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The Practical
**COVER
CROPPER**

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



From commodity and input price swings, to droughts and floods, 2021 was a tumultuous year for many farmers. As we reflect on the past year's crop performance, we must now consider the challenges and opportunities that the future may bring.

Thoughts of future cropping seasons underline the importance of cover crops and the resilience that they bring to the farm – an idea that **Michael Vittetoe** of Washington, IA emphasized in his presentation on cereal rye and weed

control at the Fall 2021 Cover Crop Boot Camp. Hear how Michael is keeping dollars on the farm by integrating cereal rye and soybean crops for weed control.

Additional full presentations from the boot camp are posted here and highlighted below.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Iowans: Apply for \$5/acre cover crop - crop insurance premium discount by January 14



IDALS will provide up to \$5/acre for cover crops! Funding is provided through USDA-RMA as an insurance premium discount through normal crop insurance processes.

Cover crop acres currently enrolled in state and/or federal programs are not eligible for this program. There is no limit on the number of acres eligible!

[Learn more about the Iowa program here.](#)

Apply for IA \$5/acre today!

Illinois farmers: apply for \$5/acre cover crop premium discount program by January 15

IDOA offers "Fall Covers for Spring Savings" \$5/acre Cover Crop Premium Discount Program. Cover crops that are not cost shared with public funding are eligible.

[Read more about the Illinois program here.](#)



Apply for the IL program
today!

IN THE FIELD

Cover crop boot camp recordings available!

In case you missed it: our 2021 Cover Crop Boot Camp was a success with hundreds of attendees networking and learning from cover cropping peers!

If you couldn't attend, or want to re-listen to a talk, [recordings from the boot camp](#) are now available to watch on our website. Sessions are below



"How to Cut Nitrogen with Cover Crops" with **Tom Pyfferoen** and **Stefan Gailans**



"How to Feed Cover Crops to Livestock" with **Shanon Jamison** and **Alan Zellmer**



"How to Grow Your Own Cover Crop Seed" with **Joel Lange** and **Jon Kruse**

"How to Reduce Herbicide Costs with Cover Crops" with **Michael Vittetoe** and **Brandon McHugh**

Research Report: "Are Soybean Seed Treatments Justified?"



Last week we heard results of trials from the **Cooperators Program** including a trial on ROI of seed treatments in soybeans.

Cooperators **Alec Amundson** of Osage, IA, **Sam Bennett** of Galva, IA and **Steve Saltzman** (pictured) of Lenox, IA compared plant stands and yield of fungicide and neonic insecticide seed treatments compared to untreated soybean seed.

They found no difference in yield or plant stands! Omitting seed treatments saved between \$3 and \$10 per acre. **[Read the full research report here.](#)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Are you registered for the PFI annual conference yet?

Our annual conference is the perfect place to get your cover crop questions answered and walk away with new ideas! A few of the sessions included are:



Implementing Wide-Row Corn Systems



Roller Crimping Rye in Soybeans



Planter Settings for Sowing Corn and Soybeans Into Covers

Join us January 21-22 in Ames, IA!

All times are listed in central time.

2022 National No-Tillage Conference

Hosted by: No-Till Farmer
January 4 - 7 | Louisville, KY

Field Day: Winter Grazing

Hosted by: Iowa State Extension
January 5 | 1 p.m. | Ames, IA

Webinar: Topic TBA

Hosted by: Matt Helmers & Iowa Learning Farms
January 12 | Noon | Online

Shared Learning Call: Economics of Extended Rotations

Hosted by: Jeff Steffen & Practical Farmers
January 7 | Noon - 1 p.m. | Online

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 applied for the 2022 cover crop - crop insurance premium discount yet?

Yes!

Select

Not yet, but I will!

Select

No, all my cover crop acres are already cost shared by another public program

Select

No, and I'm not going to

Select

Previous poll results:

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

- **I don't use cover crops to feed livestock - 42.9%**
- No, I have not tried it - **28.6%**
- I haven't tried it yet but am planning on it - **21.4%**
- Yes, I like the forage quality/added flexibility- **7.1%**

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!

