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**PRACTICAL FARMERS**  
*of Iowa*

The Practical

**COVER  
CROPPER**

September 2022

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



*Left to right: Doug Lundgren, Jim Penny, Dave Struthers*

## **Meet the farmers: Practical farmers at the Farm Progress Show!**

We enjoyed the company of 20 different farmers volunteering in the PFI booth during the Farm Progress Show. Here's a little bit about the Thursday morning crew:

**Dave Struthers** of Collins, Iowa, raises corn, soybeans and alfalfa on his family operation with his parents, brother and nephew. They also operate a cow-calf operation and an independent feeder to finish pig operation.



**Something Dave is interested in learning about:** Relay cropping rye and soybeans for on-farm use.

**Doug Lundgren** of Stanton, Iowa, raises conventional corn and soybeans.

**Something Doug is interested in learning about:** Managing his nutrition program to apply fertilizer at planting.

**Jim Penny** of Ames, Iowa, is a retired Key Co-op manager and was a former board member of the Leopold Center for 10 years. He and his son have 40 acres of corn, including some short corn, and 2 acres of alfalfa planted in a waterway.

**Something Jim is interested in learning about:** Management of wetlands and bioreactors.

Thank you to Dave, Doug and Jim for representing Practical Farmers at the Farm Progress Show, and thanks to everyone who stopped by to say hello to farmers and staff!

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Join our team: PFI hiring for field crops viability coordinator

Love talking with other farmers about cover crops? Interested in helping PFI grow our network? Do we have the job for you!

We're hiring a field crops viability coordinator to lead recruitment and engagement for our cover crop, small grain and fertilizer cost-share programs. **Applications are due September 16th!**



### Cost-share update



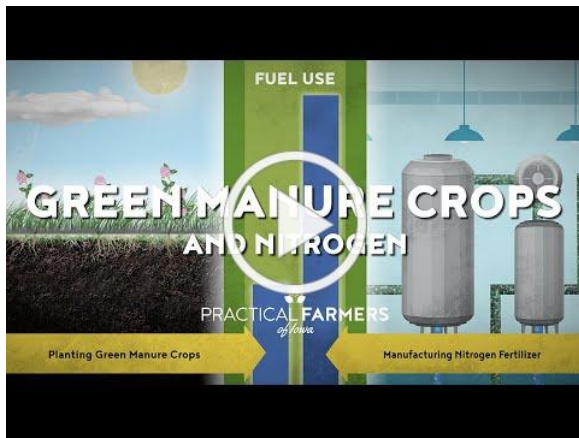
Don't miss out on PFI's cover crop cost-share program this fall!

Seed and application prices are rising. **Let us help foot the bill.** Our privately funded program can be stacked with any federally or state-funded cost-share to help put more money back in your pocket.

[Reserve your acres today!](#)

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## Green manure crops and nitrogen



Green manure crops – like clover and other legumes – add nitrogen to the soil, allowing farmers to **save on fertilizer costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.**

[In this animated video,](#) learn how green manure crops add nitrogen to the soil, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and how they fit onto Corn Belt farms.

## IN THE FIELD

### Over the years: Cover crop variety trials



The Cooperators' Program has several years of [cover crop variety trial data at the ready!](#)

Establishment is compared in corn and soybeans for brassicas, grass and legumes. Species include winter wheat, hairy vetch, rapeseed and more!

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### Research: Camelina ahead of corn and soybeans

Key findings from this [2020 Cooperators' Program Report](#) on winter camelina as a cover crop ahead





of corn and soybeans show the cover had no effect on yields.

Three farms were involved in the trial and the winter camelina overwintered at two and winter-killed at the third.

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## Additional resources

- [PFI's Find Cover Crops tool: for finding cover crop businesses near you!](#)
- [Flying on cover crops in drought conditions](#)
- [Midwest cover crop council's cover crop decision tool](#)
- [Green Cover Seed's Smart Mix Calculator](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*All events below are listed in central daylight time.*

**Sept. 9: Field Day - [Drones, Extended Rotations and Cover Crop Grazing](#)**

*Hosted by: Tim Dotterer | Practical Farmers of Iowa*  
11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. | Bloomfield, IA  
FREE

**Sept. 14: Field Day - [On-Farm Cover Crop Research Trials](#)**

*Hosted by: Will and Cassie Cannon | Practical Farmers of Iowa*  
Noon-2:30 p.m. | Prairie City, IA  
FREE

**September 21: Field Day - [Cover Crop and Water Quality Field Day](#)**

*Hosted by: USDA NRCS & Iowa Learning Farms*  
5-7 p.m. | Center Junction, IA  
FREE

**September 28: Virtual Event - [Cover Crop Specialist Call](#)**

*Hosted by: Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership*  
9-10 a.m. | Online  
FREE

[View more events on our calendar](#)

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Want to host a cover crop meet up? Are you planning or hosting a cover crop event? Contact [taylor@practicalfarmers.org](mailto: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.

Which of these session topics for the PFI Annual Conference sound the most interesting to you?

**Flame weeding**

Select

**Cover crops and herbicide carryover**

Select

**On-farm composting**

Select

**Cover crop seeding and equipment**

Select

### **Previous poll results:**

How do you plan to seed your cover crops this fall?

- **Drill following harvest - 58.3%**
- Broadcast following harvest - 20.8%
- Interseed into standing crop - 12.5%
- Differ by the field/crop - 8.3%

## **CONTACT OUR COVER CROPS TEAM**

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**STAY CONNECTED WITH PFI!**

