

Learning to grow Kernza[®] in central Iowa

Practical Farmers of Iowa lightning session

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Background

- Want to keep soil covered with perennials.
- Small grain cash crops are important for future cropping systems in Iowa.

What we did

- Worked with Sustain-a-Grain, McPherson County, Kansas.
- Seeded Kernza[®] into dead alfalfa in fall 2020. Did not succeed.
- Seeded November, 2021 into corn stubble with no-till drill at 15 lbs/acre. Tedious to set drill.
- Baled weedy kernza in July 2022. Thirty-one 5 x 5 big round bales. Sold for cattle feed. Grazed in fall.

What's next?

- Broadleaf herbicide labeled for Kernza[®]? A variation of 2,4-D?
- Grain in summer 2023? How to harvest, store, clean, de-hull & bag? Flake/grind for brewers? Make flour for bakers?
- Market locally?

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September 28, 2022 Ewes & Lennie grazing Kernza[®] & prairie strip