In the northern Great Basin, annual feed costs represent a major obstacle to beef producers and threaten the future of beef production. Feed costs, including hay and supplement, can range from $100 to $200 per cow each year. In addition, much of the range in the northern Great Basin is becoming infested with cheatgrass due to past overgrazing and/or reoccurring wildfires. Planting forage kochia on rangelands or pastures may provide a complimentary forage that can decrease winter supplementation costs while aiding in fire prevention.

Forage kochia is a half-shrub native to the arid and semiarid regions of central Eurasia. Because of its natural ability to survive in arid climates and on saline soils, many scientists and rangeland managers consider forage kochia a prime candidate for use in western range rehabilitation and fire prevention efforts.

Forage kochia tends to slow the spread of wildfires when used as a greenstrip; however, it will burn if surrounded by sufficient fuel. Following burning, it will sprout and regrow and is used ex-