

History of WISFAL *Medicago falcata* Planted at the Larry Smith Farms

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The pasture that was selected for *M. falcata* planting was approximately three acres. The forage present was a mixture of orchardgrass, bluegrass, quack grass, some white clover and red clover. In the spring of 1993, the pasture was disked twice, and then planted with approximately 20 pounds of the WISFAL seed using a Brillion seeder. The goal was to retain as much of the grass as possible. In late February or early March of 1995 through 2002, approximately 2 pounds of red clover per acre was frost seeded on the area.

The area was rotationally grazed during the summers of 1993 through 2002. Beginning in the fall of 1995 through the present year, 50 or more lightweight beef calves (300-400 pound) had access to this pasture via a barn and small feeding area adjacent to it. Some years hay was fed on the pasture. Each year the animals were left on this pasture until approximately May 10-15. When the animals were removed each spring, it was observed that this small area was extremely overgrazed. During the time from planting through 2002, the plants were never allowed to flower or produce seed.

In the summer of 2002, this pasture was not grazed (actually we forgot to open the gate) on the first two rotations. In late July, the owner observed that the hillside was yellow with flowers. Upon closer observation, it was noted that different areas of WISFAL varied from 80% down to a 10% stand. The owner was amazed that any legume could withstand the amount of grazing pressure to which the area had been exposed.