



PRACTICAL FARMERS OF IOWA  
**COOPERATORS'  
PROGRAM**


# CALL FOR ON-FARM RESEARCH COOPERATORS!


## CORN FARMERS:

### Come put soil health and nitrogen fertilizer to the test

Recent research suggests that biologically healthy soils need less fertilizer. If you've been working to improve your soil health, we think you can reduce nitrogen to corn without sacrificing yield.

 **Who can participate?** We're looking for corn farmers in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and Wisconsin. Eligible fields will have at least a five-year history of soil health practices (*cover crops, diverse rotations, integrated grazing, reduced tillage, etc.*).

 **What's involved?** You will compare two N-fertilizer rates applied to corn in a replicated strip trial. One of the rates will be your typical N-rate and the other rate will be a reduced rate of your choosing. (*For instance, a typical rate of 170 lb N/ac vs. a reduced rate of 120 lb N/ac*). You may achieve the N-rates with any N sources and application timings of your choosing.

 **The research setup:** You'll plant 8 treatment strips that are about 2 acres each. Four strips (~8 acres) will receive the typical rate, and four strips (~8 acres) will receive the reduced rate.

**Total trial footprint:  
~16 acres**

TYPICAL	REDUCED	REDUCED	TYPICAL	REDUCED	TYPICAL	TYPICAL	REDUCED
REP 1			REP 2		REP 3		REP 4

### Why participate?

- You'll receive a \$1,000 research participation fee for completing the trial.
- You'll learn more about fertilizer use in corn on your farm.
- You will contribute vital data to a broader effort by PFI and partners to gauge risk associated with reducing N fertilizer.

### Why is this important?

If we can reduce our reliance on N fertilizer...

- We can improve water quality.
- We can improve agriculture's carbon footprint.
- We can improve our farms' bottom lines.

**Do you want to put your soil health to the test? Do you want to join a community of curious and creative farmers who take a scientific approach to improving their farms?**

Contact PFI's cropping systems research coordinator, Roberta Bianchin Rebesquini,  
at [roberta.rebesquini@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:roberta.rebesquini@practicalfarmers.org).

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