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The Practical
**COVER
CROPPER**

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

FACING THE HORIZON

Practical Farmers of Iowa Annual Conference
January 22, 2022



In a typical year, many farmers terminate cereal rye cover crops with glyphosate. Predicted glyphosate shortages leading to price hikes has farmers looking for alternative methods of termination and methods to stretch the glyphosate quantities available to them.

In a short clip from the Q&A section of an annual conference session, presenters **Andy Linder** of Easton, Minnesota and **Will Cannon** of Prairie City, Iowa talk ways to stretch glyphosate for cover crop termination.

"We're going to be proactive about getting product in the shed," Will explains. He plans to stretch the glyphosate by using best practices such as adjusting pH of his carrier, using adjuvants and not mixing glyphosate with Liquid 32, which he has observed causes the glyphosate to be less effective. Andy adds that it is not necessary to use quantities beyond the label rate.

Both Andy and Will emphasize the importance of spraying rye when the forecast has warm, sunny days for a couple days after spraying for greater herbicide uptake.

Be sure to check out Corteva's **"Terminate with Confidence"** webinar recording to learn about additional ways to stretch glyphosate and about alternative herbicides.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Field Crops VIRTUAL MEET-UPS

**Mondays from 6:30-8 p.m.
Feb. 14 & 21 | March 7 & 14**

Attend virtual meet-ups on Mondays in February and March to learn and share experiences on being "lean and green" in long-term soil health systems.

On Monday, February 14, **Dick Sloan** of Rowley, Iowa will share his experiences with reducing inputs such as seed treatments and in-season insecticide and fungicide.

On Monday, February 21, we'll hear from **Jack Boyer** of Reinbeck, Iowa on how his long-term soil health system has enabled him to reduce nitrogen rates.

Bring your thoughts and questions to share with from 6:30 to 8 p.m.!

Register for the series today!

**Raising small grains? Attend our small grains conference
March 1 in Lincoln!**



Rotationally Raised:

MAKING SMALL GRAINS WORK 2022 CONFERENCE

Practical Farmers' fifth annual small grains conference will take place on March 1 in Lincoln, Nebraska. This one-day event will gather farmers, researchers and small grain buyers to share their expertise on making the most of small grains in a rotation.

PRE-CONFERENCE SOCIAL HOUR

Boombox Social
Feb. 28 | 6 p.m.

SMALL GRAINS CONFERENCE

Nebraska Innovation Campus
March 1 | 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

Sessions include:

- "Growing and Selling Cover Crop Seed" with **Keith Berns**
- "Building Soil N with Red Clover" with **Katja Koehler- Cole** and **Lee Buchholz**
- "Grazing Summer Cover Crops" with **Dan Theilen** and **Paul Ackley**
- And much more!

Learn more and register today!

This event is free for PFI members and \$40 for non-members!

IN THE FIELD

Video: "Terminate with Confidence"



In the recording of Corteva's virtual roundtable "Terminate with Confidence" learn from cover crop and herbicide experts on options for terminating overwintered covers this spring.

[Watch the recording here.](#)

Research report: "Terminating Cover Crops after Seeing Soybeans"



Some farmers use delayed termination of cover crops as a way to make only one pass with burndown product.

In 2021, **Dick Sloan** continued an ongoing investigation of PFI cooperators' curiosity of how late they can terminate cereal rye in soybeans.

[Read Dick's findings](#) and see past research reports on the same topic.

Video: "When to Roller-Crimp Rye"



Roller crimping rye is a solid alternative to chemical termination. The key to effective termination with roller crimping is crimp with the rye is at either anthesis or dough stage- depending on who you ask.

In central Iowa, this typically occurs around Memorial Day. Think through when you expect to plant your cash crop when considering if [roller crimping is an option for you.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 3: Webinar - [2022 Conservation Cropping Seminar](#)

Hosted by: Illinois Extension
9 a.m. – Noon | Online

Feb. 3: Webinar - [Farm Green with Rick Clark](#)

Hosted by: Soil Regen
6 – 7:30 p.m. | Online

Feb. 11: Meeting - [Developing a Thriving Conservation Culture](#)

Hosted by: Wright County SWCD, Boone River Nutrient Reduction Project
6 p.m. | Clarion, IA

Feb. 14: Meet-Up - [Field Crop Farmers](#)

Feb. 16: Webinar - [Cover Crops and Water Quality](#)

Hosted by: Discovery Farms
9 a.m. - Noon | Online

Feb. 16: Webinar - [Topic TBA](#)

Hosted by: Mark Licht & Iowa Learning Farms
Noon | Online

Feb. 21: Meet-Up - [Field Crop Farmers](#)

Hosted by: Jack Boyer & Practical Farmers
6:30 – 8 p.m. | Online

Feb. 23: Webinar - [Topic TBA](#)

Hosted by: Andrea Basche & Iowa Learning Farms

Hosted by: Dick Sloan & Practical Farmers
6:30 – 8 p.m. | Online

Noon | Online

Feb. 15: Meeting - Cover Crop Meeting

Hosted by: Sponheim Sales & Services
9 a.m. – 2 p.m. | St. Ansgar, IA

March 1: Conference - Small Grains Conference

Hosted by: Practical Farmers & Partners
8 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. | Lincoln, NE

Want to host a cover crop meet up? Are you planning or hosting a cover crop event? Contact taylor@practicalfarmers.org to plan something or to promote your event.

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.

If you must alter your cover termination plan due to herbicide shortages, what will you change?

Only using glyphosate for only one pass

Select

Different herbicide products

Select

Reducing/keeping herbicide rates to 1x

Select

Mechanical termination (roller crimping, tillage)

Select

I'm not sure yet

Select

N/A

Select

Previous poll results:

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

- 10-20 – 37.5%
- 0-5 – 28.1%
- 5-10 – 21.9%
- 20+ – 12.5%

CONTACT OUR COVER CROPS TEAM

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STAY CONNECTED WITH PFI!

