

THANK GOD FOR SECOND CHANCES

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As I look outside, I see the leaves fall. I see the wheat cover crop growing on the garden. It makes me think about how, next year, the trees will put out new leaves and I will put out another garden. Next spring will be like a new year. Regardless of how bad my garden looked, I have another chance to try and get it right.

Your forage program is the same way. There are very few mistakes that we can't correct if we put forth the effort. Soil fertility problems, weed issues, poor stand issues, poor grazing management, etc., can all be corrected. We can have a second chance next spring to have a better forage program. The idea is to realize where the problems are, then work to correct them. Some are easier to correct than others, but we don't need to throw up our hands and walk away.

What are the steps you can take right now to correcting most of the problems?

1. **Evaluate how good of a stand of grass you have.** This will tell you if you need to reseed.
2. **Soil test.** This will let you know how to fertilize and lime.
3. **Evaluate your weed pressure.** This will help with herbicide and rate selection questions.

Regardless of the mistakes you made with last year's program, you can work to make next year's production successful. It starts with evaluation, then making changes.

Then I think, there are a lot of things in my life sort of like that. Maybe today I wasn't the greatest father. My kids love me and I have another chance to be a great father tomorrow. With all of the mistakes I have made as a husband, my wife continues to give me second chances to correct them. As a 20 year old, realizing I was a mess, Jesus Christ gave me a new start. And he has extended that second chance throughout the rest of my life.

Maybe that is part of why I like getting up early in the morning. Watching the sun rise, I realize that regardless of how many mistakes I made yesterday, today is a new day, and I get to try again. You have the same opportunity also. Take a deep breath and realize today is the day the Lord has made. Rejoice and be glad for another chance.