

SHARE:



[Join Our Email List](#)




PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

The Practical
**COVER
CROPPER**

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



On the blog: "Harvest and Handling of Cover Crop Seed"

After practicing no-till on their family farm for many years, **Chris Gaesser** and his parents began incorporating cover crops in 2010 to further improve soil health. Eventually, that path led Chris to grow cover crops for seed, to use them on his own farm and to sell to other farmers through his business, GX Agriculture.

Chris shared about his experiences growing cereal rye and other small grains for cover crop seed, including specifics of harvest and post-harvest handling.

[Read about what he has learned with over a decade of experience with cover crops in our latest blog post.](#)

Are you interested in starting your own cover crop seed or application business? Read more below about how our [crop crops business accelerator program](#).

PROGRAM UPDATES

Launch your cover crop business with the accelerator program

This one-year program provides the following support for your business:

1 Individualized business growth consulting - \$10,000 value	2 Capital investment payment - 10% of a business purchase, up to \$5,000 Examples include drills, seed cleaners, seed tenders, building infrastructure Payment may also be used to cover the costs of graphic designers or other business investments	3 Seed production and custom seeding incentive payments \$3 per acre for custom-seeded acres in the fall, guaranteed up to \$5,000 \$20 per acres for cover crop seed acres harvested, guaranteed up to \$2,000
--	---	---

Want to start or grow your cover crop seed or application business? Enroll in the Cover Crop Business Accelerator Program.

With this one-year program, you'll receive personalized consulting on business growth; a capital investment payment up to \$5,000; and incentive payments.

There are 15 spots available on a first-come first-serve basis. [Apply ASAP to secure yours.](#)

Calling on-farm research cooperators



Put your soil's health to the test with a nitrogen rate trial!

PFI is seeking **corn farmers with at least a 5-year history of soil health practices** to participate in a trial to compare N-fertilizer rates.

[Check out this flyer to learn about the program](#) and email PFI's senior research manager, **Stefan Gailans** at stefan.gailans@practicalfarmers.org to enroll.

Introducing our new conservation cost-share



Are you interested in conservation practices that improve water quality, build soil health, address climate change and provide critical native habitat for wildlife?

We are excited to announce that **PFI is now offering a new conservation cost-share!**

Those who enroll can get technical and financial support for precision conservation, prairie strips, oxbow wetlands and pollinator habitat. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Find Cover Crops: Line up your seed applicator for fall



Whether you're new to cover crops or just curious to see what is available, the app "[Find Cover Crops](#)" is for you!

Search for seed suppliers, applicators and more by location in the app. Find it in the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#) or use it in your [web browser](#).

Have a service you would like to list? Sell cover crop seed? You can reach customers through the app, too!

IN THE FIELD

Video: "Starting a Cover Crop Seed Business"



Check out this recording of our 2019 Annual Conference session with **Mac Ehrhardt**, owner and manager of Albert Lea Seed, and **Dean Sponheim**, co-owner of Sponheim Seeds and Services.

They presented a crash course on the basics of starting a cover crop seed business, from seed laws to licensing.

[Watch the recording.](#)

Cereal Rye and Triticale Variety Trial



Data from this 2022 trial looks at 11 cereal rye varieties and one triticale variety tested at four Iowa State University research farms across the state.

They compared germination rates and yield across several hybrid and open-pollinated varieties.

[Read their research report.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events below are listed in central standard time.

Field day: Drilling Down on Oat Varieties



**Friday, July 7 | 10 a.m.-Noon |
Fonda, IA**

Neil Peterson raises corn, soybeans, small grains and cattle at Clover Lane Farm with his wife, Elizabeth, and sons Paul and Timothy.

Neil plants no-till oats with red clover and, at harvest, he uses both a combine and a swather.

He also rotationally grazes 50 cows on 20 acres of former row crop ground converted to pasture. [Please RSVP here.](#)

Field day: Relay Cropping, Permanent Clover and Irrigation Systems

**Wednesday, July 19 | 10 a.m.-Noon
| Spencer, IA**



Patrick White and his father, **Chuck White** will share the soil health benefits of cover crops and what incentives are available to landowners to help implement cover crops and conservation practices.

They farm corn, soy and cereal rye on 1,200 acres and have practiced no-till since 2004 and used cover crops since 2013. [Please RSVP here.](#)

July 10: Field Day - [Iowa Cover Crop Diversification and Organic Transition](#)

Hosted by: Iowa Organic Association, James and Megan Holz, and Joel Lange
10a.m.-Noon | Jefferson, IA

July 10: Field Day - [Arlington Organic Ag Equipment Field Day](#)

Hosted by: UW-Madison Arlington Agricultural Research Station and OGRAIN
10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Arlington, WI

July 12: Field Day - [Jay Hedke Farm – Soil Health Field Day](#)

Hosted by: Meeker and Kandiyohi Counties SWCD and University of Minnesota Extension
4:30-7 p.m. | Grove City, MN

July 14: PFI Shared Learning Call - [Soil Health Institute's Soil Health Assessment and Targets Project in Iowa](#)

Hosted by: Shannon Moeller with the Soil Health Institute
Noon-1 p.m. | Online

July 19: Field Day - [Crops & Soils Day](#)

Hosted by: University of Minnesota Northwest Research and Outreach Center
7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Crookston, MN

July 20: Field Day - [Keith Speltz Farm Field Day with Albert Lea Seed](#)

Hosted by: OGRAIN & Albert Lea Seed
11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Altura, MN

July 28: PFI Field Day - [Converting Row Crops to Perennial Pasture](#)

Hosted by: Zach Knutson & Brooke Calaway
3-5 p.m. | Zumbrota, MN

Aug 1 or 4: Field Day - [Soil Health Field Days](#)

Hosted by: Green Cover
8 a.m.- lunch | Bladen, NE

[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.

From where do you source most of your cover crop seed?

My farm

Select

Local, within 10 miles

Select

In the area, between 10-60 miles

Select

In state but greater than 60 miles

Select

Out of state or further than 60 miles

Select

Previous poll results:

Will you attend a PFI field day in 2023?

- **I'm attending at least one. - 62.5%**
- I'm attending a non-PFI field day. - 18.8%
- I won't be able to make it this year. - 12.5%
- I'm hosting! - 6.3%

CONTACT OUR COVER CROPS TEAM

Solveig Orngard

Field Crops Education Coordinator

solveig.orngard@practicalfarmers.org

Taylor Hintch

Field Crops Education Coordinator

taylor.hintch@practicalfarmers.org

Lydia English

Field Crops Viability Manager

lydia.english@practicalfarmers.org

Rebecca Clay

Field Crops Viability Coordinator

rebecca.clay@practicalfarmers.org

Chelsea Ferrie

Field Crops Viability Coordinator

chelsea.ferrie@practicalfarmers.org

Morgan Jennings

Field Crops Viability Coordinator

morgan.jennings@practicalfarmers.org

Chat with any of us by calling the PFI office at (515)-232-5661.

Did someone forward you this newsletter? Would you like similar content delivered to your inbox monthly? [Sign up to receive The Practical Cover Cropper.](#)

STAY CONNECTED WITH PFI!

