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The Practical

**COVER
CROPPER**

February 2023

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

Managing Herbicide Residuals Before Cover Crops



Watch back from the PFI annual conference: [Managing Herbicide Residuals with Cover Crops](#)

Learn from speaker **Meaghan Anderson** about:

- Herbicide carry over risk
- Planning and expectations around cover crops and herbicide management
- Herbicide damage
- Known Herbicides and concerns for rotational crops
- Environmental conditions and the impact on herbicide carry over

“What can we do ahead of time to make sure we are successful with our cover crops? I view it two ways: you can plan your herbicide program around your

cover crop, or you can plan your cover crop program around your herbicides.”
- Meaghan Anderson

PROGRAM UPDATES

Guide to cover crop initiatives



The Center for Rural Affairs has released a set of easy-to-read guides to help farmers and landowners in Iowa and Nebraska navigate cover crop initiatives from public and private sources and crop insurance information.

[Guide to Cover Crop Initiatives in Nebraska](#)

[Guide to Cover Crop Initiatives in Iowa](#)

Sign up for PFI's yield warranty for reduced N



With input costs rising and cutting into your farm's profits, it's time to look at reducing your reliance on purchased inputs.

With support from our staff and a yield warranty, PFI can help you reduce nitrogen applications on your farm – saving you money and increasing your farm's resiliency.

Farmers who are new to cutting purchased inputs, and farmers who've reduced nitrogen previously, are both [eligible for our program.](#)

Members: Please complete the PFI member survey

Every three years, we ask all Practical Farmers of Iowa members to complete a survey that provides staff and our board of directors with a snapshot of our membership, and helps guide our future programming.

The information you provide us in this survey is vitally important for keeping us a member-led organization.

If you're a current member of Practical Farmers of Iowa, the email address for the primary contact on your membership should have received an emailed invitation to complete the survey on Jan. 13, 2023. Please check your inbox (and spam folder) for the invitation from surveys@practicalfarmers.org.

If you have any questions or would prefer to complete the survey over the phone, please contact Steve Carlson at steve.carlson@practicalfarmers.org or (515) 232-5661.

We appreciate your effort helping to guide our farmer-led organization!

IN THE FIELD

Blog feature: Clover Crop Management



Start thinking about clover establishment and management with [this 2020 blog](#) that dives into best practices to prepare for a clover crop.

The time for frost-seeding is just around the corner, get ready by reading up on all things clover.

Live From the Farm: Extended Rotations with Red Clovers

Extended Rotations With R...



Red clover might just be **Ben Dwire's** favorite crop to grow.

During this episode from 2021, PFI talked with Ben about how this nitrogen-fixing cover crop can help other parts of his extended rotations and his livestock operation.

[Watch here.](#)

Additional resources:

- [Research Report: Corn Following Clover and Rye Cover Crops](#)
- [Blog: Roger Wenning's Red Clover System](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

PFI events

All events below are listed in central standard time.

Join us March 2 at the Midwest Covers & Grains Conference in Cedar Rapids, IA!



Come learn from other farmers and advance your understanding of how diversified rotations and cover crops can work for you.

Breakout sessions at this one-day event will explore a range of topics including selling cover crop seed, relay cropping and more!

FREE for PFI members

[Register here](#)

Farminar: "Thinking Through Cover Crops: How to Set Goals, Design Optimal Seed Mixes and Minimize Costs"



Tuesday, Feb. 7 | Noon

Cover crop mixes can help farmers add diversity or achieve specific on-farm goals like cover crop grazing, weed control or improved soil fertility. But if these mixes are created without identified cover crop goals in mind, mixes with many species can simply feel like an additional expense without clear benefit.

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.

Upcoming events:

Feb 9: Conference - [Eastern Nebraska Soil Health Conference](#)

Hosted by: University of Nebraska Lincoln

9 a.m. - 3:15 p.m. | Ithaca, NE

March 7: Farminar - [Diversified Crop Rotations in an Organic System](#)

Hosted by: Jacob Landis and Practical Farmers of Iowa

Noon to 1:30 p.m. | Online

Feb 23-25: Conference - [The Marbleseed \(formerly MOSES\) Organic Farming Conference](#)

Hosted by: Marbleseed
La Crosse, WI

*****Visit PFI staff at this event!*****

March 10: Shared Learning Call - [Topic TBD](#)

Hosted by: Practical Farmers of Iowa
Noon- 1 p.m. | Online

March 2: Conference- [Midwest Covers & Grains Conference](#)

Hosted by: Practical Farmers of Iowa
Cedar Rapids, IA

[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 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.

What is your primary goal when planting a multi-species cover crop?

Weed control

Select

Grazing

Select

Soil fertility

Select

Other

Select

N/A, I don't plant multi-species covers

Select

Previous poll results:

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

- **Attend field days - 29%**
- **All of the above - 29%**
- Attend virtual events - 19.4%
- Attend local farmer meet-ups - 12.9%
- Attend conferences - 6.5%
- I have another idea for networking I will tell Taylor about! - 3.2%

CONTACT OUR COVER CROPS TEAM

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