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The Practical COVER CROPPER

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

Jerry Kenkel of Missouri Valley, IA appreciates the benefits that cover crops provide, such as building soil quality and preventing soil erosion, but like many farmers, he is pressed for time in the fall. Mixing cereal rye seed into his fall-applied dry fertilizer enables Jerry to meet his soil-building goals without investing much time or money in the process.

Low cost, high convenience:

Jerry hires his co-op to spread dry fertilizer with cover crop seed mixed in, and the co-op doesn't charge him anything beyond the seed cost. "I'm keeping my costs low, since I'm only paying for the seed and would be paying to spread dry fertilizer anyway," he explains.



"I just call the co-op once I'm done harvesting a field, and they are out within a day or two, typically," notes Jerry. The co-op mixes, tenders and applies the seed and fertilizer, so Jerry can keep harvesting.

Tips for success: Jerry's corn head doesn't chop stalks, so the cover crop seed does not get caught in chopped corn residue. He seeds a higher rate of cereal rye than many people: typically 60-65 lbs/acre. When it rains shortly after spreading fertilizer and seed, he skips incorporation, otherwise he will lightly

disk the seed in on occasion. Jerry has not seen uneven cover crop and dry fertilizer spreading, in part because the co-op tenders seed and dry fertilizer for a maximum of 40 acre/load. "It doesn't really settle out," he explains. "Have faith that it will come up in the spring, even if there isn't a ton of fall growth," he encourages.

PROGRAM UPDATES

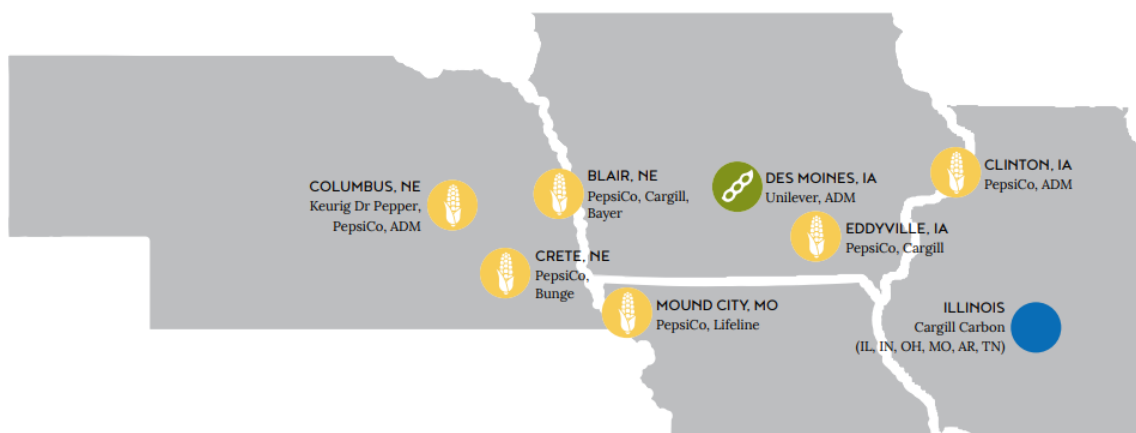
Mark your calendar for the 2021 Fall Cover Crop Boot Camp: Nov 30!



Join other row crop and livestock farmers for the **Cover Crop Boot Camp**, Tuesday, Nov. 30, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m. in Ankeny, IA. We'll hear how farmers are working with cover crops to reduce nitrogen and herbicide inputs, growing their own cover crop seed and incorporating their cover crops with livestock.

Register now for the free event to advance your understanding of how cover crops can work for you.

Expanded eligibility for PFI cost share



We've expanded the geographies and market outlets that make people eligible for our private cover crop cost share. Even if you haven't been eligible in the past, you might be now! [Click on the grain icons at this link](#) to learn more about eligibility.

We still have acres available for most cost share programs; please share with neighbors and friends! We also have [cost share for extended rotations](#).

Fill out the application

Iowans: Get priority for NRCS RCPP funding by October 22

Farmers and landowners in the following regions may be eligible for cover crop and other conservation cost share:

- [Turkey River Watershed](#)
- [North Raccoon River Watershed](#)
- [Des Moines Lobe and Iowan Surface landforms](#)
- [Several other watersheds](#)



Visit [your local NRCS office](#) to determine if you are eligible and apply for FY22 funding by Oct. 22!

Raise seed corn in 2021 and seeding cover crops this fall? Sign up for Iowa Seed Corn Cover Crop cost share!



[The Iowa Seed Corn Cover Crop Initiative](#) provides cost share for cover crops on seed corn production acres, with \$10-\$20/acre rates. Growers can enroll up

to 100% of their seed corn acres that aren't already in another state or federal cost-share program.

Learn more about the program [here](#) or contact **Shannon Moeller** at shannon.moeller16@gmail.com.

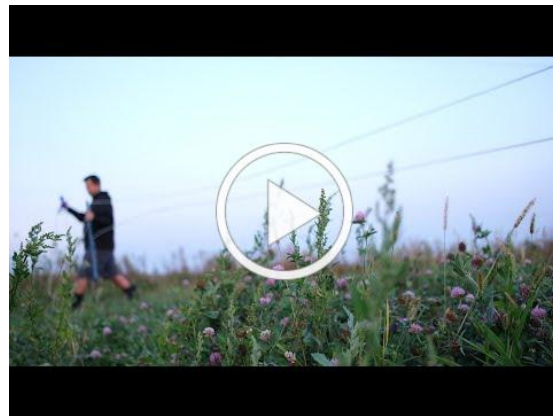
IN THE FIELD

Outdoor screening of "Livestock on the Land" in Bloomfield on Oct. 19

Come to our outdoor screening of "Livestock on the Land" on October 19 at 6:30 p.m. in Bloomfield, IA!

Bring your chairs and blankets for comfortable viewing! Snacks will also be available for enjoyment during the screening.

[Event details are here.](#)



Do you have your seed and application lined up? Our "Find Cover Crops" app can help!



It isn't too late to get cover crop seed and application - including spreading with dry fertilizer - arranged for this fall. Find seed and applicators on our free "Find Cover Crops" app!

Find Cover Crops, is available for download on the [Apple App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#) and a [desktop version](#) is also available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Webinar: Topic TBA](#)

Hosted by: Jake Hansen & Iowa Learning Farms

October 13 | Noon CT | Online

[Webinar: Carbon Markets and Carbon Credit Agreements](#)

Hosted by: North Central Region Water Network

October 13 | 2 p.m. CT | Online

Pasture & Livestock Field Day

Hosted by: Wayne County (IN) SWCD

October 14 | 4 p.m. CT | Hagerstown, IN

"Livestock on the Land" Screening

Hosted by: Practical Farmers

October 19 | 6:30 p.m. CT | Bloomfield, IA

Webinar: Topic TBA

Hosted by: Sara McMillan & Iowa Learning Farms

October 20 | Noon CT | Online

Virtual Field Day: Increased Wetlands and Oxbows = Improved Water Quality and More Wildlife

Hosted by: Iowa Learning Farms

October 21 | 1 - 2 p.m. CT | Online

Seminar: Using Cover Crops for Weed Suppression Across Kansas

Hosted by: Anita Dille and UNL Agronomy & Horticulture

October 22 | 3:25 p.m. CT | Lincoln, NE & Online

Webinar: Topic TBA

Hosted by: Beth Baker & Iowa Learning Farms

October 27 | Noon CT | Online

Webinar: Topic TBA

Hosted by: Steven Hall & Iowa Learning Farms

November 3 | Noon CT | Online

Forum: Next Steps for Soil Health & Climate Mitigation

Hosted by: Straub Brothers

November 6 | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. CT | Haubstadt, IN

Want to host a cover crop meet up? Contact Sarah if interested

sarah@practicalfarmers.org

Are you planning or hosting a cover crop event? Send the details to **rebecca@practicalfarmers.org**, and we'll include it in our next newsletter.

COVER CROP POLL

Send us your cover crop poll ideas! We want to know what YOU want to know. Reply to this email with your ideas for the next poll.

How much are you typically charged per acre to apply cover crop seed with dry fertilizer?

Free

Select

.....
\$0.01 - \$3.00/acre

Select

.....

\$3.00 - \$6.00/acre

.....

Select

.....

More than \$6.00/acre

.....

Select

.....

Not sure, I haven't tried it

.....

Select

Previous poll results:

If raising rye for seed, what sort of variety do you typically plant?

- **Variety Not Stated (VNS) - 45.5%**
- Named Variety without PVP (i.e. Elbon, Aroostock) - **31.8%**
- Named Variety with PVP (i.e ND Gardner, ND Dylan) - **22.7%**

CONTACT OUR COVER CROPS TEAM

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STAY CONNECTED WITH PFI!

