

# An Intuitive Approach to Crop Rotation

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WADE TROUTMAN, OPEN HEART RANCH

# A Food Nutrition Analogy

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- 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

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- 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

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1. Economic Returns
2. Agronomics
  - Nitrogen fixing - legumes
  - Weed Control – GMO
3. Soil Health
  - Resiliency
  - Chemistry
  - Porosity

# Considerations in Selecting a Rotational Crop

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- 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

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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