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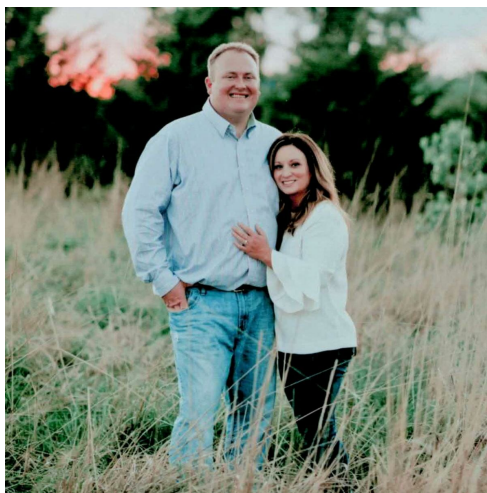
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The Practical COVER CROPPER

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

Ryan Tiefenthaler farms and operates Breda Ag Solutions in Breda, IA. His farm is a diversified operation producing corn, beans, cover crops, hogs and cattle. Ryan began experimenting with cereal rye and triticale as forage crops a few years ago. Now he raises seed and helps other farmers implement diverse silage systems like following triticale or rye with a summer forage crop. He has worked to develop a few cover crop programs for farmers who raise cattle in his area. "These programs are going to make a more digestible feedstuff with better protein and higher net revenue on the same acres compared to corn silage. It also spreads out the timeline and allows cattle producers to haul manure all summer long instead of having to store it and spread during the winter."



Start simple: To those new to feeding cover crops, Ryan recommends starting with the basics. "It doesn't have to be overly complicated." Take your first initial silage off of your corn crop, plant rye in early September and let it grow. Use it for ruelage in May and follow it up with an early hybrid of corn to make corn silage.

Ramp it up: Once comfortable with rye and triticale for silage, Ryan suggests following it with sudangrass or Japanese millet for wet feed.

Quality over quantity: Ryan advises harvesting earlier rather than later if raising cover crops for forage feeds. "The older the rye or triticale crop gets the more digestibility will decrease. Quality of the feed is better than the quantity of the feed. Don't wait longer for more tonnage."

PROGRAM UPDATES

Today is the last day to register for the Cover Crop Boot Camp!

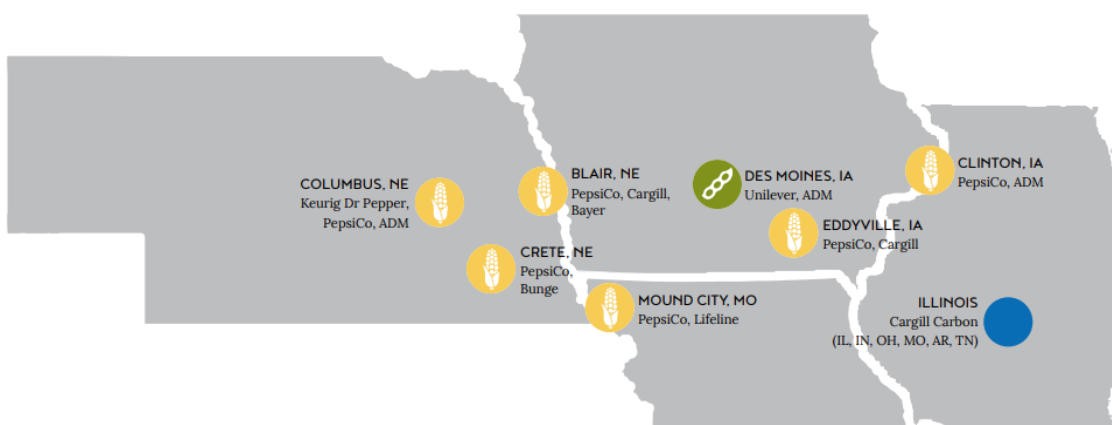


The **2021 Fall Cover Crop Boot Camp** will take place on Nov. 29 and 30 in Ankeny, IA. On the evening of Monday Nov. 29, we'll gather for a social and keynote at Uptown Garage Brewing.

Sessions on Tuesday, Nov. 30 will explore how farmers are using cover crops to reduce nitrogen and herbicide inputs, grow their own cover crop seed and integrate livestock with cover crops.

Register TODAY for the free event!

Have you applied for PFI's cost share yet?



Even if you haven't been eligible for cover crop cost share in past years, 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

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 to \$20 per 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

Ryelage, triticale help boost feed inventories



Read this [Farm Progress article](#) on how a Wisconsin dairy is utilizing rye and triticale as a feedstuff.

The cover crops help cheapen the feed bill while providing a quality ration to dairy heifers and lactating cows.

Research: Economic and soil health impacts of grazing cover crops in a feedlot system



Cooperator **Ben Albright** of Lytton, IA explored how cover crops can play an important role in a feedlot ration and lower the winter feed bill.

Over three years an average of \$3,851 was saved in TMR (Total Mixed Ration) per year. [Read the full research report here.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

All times are listed in central time.

Webinar: Managing Weeds with Less Chemical Use in No-Till Systems

Hosted by: Mark VanGessel, John Wallace & USDA- NRCS

November 23 | 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. | Online

Cover Crop Boot Camp

Hosted by: Practical Farmers & Partners

November 29-30 | Ankeny, IA

Iowa Organic Conference

Hosted by: Iowa State Organic Agriculture Program

November 28-29 | Iowa City, IA

Integrated Crop Management Conference

Hosted by: ISU Extension

December 1-2 | Noon - 1 p.m. | Ames, IA

Shared Learning Call: Small Grains Marketing 101

Hosted by: Mike Schulist & Practical Farmers

December 3 | Noon - 1 p.m. | Online

The Big Soil Health Event

Hosted by: Soil Regen and Continuum Ag

December 6 - 7 | Riverside, IA

Dairy Directions

Hosted by: Iowa State Extension

December 7 | 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Sac City, IA

Dairy Directions

Hosted by: Iowa State Extension

December 8 | 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Pocahontas, IA

2021 Soil Management Summit

Hosted by: University of Minnesota

December 14-15 | Mankato, MN

Missouri State Conference on Cover Crops and Soil Health

Hosted by: University of Missouri

December 14 - 15 | 9:00 am - Noon | Online

South East Kansas Soil Health Conference

Hosted by: Green Cover

December 15-16 | Iola, KS

Want to host a cover crop meet up? Contact Sarah Carlson 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.

Have you used a small grain silage to replace corn silage in your feed ration?

Yes, I like the forage quality/added flexibility

Select

I haven't tried it yet but am planning on it

Select

No, I have not tried it

Select

I don't use cover crops to feed livestock

Select

Previous poll results:

What is your preferred method to learn about cover crops?

- **Talk to other farmers one-on-one - 31.8%**
- **Attend field days and meetings like the boot camp and conference - 31.8%**
- Watch videos about cover crops online - **13.6%**
- Read about cover crops online - **13.6%**
- Read about cover crops in print - **9.1%**

CONTACT OUR COVER CROPS TEAM

Sarah Carlson

Strategic Initiatives Director

sarah@practicalfarmers.org

(515) 232-5661

Chris Wilbeck

Independent Contractor

chris@practicalfarmers.org

(515) 232-5661

Rebecca Clay

Strategic Initiatives Agronomy Coordinator

rebecca@practicalfarmers.org

(515) 232-5661

STAY CONNECTED WITH PFI!

