

## Pigs in Fresh Greens



Pigs in Fresh Greens.

I know I a photo more or less like this every fall but I just cannot help myself.

These are the Poland China hogs a few minutes after I moved them into fresh grazing. I try to do that at least once a week.

They are enjoying the second planting in this part of their pasture. They consumed the crop of mixed legumes, turnips, wheat, mustard and ten other species earlier in the summer. Blake helped me replant this area to wheat, barley, rye and Sudan grass 30 days ago. The first three of those grasses are called "cool season" grasses. Sudan grass is a "hot season" grass. Technically, they are C3 and C4 plants, respectively. C3 plants do well in spring and fall. For example, the blue grass in lawns is a C3 grass. C4 grasses use a different process for photosynthesis that allows them to prosper in hotter and drier weather. Corn is a C4 grass as are most native prairie grasses.

I planted the blend as insurance. No matter what the weather, one or more of those species would do well.

In this case, recent hot weather has caused the Sudan grass to become a thick mat, two feet tall. The pigs are not small. Many are 300 pounds or more.

The pigs will joyously devour the green material in a day or three. They will then spend a few more days consuming every root and fiber.

After that, I will move the white electrified tape to give them another patch.

The pigs in the other three pastures have similar grazing routines.

It's a good life for a pig.

Tom