April will soon be upon us, and corn and soybean planting will commence. Last week we listened to farmers Keaton Krueger of Ogden, IA and Nathan Anderson of Aurelia, IA discuss planter set-up considerations for planting into cover crops. You can watch the recording here.

Some key take-aways included:
- We should index and adjust planter row units for consistency
With an overwintered cereal cover ahead of corn, we should have liquid N fertilizer on the planter. If this is not an option, Nathan compensates by using a stream bar on his sprayer which dribbles liquid 32% and ATS on the surface after planting, ideally before a rain. It is crucial to have correct adjuvant rates and well water-specific adjuvant products for successful chemical termination of rye. We should take the time to look at seed placement and trench closure. For fields with low soil moisture, we could terminate the cover crop earlier and maybe even increase corn planting depth.

Nathan notes that, "It takes more attention and focus, but an average planter will do an adequate job [of planting into cover crops]."

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**PROGRAM UPDATES**

**Seeding cover crops in fall of 2021? Enroll in cost share!**

Ready to invest in cover crops on your farm? You could earn $1,600 or more to help offset the cost—[fill out the application now to see if you're eligible.](#)

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"Catching Up" with you this summer

This summer we will host a series of small, energizing, in-person gatherings on farms across Iowa. We’re starting the planning, and the line-up will expand on a rolling basis throughout the summer as more pop-up, local events are organized. [Fill out this form](#) to let us know your interests and availability.
Have you attended a Field Crop Virtual Meet-Up yet? Upcoming topics include grazing all four seasons, managing cover crops on Des Moines Lobe soils and how cover crops fit into organic production systems.

For those with cows that are calving, wear your headset in the barn and dial in to join us – no need to be in front of the computer! These calls will be held each Thursday 6:30-8 p.m. CST from now through April 8.

IN THE FIELD

Video: Making your planter ready

In this recorded annual conference session Randy Peterson of AGCO explains how basic planter upkeep and maintenance pays off by ensuring seed placement and singulation, and why these planter performance characteristics are vital to crop performance.

Blog: Eight planter adjustments for planting into cover crop residue

Wayne Fredericks of Osage, IA has many years of experience with planting in cover crop and reduced tillage environments.

You can read his planter adjustment recommendations in this blog post.
Iowa Secretary of Ag Mike Naig shares tips for managing cover crops this spring

While planter set up is a part of successful spring management of cover crops, it is not the only piece of management for success.

Read Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig's tips for success with cover crops in the spring here.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Webinar: Economic Considerations on Cover Crop Adoption**
*Hosted by:* Alejandro Plastina & Iowa Learning Farms  
*March 24 | 12 p.m. CST | Online*

**Webinar: Economics of Soil Health Systems on Nebraska Farms**
*Hosted by:* Soil Health Institute & Cargill  
*March 25 | 1 p.m. CST | Online*

**Field Crop Farmer Virtual Meet-Up: Grazing Cover Crops**
*Hosted by:* Practical Farmers  
*March 25 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. CST | Online*

**Webinar: Topic TBA**
*Hosted by:* Rick Cruse & Iowa Learning Farms  
*March 31 | 12 p.m. CST | Online*

**Field Crop Farmer Virtual Meet-Up: Des Moines Lobe Spring Management**
*Hosted by:* Practical Farmers  
*April 1 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. CST | Online*

**Webinar: Topic TBA**
*Hosted by:* Mike Naig & Iowa Learning Farms  
*April 7 | 12 p.m. CST | Online*
Webinar: Economics of Soil Health Systems on Illinois Farms  
*Hosted by:* Soil Health Institute & Cargill  
*April 8 | 1 p.m. CST | Online*

Field Crop Farmer Virtual Meet-Up: Cover Crops in an Organic System  
*Hosted by:* Practical Farmers  
*April 8 | 6:30 – 8 p.m. CST | Online*

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**Want to host a virtual cover crop happy hour?** We’ll help you with the tech, and how to virtually invite your neighbors to the discussion. Contact Sarah if interested [sarah@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:sarah@practicalfarmers.org)

Are you planning or hosting a cover crop event—virtual or in person? Send the details to [rebecca@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:rebecca@practicalfarmers.org), and we’ll include it in our next newsletter.

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**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.

Is your corn/soybean planting date affected by whether or not you have cover crops?

- **Yes, I plant earlier on cover crop fields**  
  - Select

- **Yes, I plant later on cover cropped fields**  
  - Select

- **No, I plant around the same time on my cover cropped and non cover cropped field**  
  - Select

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**Previous poll results:**

How do you control costs with cover crops?

- **Multiple of the below** - 30.8%
- Control weeds or reduce herbicide expenses - 25.6%
- Use cover crop as forage - 23.1%
- Conserve soil nutrients - 12.8%
- None of the above, yet - 7.7%

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**CONTACT OUR COVER CROPS TEAM**

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