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The Practical  
**COVER  
CROPPER**

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



Relay-cropping cereal rye and soybeans provides as much, if not more, gains to soil health than rye as a cover crop alone, plus you can use the cereal rye for cover crop seed in the fall.

Relay-cropped soybeans see reduced crop yields compared to mono-cropped soybeans. However when **Michael Vittetoe** of Washington, IA compared profitability of relay-cropping rye and soybeans to the profitability of

monocrop soybeans, he found that the relay cropping rye and soybeans out-profits the monocrop soybeans by \$50-\$76 per acre!

Watch Michael Vittetoe and **Alec Amundson** of Osage, IA describe the agronomics, economics and lessons learned of relay-cropping cereal rye and soybeans on their farms.

## 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 to see if you're eligible.](#)**

[Fill out the application](#)

### Thinking about skipping the soybeans and keeping the rye? Apply for small grain cost share!



Stay up-to-date with small grain technical and marketing information and cost share opportunities by subscribing to our other monthly e-mail newsletter, "[Small Grains News.](#)"

A host of existing resources are also archived on our [small grains webpage.](#)

### "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 the form on this page](#) to let us know your interests and availability.

## IN THE FIELD

### Research report: "Effect of planting green on corn seedling, disease, stalk rot, and yield"

Cool spring temperatures have many farmers waiting until after corn planting to terminate their cover crop. In 2020, farmers **Jack Boyer, Eric Fynaardt, Kevin Holl** and **Rob Stout** compared the effects of cover crop termination before and after planting corn on corn performance.



**Alison Robertson's** ISU Plant Pathology lab [observed no effects of cover crop termination date](#) on corn seedling disease, corn stands, number of barren plants and stalk rot at any of the farms. One site experienced a negative yield impact from planting corn green.

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### Blog: "Soybean seed depth in dry conditions"



When the upper few inches of soil are dry, and there is not much rain in the forecast, how deep should we plant soybeans?

[This blog from Iowa State](#) compiles considerations for planting at a greater depth while avoiding uneven stands and disease infection.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### [Field Day: Incorporating Annual Forages into the Cattle Feeding System](#)

*Hosted by:* Amana Farms & Iowa Beef Center

**May 4 | 7:30 – 9 a.m. CT | Amana, IA**

### [Webinar: Can Small Grain, Soybean Relay Intercropping Be Successful in Iowa?](#)

*Hosted by:* Mark Licht & Iowa Learning Farms

**May 5 | 12:00 p.m. CT | Online**

### [UNL Field Crop Scout Interactive Training](#)

*Hosted by:* Nebraska Extension

**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.

## 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 ever relay cropped?

Yes

Select

No

Select

I might try this year

Select

### Previous poll results:

When will you terminate cereal rye relative to soybean planting date?

- **1-7 days after planting - 45.2%**
- More than one week after planting - **35.5%**
- The day of planting - **9.7%**
- More than one week before planting - **3.2%**
- 1-7 days before planting - **3.2%**
- N/A - **3.2%**

## CONTACT OUR COVER CROPS TEAM

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