



# Rotationally Raised:

## MAKING SMALL GRAINS WORK *Conference Program*

Monday, July 30, 2018 | 10:00am – 5:30pm | Mankato, MN

Welcome to Practical Farmers of Iowa's second small grains conference. This event gathers the top small grains growers, researchers and buyers from the region to share their expertise on making the most of these crops.

### CONFERENCE SESSION SCHEDULE

TIME & ROOM	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	SPEAKER BIO
10:00 – 10:30am Room 245	<b>WELCOME ADDRESS</b>		<i>Alisha Bower</i> Strategic Initiatives Manager at Practical Farmers of Iowa coordinates PFI's small grains program including research, education and supply chain outreach.

10:40 SESSIONS

10:40 – 11:50am Room 255	<b>AGRONOMY BREAK OUT</b> <b>Weed Control with Small Grains</b>	With tough weeds and herbicide resistance on the rise, farmers have to be more vigilant than ever about deploying a diverse suite of weed management strategies. Crop rotation with a cool season small grain can be a powerful tool in this suite. Hear from weed ecology expert Matt Liebman in this session on selecting and managing your small grain crop for general weed management and targeted management for specific problem weeds.	<i>Matt Liebman</i> is the Henry A. Wallace Chair for Sustainable Agriculture and Professor of Crop Production and Physiology at Iowa State University. His research, teaching and outreach interests include diversified cropping systems, weed ecology and management, and the use of native prairie species for biofuel production and soil, water, and wildlife conservation.
10:40 – 11:50am Room 253	<b>LIVESTOCK BREAK OUT</b> <b>Triticale and Other Small Grain Silage in Dairy Production</b>	Small grain silage can be a highly nutritious and cost effective forage for dairy cows and other livestock. Join dairy farmer Pat Jones and expert Jim Paulson to discuss harvest technique and nutritional quality of oat, rye and triticale silage for lactating and replacement cows in a dairy herd.	<i>Pat Jones</i> from Spencer has 15 years of experience growing and harvesting rye for his 1000 cow dairy herd. <i>Jim Paulson</i> is a retired dairy Extension educator who now resides in southeast Minnesota where he consults on dairy nutrition management and has a small farm of his own. He has a particular interest in using cover crops and small grains for forage that dates back to his graduate research on feeding triticale silage to lactating cows.
10:40 – 11:50am Room 201	<b>MARKETS BREAK OUT</b> <b>How to Sell Small Grains as Cover Crop Seed</b>	Increased cover crop adoption across the upper Midwest isn't just a conservation boon, it's a market opportunity for small grains growers. Demand for cereal rye, winter wheat and oats as cover crop seed is being filled out of the Dakotas because production in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin isn't keeping up. Learn from the regulators and growers about the licenses and other steps needed to tap into this market opportunity in Minnesota and other states.	<i>Denise Thiede</i> is the Supervisor of the Seed, Weed & Biotechnology Unit of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Her department oversees and enforces seed sale requirements such as licensing and labeling for the state of Minnesota. <i>Fawad Shah</i> is the President and CEO of Minnesota Crop Improvement Association. MCI is the state of Minnesota's officially designated certification authority for seed and for noxious weed-free forage and mulch. <i>Jim Falk</i> is the 4th generation Falk to own and operate the family's grain and livestock farm seven miles north of Murdock, MN. In 1985 the family added Falk's Seed Farm conditioning plant to their operation to become a seed processor.

# CONFERENCE SESSION SCHEDULE CONT.

	12:00 – 12:45 Room 245	<b>LUNCH</b>		
<b>PLENARY SESSION</b>	12:45 – 1:45pm Room 245	<b>PLENARY</b> <b>System Impacts of an Extended Rotation</b>	Since 2001, Dr. Liebman has overseen a 22-acre field experiment at the Iowa State University Marsden Farm that compares a 2-year corn/soybean rotation, a 3-year corn/soybean/oat + red clover rotation, and a 4-year corn/soybean/oat + alfalfa/alfalfa rotation. In this plenary Dr. Liebman will share his findings on how cropping system diversification and crop-livestock integration affect productivity, profitability, and environmental quality.	<i>Matt Liebman is a Professor of Crop Production and Physiology at Iowa State University. His research, teaching and outreach interests include diversified cropping systems, weed ecology and management, and the use of native prairie species for biofuel production and soil, water, and wildlife conservation.</i>
<b>2:00 SESSIONS</b>	2:00 – 3:10pm Room 255	<b>AGRONOMY BREAK OUT</b> <b>Small Grains Disease Identification and Management</b>	Brush up on common small grains diseases and how your management of those diseases should differ based upon the market where you intend to sell the grain. Seed, feed and food markets all have different market specifications and prices which translate into different thresholds for return on investment of spraying. Oat and barley breeder Kevin Smith will provide a crash course on what diseases to watch out for and how to manage them.	<i>Kevin Smith is a Professor of Agronomy and Plant Genetics at the University of Minnesota. He is traditionally a barley breeding specialist, but has recently started breeding oats as well.</i>
	2:00 – 3:10pm Room 253	<b>LIVESTOCK BREAK OUT</b> <b>Summer Cover Crops for Grazing and Manure Management</b>	Grazing a cover crop planted in mid-summer after small grain harvest presents a profitable opportunity for livestock farmers. Hear from cover crop grazing expert Mary Drewnoski on how to make the most of this opportunity through selecting species to balance forage yield with quality and managing your grazing for optimal utilization.	<i>Mary Drewnoski is a beef systems specialist and assistant professor at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Her current research and extension program is focused on the utilization of crop residues and cover crop forage for backgrounding calves and feeding beef cows.</i>
	2:00 – 3:10pm Room 201	<b>MARKETS BREAK OUT</b> <b>Starting an On-Farm Processing Enterprise for Organic Small Grains</b>	Have you ever wondered what it would take to start your own value added enterprise instead of taking your grain to market? Doug Hilgendorf took the plunge himself and will share his experience growing organic food grade small grains and the realities of running a small scale processing and distribution business from his farm.	<i>Doug Hilgendorf farms near Welcome Minnesota and owns Whole Grain Milling. He grows diverse organic grains and mills them into consumer products that he distributes to grocers in Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.</i>
<b>3:30 SESSIONS</b>	3:30 – 4:40pm Room 255	<b>AGRONOMY BREAK OUT</b> <b>Green Manures 101</b>	The easiest way to balance the budget on an extended rotation without livestock is to use the long, hot months after small grain harvest to grow biological nitrogen and offset purchased fertilizer inputs. Learn about the nitrogen production potential of various legume species and management strategies from PFI Research and Field Crops Director Stefan Gailans and a practical perspective on how to manage green manures successfully from planting to termination from farmer Wade Dooley.	<i>Stefan Gailans is the research and field crops director at Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI). He implements on-farm and collaborative research projects with universities and his doctorate research involved managing green manures in an extended rotation system.</i>  <i>Wade Dooley of Albion, IA is a conventional diversified crop and livestock farmer who has participated in PFI green manure studies on his farm.</i>
	3:30 – 4:40pm Room 253	<b>LIVESTOCK BREAK OUT</b> <b>Feeding Small Grains to Swine</b>	Grain-fed livestock largely eat corn and soybeans today, but can they eat other grains like oats, wheat and barley? The answer is yes. Lee Johnston will walk through the benefits of small grains in swine diets and inclusion rates for maintaining efficiency and animal health in this session.	<i>Lee Johnston is professor of Swine Nutrition and Management at the University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris, MN.</i>

# CONFERENCE SESSION SCHEDULE CONT.

3:30 SESSIONS

3:30 - 4:40pm

Room 201

**MARKETS  
BREAK OUT  
What to Expect  
When Marketing to  
Breweries**

Micro-breweries are popping up everywhere these days in big cities and small towns alike. What grain specifications are breweries looking for? What varieties best achieve those specifications in different locations in the upper Midwest? Barley researcher Kevin Smith will relay what the best practices are for a farmer selling into this kind of supply chain.

*Kevin Smith is a Professor of Agronomy and Plant Genetics at the University of Minnesota. He is traditionally a barley breeding specialist, but has recently started breeding oats as well.*

4:45 - 5:30pm

Room 245

**BUYERS AND  
SELLERS  
RECEPTION**

Companies and organizations that buy small grains will host networking tables at this reception with appetizers and a selection of Minnesota brewed beers. Stop by tables to discuss market specs and contracts for selling to these entities.

## Centennial Student Union Map Minnesota State University Campus



For more information about small grains programming, contact Alisha Bower at [alisha@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:alisha@practicalfarmers.org).

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