Moving Forward with Crop Rotations and Cover Crops... Maximizing Rainfall Capture

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Infiltration and Water Holding

- Make the soil absorb water faster
  a better sponge
- Make the soil deeper
  a bigger sponge
Infiltration Rates Inches/Hour

- Miller clay  
  <0.06
- Hollister silty clay loam  
  0.2-0.6
- St. Paul silt loam  
  0.6-2.0
- Pond Creek fine sandy loam  
  2.0-6.0
- Dad’s Creek  
  2.7
- Dad’s House  
  2.9
- Davis  
  2.6
- Tabor  
  2.0*
Days of Water Storage Between Rains

- 9.2 inch awc / 0.15 inch et/day = 61 days
- 0.88 inch awc / 0.15 inch et/day = 6 days
- 0.72 inch awc / 0.15 inch et/day = 5 days
How Much Rain Do You Need?

• Only as fast as you can soak in
• Only as much as you can store
• Only what you can use with a growing crop

Rain...use it or lose it
June 6, 2018
No Rain until 1.15 fell June 24 & 25
Sept 21, 2018 2 inch rain
Sept 26, 2018 2 inch rain
Questions?