

Train the Trainers and Raising the Next Generation
2019 Field Day @ D&S Zirnhelt Ranch
Overview of Zirnhelt Ranch Seeding

The research plot was grazed for four days, and the cattle were taken off the field on May 16th, and the field was seeded on May 17th. It was raining intermittently throughout the day. An Aitchison Seed Matic was used for seeding, rented from Country Tractor (Kamloops). As the seeder had not been used on the property before, it took a bit of trial and error to adjust the seeding rate based on the different seed sizes of the crops seeded. Therefore, the seeding rate did vary between some of the rows within the plot, and in general was seeded much heavier than intended. The data provided below outlines the total weight seeded of the crop (or crop mix) per plot. The first row (along the East side of each plot) of Plot 1 and 3 were seeded heavier than the subsequent rows (settings were changed after the first pass).

	Crop	Seeded (lbs)	Plot Size (ac)	Seeding Rate (lbs/ac) ¹	Cost (\$/ac)
Plot 1	Timothy	26.5	0.4	66.25	\$134.31
Plot 2	Orchardgrass	7.7	0.4	19.25	\$110.21
Plot 3	Alfalfa (2 varieties)	14	0.4	35	\$175.64
Plot 4	Sainfoin	28.75	0.4	71.88	\$279.61
Plot 5	Radish/Turnip Mix	7	0.4	17.5	\$36.37
Plot 6	Mix*	17	0.4	42.5	\$164.63

**Turnip, Radish, Alfalfa (2 varieties), Meadow brome grass, Orchardgrass, Sainfoin, Timothy.*

¹**Note:** The actual seeding rates (above) are significantly higher than intended (e.g. Timothy was aimed to be seeded at 2lbs/ac, not 66lbs/ac). It was particularly challenging to seed small seed at the appropriate rate, in such a small plot area. Therefore, the cost/acre is not representative of a full-sized field seeding, if equipment was able to be calibrated accordingly.



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