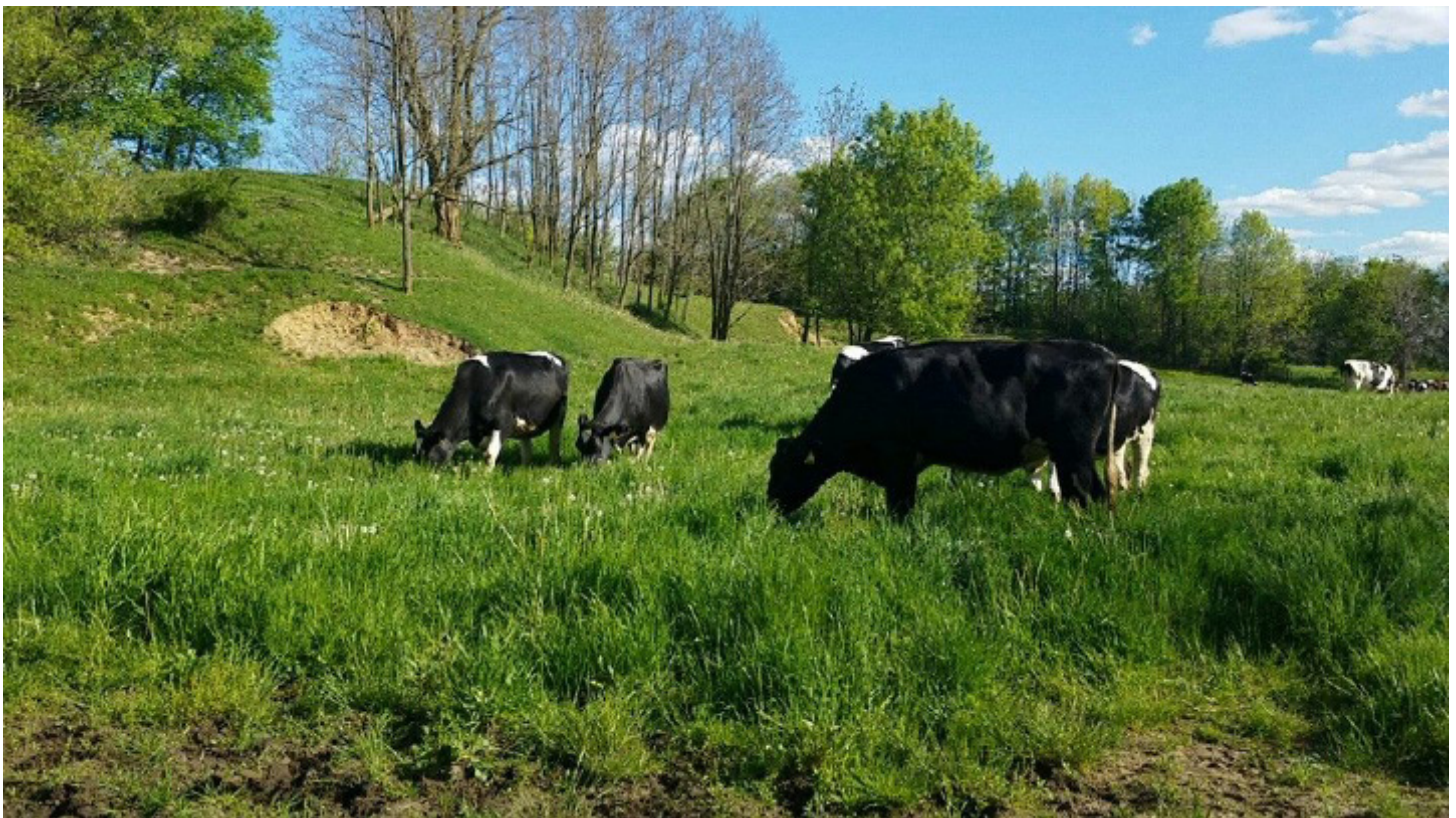


# CORNER POST

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**FORAGE FIRST**<sup>®</sup>  
WHEN YIELD AND QUALITY MATTER<sup>®</sup>



## Renovating High Traffic Areas in Pastures

From late fall to early spring, pastures can be beat up. High traffic areas (feeding areas, sacrifice lots, alleyways, watering areas) are often bare and muddy from early spring to early summer. To slow/reduce soil erosion, compaction, forage damage and weed problems, these areas should be renovated, but proper management is critical and often the difference between success and a muddy mess. Overall, animal health increases when muddy areas are reduced as well.



## Recommended Options & Considerations

Annual (Italian) and perennial ryegrass are good options when renovating these areas – annual ryegrass as a short-term fix and perennial ryegrass as a residual or long-term solution. Each can increase overall quality of the pasture or hay field being renovated:

**Italian ryegrass** is best suited for spring plantings. They provide excellent forage potential with the added flexibility of not going to head in the seeding year.

### Tetrabana XL Italian Annual Ryegrass

#### THE FORAGE FIRST® ADVANTAGE

Greater persistence can be expected with this high quality superstar of Northern forage. The winter survival and forage yields have been the focus of improvement of this species. Remember that during the establishment year these Italian types will remain in their vegetative stage but will act as an annual after winter dormancy for the second year and will need to be managed as such.

**Perennial ryegrass**, like most cool-season grasses, may have a “summer slump” July - September (depending on region/climate). But with proper fertilization and grazing rotations, it can last several years.

### Endo-Graze XL Tetraploid Perennial Ryegrass

#### THE FORAGE FIRST® ADVANTAGE

Many characteristics exist with perennial ryegrass. Improved varieties allow more flexibility when choosing either a diploid or tetraploid variety. Breeders are continually upgrading disease resistance, tolerance to drought and heat, and overall persistence with these newer, improved varieties.

Use **tetraploid ryegrass**, which tends to be more upright with wide leaves and higher quality. A key advantage of ryegrass is palatability.

We also carry and recommend SucraSeed high sugar ryegrasses, with the attributes of ryegrass (quick germination, easy to establish) plus tolerance to summer heat and dry weather thanks to a higher level of carbohydrates and stored energy.

Ryegrasses can be used for pasture, dry hay or silage, and establish quickly, so they work well when seeding windows are small and ground cover is critical. When harvested in the vegetative state, ryegrass is very high in digestibility (often referred to as “Queen of the Cool Season Grasses”). Because of higher nutritional values (namely protein), it can be used in dairy systems too.

#### Additional tips to ensure success:

- **Fertilizer and lime should be applied per soil test results.** Split applications of N (40-50 lbs. actual/acre) can be especially beneficial.
- **Do not over-apply N when interseeding into existing grasses.** Added N can lead to increased competition from established components in the field already.
- **Keep livestock and/or heavy traffic off newly seeded areas** to allow for seedling establishment
- **Do not overgraze** and allow for a rest and regrowth period before grazing again

*University of Kentucky, 2014*

#### About The Corner Post

The Corner Post is a periodic email series with timely forage tips from the agronomic experts at Forage First and La Crosse Seed. If you have a question you'd like us to answer, contact us: [info@laxseed.com](mailto:info@laxseed.com) or 800.356.7333

