

Small Grains News - Nutrient management for winter small grains

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



On their farm near Broken Bow, Nebraska, brothers **Clay and Logan Govier** and their father, **Frank**, have been busy harvesting soybeans and corn and drilling in cereal rye on mornings when it's too wet to harvest. Though much of that rye is cover crop, approximately 15 percent will be harvested for grain next year and sold either as cover crop seed or to Sideshow Distillery in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Saving on equipment: Due to the arid conditions in central Nebraska, the Goviers, like other farmers in the area, use pivot irrigation. This provides a unique opportunity to fertilize without making an extra pass using other equipment. When the chance of freezing temperatures has passed in spring, they will apply a blend of nitrogen, sulfur, boron, and humic acid to their rye through the pivot system.

Reducing inputs: The Goviers' foray into growing cereal rye as a cover crop and grain resulted from working to find ways to reduce purchased inputs in the future. They have already found that yellow field peas are quite effective at fixing nitrogen.

"We've grown 50 or 60 bushels of rye after peas with zero fertilizer. I can seed it the second half of August and get a lot of tillering in the fall," says Clay.

PROGRAM UPDATES

New video: "Cereal Rye Crop for Cover Crop Seed Opens the Door to a Diverse Rotation"



Farmers **Rachel and Alec Amundson** of Osage, Iowa, share how raising cereal rye for cover crop seed has enabled them to break out of a two-crop corn-soybean rotation while providing much-needed seed to other farmers.

[Watch our latest video from the Practical Cover Croppers series](#) to hear from Rachel and Alec about how raising rye seed locally can help with ease of distribution and how sourcing rye locally reduces risk of imported weed seeds.

Shared Learning Call recap: "A Wealth of Winter Wheat"



Wheat is not a crop often seen in Iowa. Finding a variety that thrives in the Midwestern humidity and fits well into farmers' rotations can be tricky. However, it can also hold a lot of promise for weed control, erosion control and profit.

[Check out this recap blog of our September small grains shared learning call](#) to learn about **Daniel and Emily Sheetz'** experiences growing winter wheat and why they plan to continue including it in their rotations.

Don't miss out – fill out our simple \$10/acre cover crop cost-share application



Seeding cover crops this fall? Don't leave money on the table! We pay \$10 per acre on unlimited cover cropped acres for non-organic corn and soybeans.

Our cover crop cost-share application takes only 10 minutes to fill out and is non-binding.

[Reserve your funding before applications close Dec. 1.](#)

IN THE FIELD

New research report: "Cereal Rye and Triticale Variety Trial 2023"



The latest results of our ongoing "Cereal Rye and Triticale Variety Trial" are now in.

The project, carried out at Iowa State University research farms across the state over the past five years, aims to test how a range of varieties grow in different conditions.

This year, we trialed 11 cereal rye varieties and one winter triticale variety. **[See the data from each site and learn how they compare.](#)**

Magazine article: "Grow Your Own Nitrogen"



Incorporating small grains in a rotation enables robust summer growth of a legume cover crop, which can fix significant amounts of atmospheric nitrogen.

Learn from a host of PFI farmers about why they've chosen to follow their over-wintering small grains with legume covers [in this magazine article from winter 2018.](#)

Additional resources:

- Research report: [“Nitrogen Fertilizer Effect on Cereal Rye Yield and Quality”](#)
- Video: [“Tom Frantzen on Why He Plants Hybrid Rye”](#)
- Blog post: [“The ‘Why’ of Winter Barley, Plus 4 Tips on Winter Barley Double Cropping”](#)
- From University of Minnesota Extension: [“Fertilizing Wheat in Minnesota ”](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Central Nebraska Regenerative Ag Conference



Nov. 14 | 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. | Holdredge, NE

Join us at the Central Nebraska Regenerative Ag Conference, "Building Your Soil from the Ground Up," hosted by Central Community College-Holdrege. [For discounted rates, please register by Nov. 6.](#)

PFI is sponsoring the conference, including specific sessions with a focus on cover crops and grazing. We will host a social at J.B.'s Sports Bar and Grill in Holdredge after the conference, starting at 5 p.m. We hope to see you there!

Field day: “Milling and Marketing Small Grains through Multiple Channels”



Nov. 18 | 2-4 p.m. | Panora, IA

Father-son team **Earl and Jeff Hafner** grow corn, soybeans, wheat, rye and buckwheat that they stone-grind into flours, meals and cereals at their farm, Early Morning Harvest.

This field day will take place on the same day as their annual open house.

[RSVP to learn all about the growing and milling of their small grains.](#)

PFI's 2024 Annual Conference is in Des Moines!



Jan. 18-20 | All day | Des Moines, IA

Save the date for PFI's 2024 Annual Conference **taking place in Des Moines, Iowa, this year!**

This two-day event will feature a range of topics including relay-cropping rye and soybeans, producing food-grade grains and growing hybrid rye for livestock feed.

Watch for registration to open in November 2023!

Friends of PFI events

Nov. 7: Conference – [Cover Crop Grazing Conference](#)

Hosted by: University of Nebraska Extension

8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. | Mead, NE

Nov. 8: Conference – [Transition to Organic Farming Conference](#)

Hosted by: University of Nebraska Extension

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Ithaca, NE

*****Visit PFI staff at this event!*****

Nov. 10-11: Conference – [Annual Food and Farm Conference](#)

*Hosted by: Kansas Rural Center
All day | Topeka, KS*

*****Visit PFI staff at this event!*****

Nov. 26-27: Conference – [Iowa Organic Conference](#)

*Hosted by: Iowa State University
Extension
Sun, 5 p.m. - Mon, 5 p.m. | Iowa City,
IA*

*****Visit PFI staff at this event!*****

[View our events calendar](#)

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Chat with any of us by calling the PFI office at (515)232-5661.

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