

RECIPE CORNER

Slow Cooker Pizza Casserole

by Kari Carlson

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound ground beef
- ½ pound Italian sausage
- 1 (8 ounce) package sliced pepperoni
- 1 (8 ounce) package rigatoni pasta
- 1 (16 ounce) package shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 can tomato soup
- 2 jars pizza sauce
- Diced green pepper (optional)
- Diced Onion (optional)

DIRECTIONS

1. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add pasta and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente; drain and set aside.
2. Brown the ground beef and Italian sausage. Drain off grease.
3. Combine ground beef, Italian sausage, pepperoni, soup and pizza sauce (optional green peppers and onions).
4. In a slow cooker, alternate layers of noodles, the above mixture and cheese.
5. Cook on Low setting for 4 hours.

WORD SEARCH



ABEAM
ADORED
AGREEABLE
AIRY
BLISS
BONNY
CANTY
CAREFREE
CHEERFUL
CHIPPER
DEBONAIR
EAGER
ECSTATIC
ELATED
EXULTANT
FELICITOUS
FUNNY
GIDDY
GLAD
GLEEFUL
GUSTO
HAPPY
HEARTY

HIGH
IDEAL
KEEN
LAUGHS
LIGHT
LIVELY
LOVE
LUCKY
MERRY
MIRTHFUL
NEAT
OKAY
PALMY
PERT
PLEASED
REJOICED
SMILES
SPARKLING
SUNNY
VIBRANT
VIVACIOUS
WILD



PRODUCING FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

I-80 Farms

8647 Hwy F48 W • Colfax, IA 50054
T: 515-674-9682 • F: 515-674-3564

www.i80farms.com

WILLIAM J. TALSMA
President
515-975-6065
william@i80farms.com

DAVID W. TALSMA
Vice President Operations
515-975-6064
david@i80farms.com

MICHAEL J. HORAN
Manager Business Development
712-830-6895
michael@i80farms.com

ELDEN J. VAN ZEE
Manager Operations
641-521-1531
elden@i80farms.com

GEORGANNE TALSMA
Office Manager
641-521-4670
georganne@i80farms.com

KARI CARLSON
Office Administrator
515-210-4733
Kari@i80farms.com

MARK CLYMER
Operator
515-971-7844

MARK HUSSON
Operator
641-521-9338

JOEL BRANDERHORST
Operator
641-521-8236

I-80 Farms Vision Statement

To produce quality crops through a profitable farm operation which will help sustain world demand for environmentally safe food and fuel. This will be accomplished by intelligent risk management, effective marketing strategies and overall great leadership. The foundation supporting our overall vision is formed by our strong family values and reputation for honesty, hard work and integrity.

We strive to remain a profitable, growing operation that will produce quality crops to fulfill world demand, using environmentally sound practices.

The I-80 Informer

Volume 4, Issue 1

Spring 2013

Cover Crops

by David Talsma,

Cover crops are a form of vegetation that covers the soil surface during the off season when no crops are growing. There are several different types of grasses or legumes that can be grown as cover crops; winter rye, radishes, turnips, clover or a mixture of these, are a few examples.

It is best to seed them, as soon as possible, after the main crop is removed, to get maximum fall growth. In Central Iowa we are limited to mainly winter rye because of the short growing season in the fall. Frost will kill a lot of the broad leaf plants off before they get much growth. Rye will survive the winter and resume growing again in the spring.

The purpose of a cover crop is to hold the soil and nutrients in place during the winter and spring months until the newly seeded crops get established. The canopy on the surface protects the soil from water and wind erosion. The roots below ground take in the nutrients and hold them until the crop can use them later. This slows down the leaching of nutrients. The cover crop is killed off in the spring by spraying Roundup on it. The roots die and rot, enabling the newly planted crop to find these channels. The roots of the newly planted crop grow easier and faster. Also, as the roots rot, water will percolate into the soil instead of running down a hill. The roots of the cover crops also reduce soil compaction as they grow and then dissolve back into the soil after they die. This also helps increase organic matter. The dead vegetation on the surface continues to protect the soil from erosion.

The practice of using cover crops for wind erosion is taking off fast in states like Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and the Dakotas. States like Iowa, Missouri and Minnesota are more likely to use cover crops to reduce erosion from water run-off.

Some of the other benefits of using cover crops are that they keep nutrients from leaching out of the root zone for newly seeded spring crops. They also hold down or suppress the population of weeds, especially the winter annuals.

Agronomists think there may also be a yield advantage to planting cover crops. This would be beneficial in offsetting the added expenses in getting the cover crops established. We are experimenting with this and have used cover crops on some of our acres the last few years. Every year we do a little more. This year we have check strips to see if there is a difference in yield. We are also working with some local agronomists on the fertility benefits.

I-80 Farms started using cover crops twenty-five or thirty years ago on the Boot-Heimstra farm by Monroe, IA after removing the corn crop for silage.

We used to seed the cover crops by air, but we have found that we get much better stands if we seed with a grain drill.

As far as soil erosion control, it really works!



Winter rye



8647 Hwy F48 W
Colfax, IA 50054



Mud Run

by Kari Carlson, Office Administrator

The first-ever "More than Conquerors" Mud Run was held at I-80 Farms on Saturday, November 10th. The event was sponsored by The Newton Church of the Way along with area churches, including Third Reformed Church in Pella and Community Heights Alliance Church. Based on the popular Warrior

Dash, the Mud Run challenged participants in 3.5 miles of dirty fun! Over 80 participants faced obstacles throughout the event such as climbing over hay bales, leaping over fire and crawling under barbed wire. Runners also rappelled down an embankment into Indian Creek.



Able to leap fire in a single bound!



Forging through the Indian Creek!



Conquering the mighty hay bales!

New Storage Building

Construction of the new building that will be used to store various equipment that was previously stored outside.



Reflecting Back on 2012

by William Talsma

Reflecting back on 2012, it was quite a year. After and during one of the driest and hottest springs and summers on record, we still managed to harvest a respectable corn crop and an average bean crop under draught conditions. We were very fortunate compared to the majority of the Midwest. Because of the dry, hot season, harvest began much earlier than normal. We started combining the third week of August. It is only the second time in 33 years that we started harvesting in August. The last time we harvested a crop in August was during the 1988 draught. Since we started early, we finished around the 20th of October; early for a typical harvest year. The corn yields varied greatly, anywhere from 100 bushel/acre to 200 bushel/acre (Field averages). It was not unusual to see the yield monitor vary from 0 to 220 bushel/acre across one pass on a field.

Several factors came into play for the resulting yields. The number one factor was isolated rain showers. This could affect the yield from one end of a field to the other end, depending on which end received the isolated shower. The second factor was crop rotation. Corn following soybeans was 20 to 30 bushels greater than corn following corn. The quality of the soil is always a factor, but this year it was an even greater factor, given the weather conditions.

The quality of the grain was very good. Because of the drier conditions, less LP was required to dry the grain.

We were very thankful that we had crop insurance. This helped to fill the voids where we ended up with a short crop.

The harvest went smooth, with just a few rain delays. We started applying fertilizer (phosphate and potassium) as soon as we started harvesting. We added sulfur with the fertilizer this year. The reason

we apply sulfur is because the soils are depleted of this micro nutrient due to the modern coal fired power plants that now have scrubbers on them to remove the sulfur. This eliminates acid rain, which has supplied the required micro nutrient to the soil in years past.

All fall tillage was completed for fields that will be corn in 2013. In late October when ground temperature dropped to below 50 degrees, anhydrous ammonia was applied.

We seeded several highly erodible fields with rye cover crop (see Dave Talsma's article). After harvest, we began repairing waterways, cleaning up fence rows, burning brush and general field repairs. I enjoy running the dozer and Dave enjoys running the excavator during the fall repair work.

As soon as the fall tillage was complete, we began to tile various fields and continued until the mid-December snow storm hit. We continue to clean

up various building sites and are currently getting equipment serviced and ready for the upcoming spring and fall.

We have a diverse and talented team. We are building a new trailer to haul fertilizer which will help to improve our efficiency with the sprayer this coming spring.

At this time, 2013 inputs (seed and chemicals) are arriving at the shop. Currently, we continue to have dry conditions, but are hopeful that by spring we will receive rains to get our sub-soil built back up.

Thank you to our full-time and part-time employees. Many hours were dedicated last year and we are very thankful for the safe spring and harvest. Also, our thanks go out to all land owners and suppliers that we work with. We look forward to a safe and successful 2013.