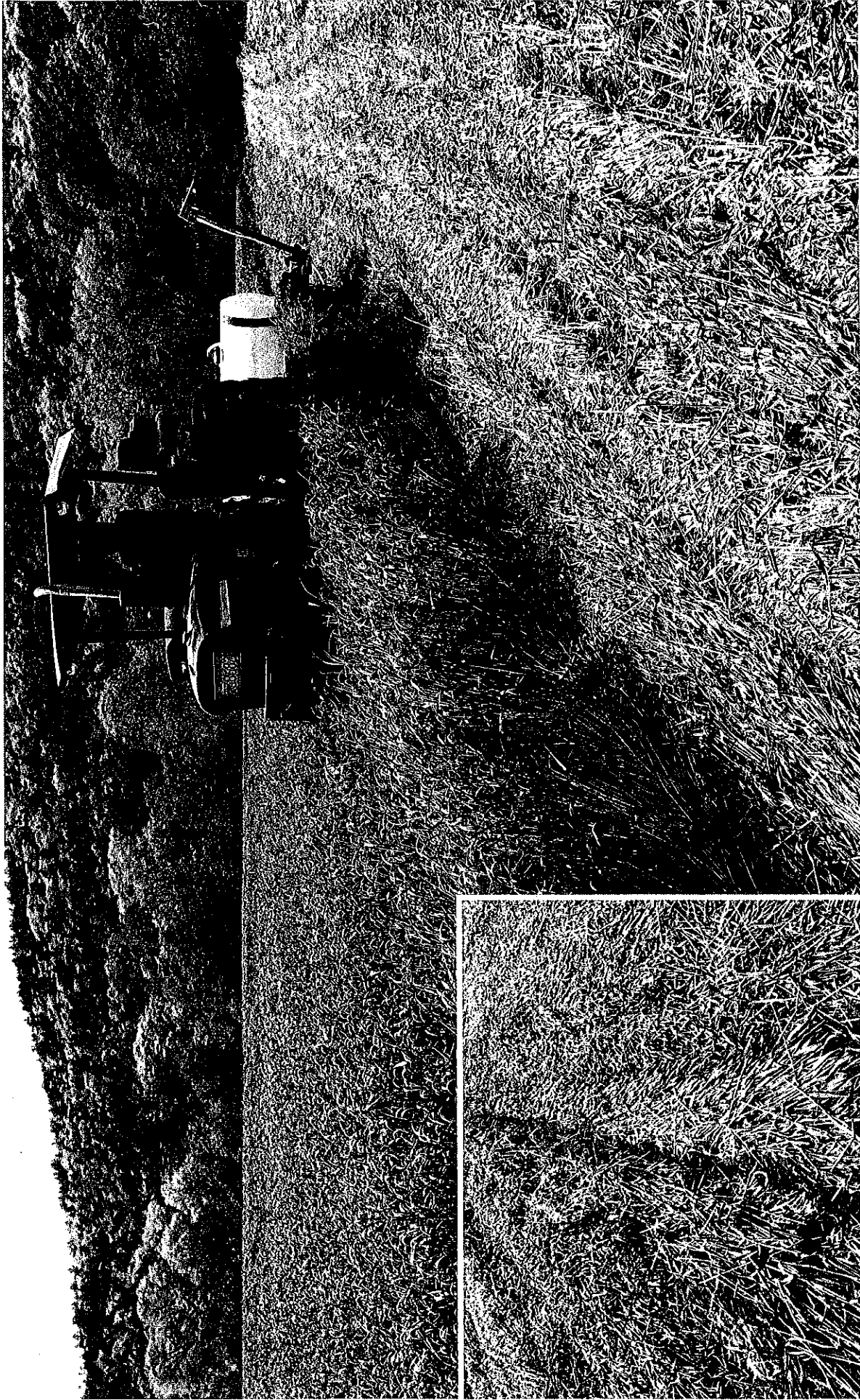
In 2016 several cover
crop mixes were
planted at the Grafton
County Farm, using
different planting
dates, and planting
methods.

The project is a GCCD/NHACD demonstration project, with NRCS and
UNH CE advising.





An 86-day corn was planted with a no-till crimper planter. This area was aerial-seeded in 2016 when the corn was at stage V4-V6. The cover crop was sparse.



The control winter rye was dense and tall, and it was a challenge to see the foam row-markers at times, but the planter performed well.



(0)1008846437043 (0)474-5392



By WINFIELD HYBRID CORN SEED

SEED SIZE: CPF-B9

LOT 47465392 CANADA HEAT UNITS: NA RELATIVE MATURITY: 85 DAY DATE KIND: FIELD CORN PURITY ORIGIN GERM TESTED VARIETY: A1005628 99% IN 95 1-17 INERT MATTER: 0.4% WEED SEED: 0.0% OTHER CROP SEED: 0.6% NOXIOUS WEEDS/LB: NONE TREATMENT: Z, V, A, T, P, Z



Winfield Solutions, LLC PO Box 64589 St. Paul, MN 55164-0589



After the corn was planted, the cover crops were terminated with:

- Atrazine - residual grass/weed control
• Cornerstone (Glyphosate) - burndown
• Capreno - burndown + residual grass/weed control



Remit to: 205 East Street - Lyndonville, Vermont 05851 Ph: (802) 869-3351 - Fax: (802) 869-3450 Lyndonville, VT 05851

Grafton County Farm 3855 Dartmouth College Highway Box 1 North Havenhill, NH 03774

Invoice 85141 Invoice Date 05/13/2017 Due Date 05/28/2017 Customer ID 207001 Salesperson Jim Choiniere Shipping Loc Lyndon Acres 16 Tractor(s) 12851

Table with columns: Quantity, Description, Unit Price, Total \$

Handwritten note: 7100: 760 P.K. 6-5 Non Till corn Sprayed

Sub Total 879.13 Amount Due 879.13

Remit To: Northeast Agricultural Sales Inc. PO Box 5 205 East Street Lyndonville VT 05861

Invoice 85141



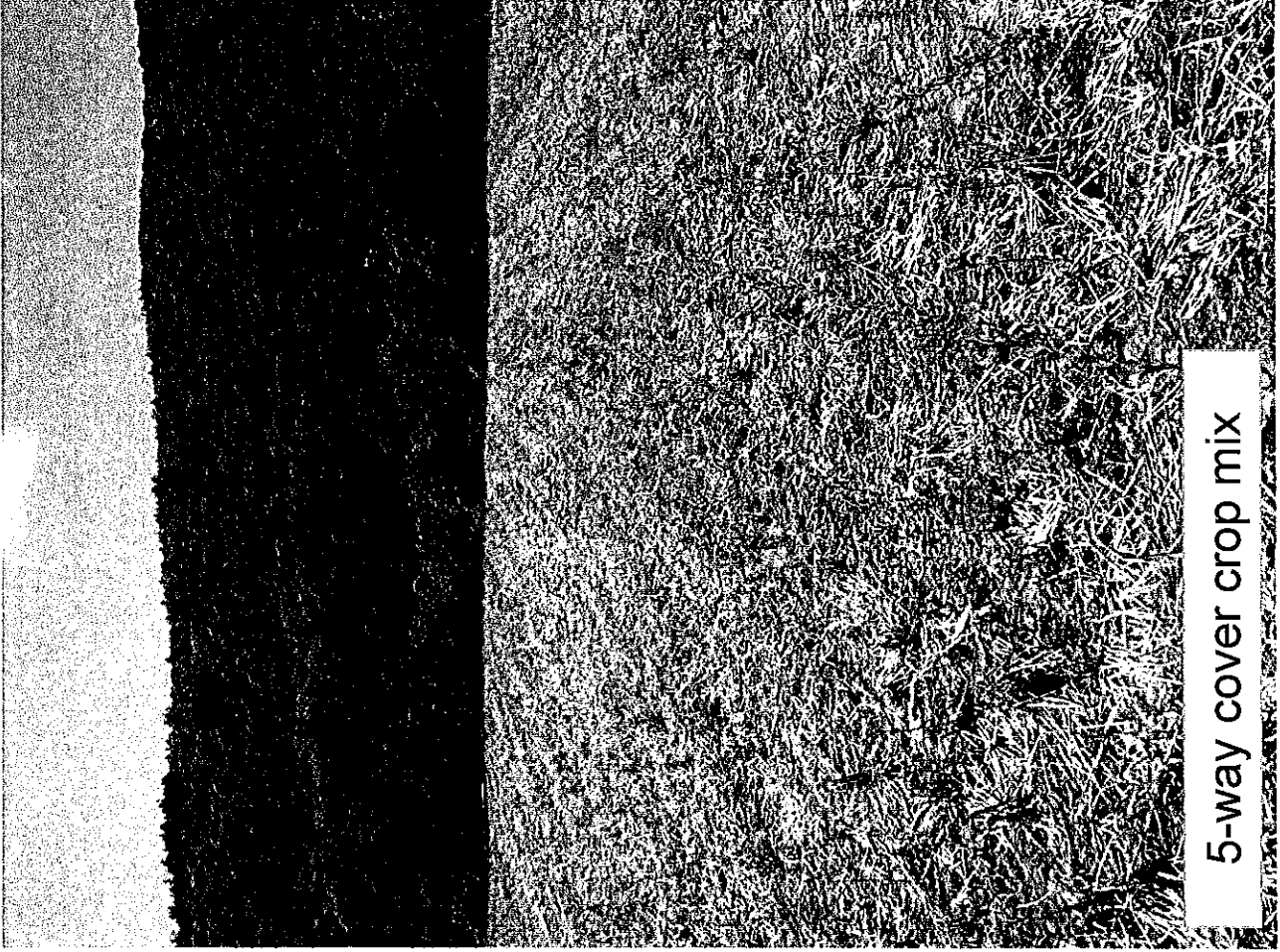
TREATED SEED... COIL FEEDBACK... V. Bionascide... PZ. Chlorantraniliprole... B. 1-582 (Poncho)

WARNING TREATED SEED. DO NOT USE FOR FOOD, FEED OR OIL PROCESSING PURPOSES. DO NOT REUSE EMPTY SACKS. STORE AWAY FROM FOOD AND FEEDSTUFFS. DO NOT ALLOW CHILDREN, PETS OR LIVESTOCK TO HAVE ACCESS TO TREATED SEEDS.

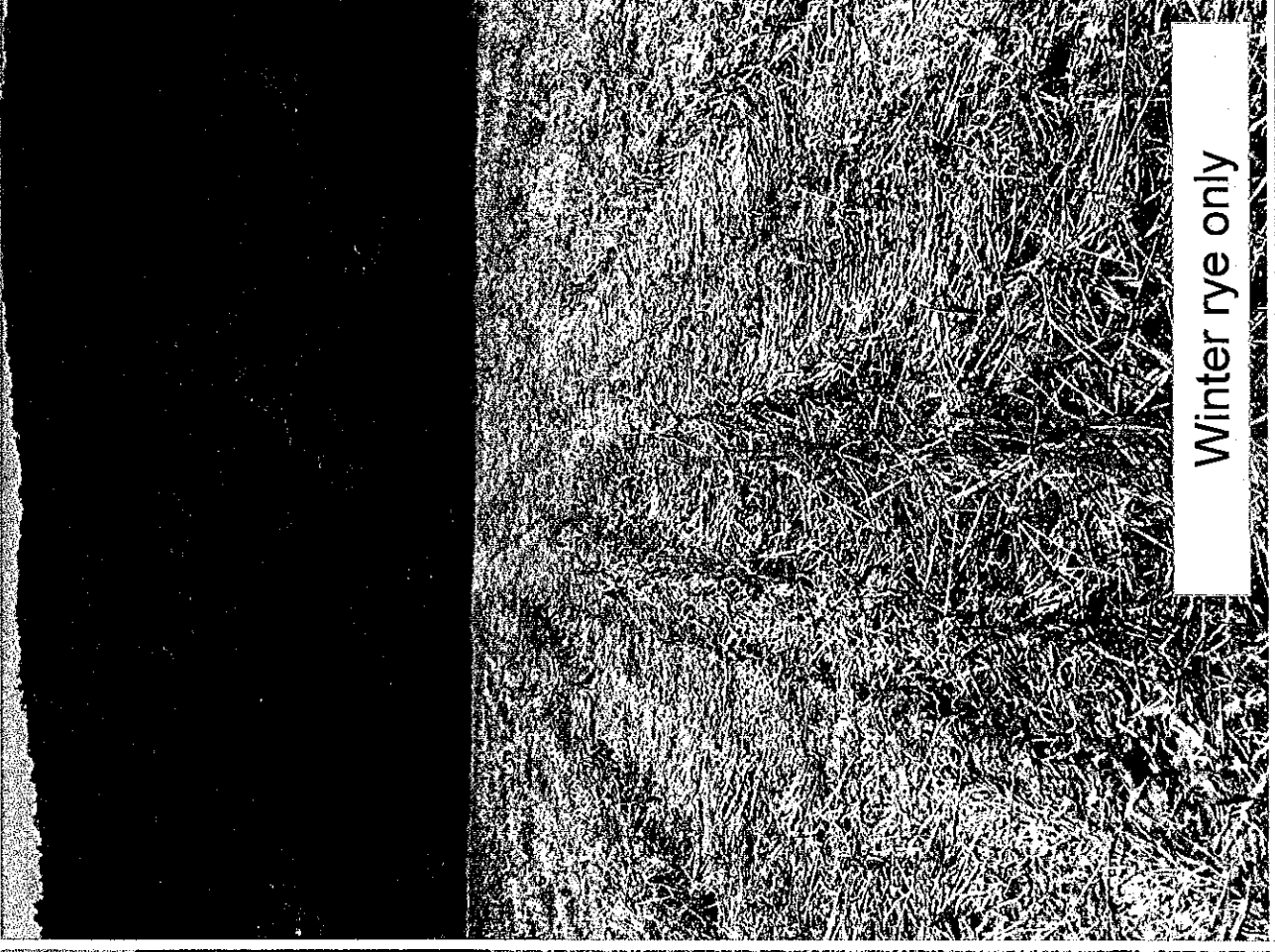
JUST-A-DAY HAZARDOUS WASTE TREATMENT... If on Skin or Clothing: Take off contaminated clothing... If on Skin or Clothing: Take off contaminated clothing... If on Skin or Clothing: Take off contaminated clothing...

PRODUCTION SPECIFIC ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Both QuickBooks and 8400-SAY contain microorganisms... CLOSTRIDIUM TREATMENT: Immediate PlantBacks cereal grains, field corn, popcorn, sweet corn, topseed, sorghum, soybeans, oat and other vegetable...

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5-way cover crop mix



Winter rye only

86-day corn emergence, four weeks after planting with no-till crimper planter.

When Armyworms Come to Town

Dr. Heather Darby & Dr. Sid Bosworth, UVM Extension Agronomists



TRUE ARMYWORM

You hear that armyworms have been spotted in Vermont or surrounding states. What steps should you take? First, don't panic! The best first step is to go out and scout your corn and grass fields for armyworms.

When fall grown, the caterpillars can be almost 1.5 inches long. They are usually greenish or brownish, but can be almost black. The sides and back of the caterpillar have light colored stripes running along the body. Armyworm caterpillars normally feed at night and much damage can occur before they mature. Their preferred foods are grasses including corn, small grains, and forage species. They first strip the leaves and then consume midribs, seed heads and finally stems. They will feed on other plants if grasses are unavailable. Feeding will start on the lower leaves and move upwards. A large population can strip an entire field in just a few days. When the field is eaten they "march" to adjacent fields.

Corn Fields

In corn, armyworms usually confine their feeding to the leaf margins except when populations are very large, and then they consume all the leaves except for the tougher midrib. Feeding starts on the lower leaves and as these leaves are eaten, the armyworms move to the upper leaves. Look for ragged holes and pellet-like droppings in the whorls and scattered on the ground. Larvae do not tunnel into the stalk and they do not feed on the growing point, at least on larger plants.



Armyworm damage in New York

Cornfields that are most susceptible include fields that are either minimum or no-tilled into grass sod or fields infested with grass weeds. Cornfields that have grassy weeds sprayed with a post-emergence herbicide should be closely scouted as the weeds begin to die. Armyworms, if present, will move immediately to the corn. In some fields, armyworms have eaten the young corn nearly to the ground. Many farmers ask if their corn plants can recover from the defoliation. It is recognized that a corn plant can recover from severe degrees of defoliation; the extent of recovery will depend upon the stage of plant growth at the time of damage and the extent of the damage. Generally, crop loss is negligible when defoliation occurs very early in the growth of the plant. The corn crop can recover easily since its growing point remains below ground and there is still potential to produce more leaves. However, as the plants mature the level of recovery will be greatly reduced.

Insecticide applications to control armyworms should be judiciously applied and a decision to control armyworm with an insecticide should be based on crop size or stage, armyworm size, crop damage and anticipated movement of larvae from one field to another. Besides the expense of application, insecticides could also kill natural insect predators that normally control



Early scouting revealed armyworm in the demo trial treatment areas where the cover crop catch was good. Plants were damaged to the mid-rib.



No-till corn w/ winter rye cover crop in foreground. Conventional corn in the background. Straight rye cover crop had the heaviest army worm damage.



Late July, No-till corn w/ winter rye cover crop left, conventional corn on the right

Monitoring the demonstration project thoughts and observations from 2017

Armyworms tend to be most problematic in high residue, no-till plantings—exactly what we're trying with the rolled cover crops. It's the perfect conditions for an outbreak.

We think the wet spring was a contributing factor. Seems likely the cover crop made the field much more palatable to the moths.

Sometimes Bt corn can provide some protection from armyworms, the corn in the trial was just round up ready.

After treatment, the worms were dead and the growing point still just underground, so there's hope it'll recover.

Pigweed was a problem in the cover cropped areas for the harvester, causing delays.

With that knowledge, perhaps including Bt genetics in these green planting trials should be a recommendation where it might not be economically worthwhile in clean tillage.

But it's also worth noting that the corn in the demo was the oldest corn for quite a few acres around that also could have contributed.

That would fit with recommendations made to the County Farm in the past. Generally we don't see the kinds of insects here that Bt would help with.

The Farm Manager had gone down to look once the REI expired and said that he is concerned that he may have to replant.

The lack of crop canopy is a recipe for a weed disaster. Without no-till and the rolled rye, the weeds could have been even worse.



Lessons Learned

- The corn planter with cover crop rollers worked well, corn germinated and grew as planned
- Monitoring for armyworm must be vigilant
- Armyworm treatment (insecticide) must be well timed
- Bt hybrids may be worthwhile in green planting scenarios
- Cover crop mixes had far less armyworm damage – less grassy residue
- Armyworm reduced yield, so unable to tell:
 - No-till vs. Plowed
 - Short-Day Corn vs. Long-day Corn



Wildlife Habitat Management Workshop

Part 1 Indoors

Part 2 Outdoors

Farm to School, Rocks Estate

Hatchland Open Barn

North Haverhill Fair

Pollinator Tour

North Country Fruit and Vegetable Seminar

