

# UNH Story

1. Adjective
2. Unh Colleague
3. Proper Noun
4. Place On Campus

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Many New Hampshire farmers view trading their tried-and-true full season silage corn variety for one with a shorter growing season as more than a little Adjective. But not UNH Colleague Proper Noun, who runs the Crete family's Highway View Farm in Place on campus.

Last year, Crete planted 60 acres of faster maturing 95-day corn so that come early September, he could harvest it and plant winter triticale (pronounced trit-ih-KAY-lee), as part of a double-cropping research trial led by Cooperative Extension's Carl Majewski, Daimon Meeh and Steve Turaj.

According to Majewski, there are good reasons farmers should consider planting forage crops year round. The double-cropping system helps prevent erosion, reduces nutrient loss and increases organic matter in the soil.

It also may provide a type of insurance for farmers. Long-season corn, because it isn't harvested until early fall, is vulnerable to frosts and other types of unpredictable weather that can damage yields. It is also harvested too late to establish a cover crop like triticale. On the other hand, short-season corn, which is required for a double-cropping system, is harvested before frosts are a possibility. Farmers can then plant a cover crop, like triticale, and gain supplemental feed through this diversified system.