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Small
Grains
NEWS
January 2020

Hello,

Registration for the 2020 small grains conference is now open! Check out the full line-up of sessions and register on the [small grains conference page](#). Some important dates to keep in mind:

- The block of rooms at the conference hotel will expire on **February 12**
- Pre-registration deadline is **February 28**
- The conference will be held from **Noon on March 4 to 12:30 p.m. on March 5**

In addition to getting your seed selected and lined up for planting, this winter season is a great time to do some market research and set up contracts for your small grain crops. I've included some resources below on marketing -- read on!

Stay Warm,

Alisha

February 7 Call will be on Small Grains Fertility

Understanding small grain fertility needs and providing the necessary nutrients at the right time of the year is important to achieving a profitable small grain crop. **Dr. Dave Franzen is the Extension Soil Specialist at North Dakota State University and will join us to share his expertise on fertility for maximum return on investment in small grain crops.**

His talk will address N, P, K and other nutrient needs for wheat and other small grain crops and his research

and experience on response to timing and type of fertilizer or manure products.



The call will be held from noon to 1 p.m. on Friday, February 7. **To join dial 605-313-5784 and enter passcode 239000# when prompted.**

Blog Online from Learning Call on Clover Cover Crop Management



Clover is sometimes referred to as the "Cadillac" of cover crops - it's more expensive, but also provides sophisticated benefits. This blog summarizes the information about clover management that Kevin Shelley, Farm Nutrient and Cover Crops Specialist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, presented on our January shared learning call. [The blog covers clover establishment, management,](#)

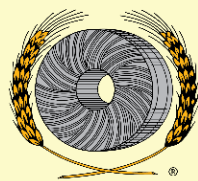
[termination and N credits to a following corn crop.](#)

[Read the Blog](#)

Oatly Program Seeks More Oat Growers in N. Iowa and S. Minnesota

Oatly is increasing growers/acres in their program to source US grown oats in 2020 from farmers using cover crops and extended rotation best practices. **Participating farmers would receive forward contracts on their oats and cost share through PFI at \$25/acre.** Farmers are required to frost seed a clover or other legume cover crop into their oats or apply for a livestock exception to plant a diverse summer mix if livestock will graze the field. Program participation also includes guaranteed contract offers for three years (2020-2022) and assistance from Grain Millers in marketing oats that don't make grade.

If you're interested in participating contact Alisha Bower at alisha@practicalfarmers.org or (515) 232-5661 to talk through program requirements and eligibility.



GRAIN MILLERS



Smithfield Bids for Wheat and Oats in Southern Iowa

Farmers in Southern Iowa will now have a new market option for wheat and oats. In partnership with Practical Farmers, **Smithfield grain elevators in Allerton and Davis City, Iowa will be offering contracting options for wheat and oats.** These contracts can be paired with PFI's 2020 cost share program as long as the small grain crop is followed by a cover crop that contains at least one legume species. [Learn more about the program here.](#)

Questions? Contact Alisha Bower at (515) 232-5661 or alisha@practicalfarmers.org

EVENTS

January

OGRAIN Winter Conference

January 24-25, 2020 | Madison, WI

IL Wheat Growers Association Winter Wheat Forum

January 30, 2020 | Mt. Vernon, IL

February

Organic Grain Conference and Trade Show 2020

February 4-5, 2020 | Champaign, IL

Best of the Best in Wheat and Soybean Research

February 5, 2020 | Grand Forks, ND

Best of the Best in Wheat and Soybean Research

February 6, 2020 | Moorhead, MN

University of Minnesota Small Grains Update

February 17, 2020 | Rochester, MN

University of Minnesota Small Grains Update

February 18, 2020 | Le Center, MN

University of Minnesota Small Grains Update

February 19, 2020 | Cold Spring, MN

University of Minnesota Small Grains Update

February 19, 2020 | Mora, MN

2020 Indiana Organic Grain Farmer Meeting

February 19-20, 2020 | West Lafayette, IN

Wisconsin Cover Crop Conference

February 20, 2020 | Stevens Point, WI

University of Minnesota Small Grains Update

February 20, 2020 | Granite Falls, MN

University of Minnesota Small Grains Update

February 20, 2020 | Slayton, MN

University of Minnesota Small Grains Update

February 21, 2020 | Benson, MN

March

PFI Small Grains Conference 2020

March 4-5, 2019 | Springfield, IL

Spring Small Grain Variety Selection

Still unsure which small grain is right for you? Here are some resources:

- The [variety selection episode](#) of our rotationally raised video series.
- The [blog from January 2017's shared learning call](#) with seed dealer Mac Ehrhardt.
- The [blog from Feb 2018 shared learning call](#) on variety selection with breeder Melanie Caffé.
- Variety trial data from a number of neighboring state's universities listed on [our website](#).
- PFI's [Oat Variety Trial results](#).
- [Blog on oat variety trial results](#) from December 2019 shared learning call



Small Grain Marketing

January is the time to secure contracts for your next year's small grains. This requires a bit of leg work since many buyers don't list their bid prices online. Here are some resources we've produced to help navigate the process of scoping out markets for your small grains:

- The [Small Grains Directory](#) lists seed and grain buyers;
- [The recap blog](#) from our grain and seed markets call in February 2017 on Frequently Asked Questions about Small Grains Markets;
- [The recap blog](#) from our March 2018 call on Marketing to Breweries and Distilleries;
- [The blog](#) on laws governing seed sales;
- And, the [rotationally raised short](#) on markets for small grains.

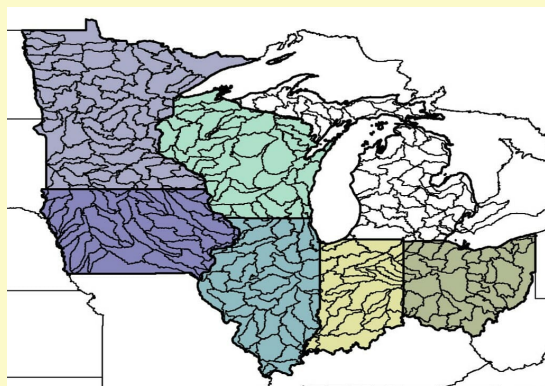
Marketing Small Grains



Apply for Cost Share Assistance

Winter is a great time to look into programs that support growing small grains in extended rotations. Here are some resources:

- [This blog on applying for EQIP](#) to mimic PFI's small grains cost share
- PFI's small grain cost share [information](#)
- PFI's small grain cost share [sign up](#)



[Small Grains Cost Share Sign-Up](#)

STAY CONNECTED



Looking for more? Contact us today!

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