An Intuitive Approach to Crop Rotation

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A Food Nutrition Analogy

- An adult needs 30 g of carbohydrates & 46-56 g of protein according to NAP.edu

- “It’s very difficult to do definitive dietary studies because people don’t eat isolated nutrients, they eat food”
A Food Nutrition Analogy

- Plants need nutrients, but they live off the soil
- Your health and your soil’s health are very different than mine
- When adding another crop remember, different species have very different biology
Reasons for Rotating Crops

1. Economic Returns

2. Agronomics
   - Nitrogen fixing - legumes
   - Weed Control – GMO

3. Soil Health
   - Resiliency
   - Chemistry
   - Porosity
Considerations in Selecting a Rotational Crop

- Know what you want to accomplish on your farm
- Is there a market?
- What grows best on your ground?
- Can you love your rotational crop?
What Crop Rotation has done for me

In 2012, a 40% above average wheat crop
Cleaned up rye and goat grass
More resilient ground
  ◦ In 2014, during a severe drought, no federal crop claim because wheat was at 80% of average