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The Practical  
**COVER  
CROPPER**  
January 2023

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*

## Meet PFI annual conference speakers: Jacob Bolson and Mike Crow

**Session Details:** [Successfully Planting into Cover Crops](#) | Jan. 21 | 9-10 a.m.

What disk-openers should I use? How much down-pressure do I need? When and how are others terminating a cover crop? What if I'm organic and need to till? These are among the questions farmers ask when starting out with planting corn or soybeans following a cover crop. Hear from Jacob Bolson and Mike Crow about their beginner-friendly methods for planting cash crops into cover crops in the spring in conventional and organic systems.



*Jacob Bolson lives with his wife, Lindsay, and their four children on an acreage outside of Hubbard, Iowa.*

*Mike Crow farms in Blairstown, IA where he grows corn, soybeans, and plants green into rye covers.*

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### **Mike and Jacob's key takeaways for the session:**

**Jacob:** "I want attendees to learn that there is a broad community of people and diverse resources out there, so they should never feel like they are alone in getting started with cover crops."

**Mike:** "Start small and follow through."

### **What they're looking forward to:**

**Jacob:** "I'm looking forward to seeing the positive energy that PFI is generating with the broader Iowa community reflected at this year's conference."

**Mike:** "I am looking forward to all the topics that are being covered and to sit back and learn what I can. There are a lot of sessions!"

**Register to attend this session and many more!**

## **PROGRAM UPDATES**

### **Practical Cover Cropper: A Year in Review**



2022 was a big year for cover crops!

Re-visit [these farmers' stories from 2022](#) as we look forward to another year of putting Midwest cover croppers in the spotlight!

**If you want to share your story in 2023, please contact:**

[taylor.hintch@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:taylor.hintch@practicalfarmers.org)

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## **SHORT COURSE: ORGANIC NO-TILL IN ROW CROP SYSTEMS**

Don't forget PFI will be holding an [organic no-till short course](#) ahead of the conference with great speakers from across the Midwest! The short course will be held from **1:30-6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19** and from **8-11:30 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 20.**

## Hear from the following speakers:

- Rick Clark
- Loran Steinlage
- Joel Gruver
- Michael O'Donnell & Andy Klemp
- Dr. Erin Silva, Léa Vereecke, and Dr. Kathleen Delate

## IN THE FIELD

### Research report: Soybean seed treatments



PFI Cooperator **Emery Davis** wanted help with making a decision on whether or not to purchase soybeans with seed treatments in the future.

He compared soybeans **grown from seed treated with fungicides** and a neonicotinoid with soybeans grown from untreated seed. In a randomized-replicated trial, he found yields were statistically similar, and untreated soybeans improved net returns by \$30/ac.

**[Hear Emery present about this research at the PFI annual conference.](#)**

### Research report: Corn seed treatments



PFI Cooperator **Dick Sloan** **compared seeds treated with fungicide only;** fungicide and insecticide; and a humic acid product which did not include fungicide or insecticide.

Dick found that seed treatment had no statistical effect on corn yield; average yield across all treatments was 214 bu/ac.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PFI events

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



Jan. 19-21: Attend the PFI Annual Conference

# ON COMMON GROUND

Practical Farmers of Iowa Annual Conference  
January 19-21, 2023



**The annual conference is nearly here! Check out some of the cover-cropper sessions and register below:**

- Managing Herbicide Residuals before Cover Crops
- Successfully Planting into Cover Crops
- Alternative to Rye? Testing Winter Camelina in the Field
- Farmer to Farmer Interview: Michael Vittetoe and Lisa Kubik
- What's your Clover Worth? Investigating Nitrogen Credits ahead of Corn

[Register here](#)

*Save the Date!*

**MIDWEST  
COVERS & GRAINS  
CONFERENCE**

Don't Farm Naked! PFI's inaugural **Midwest Covers & Grains Conference** will be held at the Kirkwood Center in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on March 2, 2023!

This brand new event will combine and replace the former Cover Crop Bootcamp and Small Grains Conference.

Topics for discussion this year include a deep dive into small grains agronomy, growing cover crops for seed, relay cropping and more!

Registration is open- and the first 50 registrants will receive a Don't Farm Naked T-shirt!



[Learn more and register here](#)

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## PFI's Farminar season begins January 10!

**Farminars are Practical Farmers' version of a webinar – a farmer-led webinar!** These **90-minute, online presentations are FREE for everyone**, and we encourage attendees to come with questions for the chat box.

Farminars are held Tuesdays, Noon-1:30 p.m. Central Time, from January to March.



**Field crops feature Feb. 7:** "Thinking Through Cover Crops: How to Set Goals, Design Optimal Seed Mixes and Minimize Costs" – **Thomas Björkman**

Cover crop mixes can help farmers add diversity or achieve specific on-farm goals like cover crop grazing, weed control or improved soil fertility.

This farminar will discuss how to tailor your summer or fall cover crop mix and match your on-farm goals while keeping costs in check.

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## Friends of PFI cover crop events

**Jan 26-28: Conference - [OGRAIN Conference](#)**

*Hosted by: OGRAIN*

**Jan 11: Webinar- [New And Emerging Cover Crops Winter Series: Camelina](#)**

[View more events on our calendar](#)

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

In what ways would you like to network with fellow cover croppers in 2023?

**Attend field days**

Select

**Attend local farmer meet-ups**

Select

**Attend virtual events**

Select

**Attend conferences**

Select

**All of the above**

Select

**I have another idea for networking that I will tell Taylor about!**

Select

### Previous poll results:

How much do you know about PFI's Cooperators' Program?

- **I come across the reports from time to time. - 28.6%**
- I'm looking forward to the upcoming meeting & my next on-farm trial. - 21.4%
- I just read about it for the first time. - 21.4%
- I come across the reports from time to time. - 28.6%
- I actively look for reports on the website & would like to be more involved. - 14.3%
- I've never heard of it. - 14.3%

**CONTACT OUR COVER CROPS TEAM**

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