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## The Practical COVER CROPPER

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



Increasing the resilience of our collective cropland while reducing nutrient losses will require more acres in cover crops in 2022 and future years. For greater cover crop adoption, we need to spread the cover crop 'gospel' with our farming and non-farming friends.

**Kevin Cooper** is a farmer and cover crop/no-till evangelist near Nevada, IA. He notes, "cover crops are a great way to utilize sunlight to increase organic matter, which increases our soils' water holding capacity."



**Inspiring youth:** In addition to raising crops, Kevin is an agriculture instructor and FFA adviser at Nevada High School. Kevin prioritizes sharing his cover crop and no-till journey with his students. He says, "Our young people have got to value our soil, water, air. They'll need to have resources a hundred, a thousand years from now." While gaining on-farm experience, the classes and FFA chapter host field days and do outreach events.

**Promoting outreach:** Kevin notes that cover croppers throughout the Midwest can do outreach themselves. He says, "Look for opportunities to promote cover crops with your local civic groups, schools and even neighbors."

**What will you do in 2022 to share the cover crop message?**

## PROGRAM UPDATES

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



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 by Jan. 14!**

### Illinois farmers: January 15 deadline for \$5/acre cover crop premium discount

IDOA offers "Fall Covers for Spring Savings" \$5/acre Cover Crop Premium Discount Program. Cover crops that

YOU'VE DONE THE WORK...

**GET REWARDED!**

The Fall Covers for Spring Savings program launches December 15, 2021 at 8AM

Learn more at: <https://tinyurl.com/FCSS2020>

are not cost shared with public funding are eligible.

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

Apply for the IL program by Jan. 15!

## IN THE FIELD

### Cover crop boot camp bonus: "Mounting a Strong Cover Crop Offense"



At our 2021 cover crop boot camp, **Jen Simpson** shared ways we can get people who oppose cover crops on board with the practice.

Learn tips from Jen in [the recorded session!](#)

Watch the rest of the cover crop boot camp recordings [here](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Are you registered for the PFI annual conference yet?

Our annual conference, January 21- 22 in Ames, is the perfect place to get your cover crop questions answered and walk away with new ideas! Walk-in registrations are accepted, and the [online registration](#) deadline is January 13. A few of the cover crop sessions included are:



[Implementing Wide-Row Corn Systems](#)



[Roller Crimping Rye in Soybeans](#)



[Planter Settings for Sowing Corn and Soybeans Into Covers](#)



Register online by Jan 13!

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## The 2022 winter farminar series kicks off on Jan. 4!



PFI's 2022 farminar season **starts January 4, and runs weekly on Tuesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. until March 29.**

The farminars are free to participate. Each presentation focuses on a unique production or business management topic, and is led by a farmer or subject-matter expert.

[See the full farminar lineup.](#)

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*All times are listed in central time.*

### **Field Day: Winter Grazing**

Hosted by: Iowa State Extension

**January 5 | 1 p.m. | Ames, IA**

### **Shared Learning Call: Economics of Extended Rotations**

Hosted by: Jeff Steffen & Practical Farmers

**January 7 | Noon - 1 p.m. | Online**

### **Webinar: Topic TBA**

Hosted by: Matt Helmers & Iowa Learning Farms

**January 12 | Noon | Online**

### **Farminar: High-Producing Organic No-Till**

Hosted by: Brett Israel & Practical Farmers

**January 18 | 7 - 8:30 p.m. | Online**

### **No-till on the Plains Winter Conference**

Hosted by: No-till on the Plains

**January 25 -25 | Wichita, KS**

### **OGRAIN Annual Winter Conference**

Hosted by: OGRAIN

**January 27 - 29 | Madison, WI**

### **Soil Health Workshop**

Hosted by: Missouri DNR

**January 28 | 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. | Monroe City, MO**

### **Farminar: On-Farm Research Explores Cover Crops, Manure, Nitrogen & Returns**

Hosted by: Woody Van Arkel, Cameron Ogilvie & Practical Farmers

## 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 many people did you speak to about cover crops in 2021?

0-5

Select

5-10

Select

10-20

Select

20+

Select

### Previous poll results:

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

- **Not yet, but I will! - 34.6%**
- No, all my cover crop acres are already cost shared by another public program - **30.8%**
- Yes! - **23.1%**
- No, and I'm not going to- **11.5%**

## CONTACT OUR COVER CROPS TEAM

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STAY CONNECTED WITH PFI!

