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Small
Grains
NEWS
January 2021

Greetings,

The [2021 small grains cost share sign-up](#) is still open! Sign-up has been open since September, 2020, and if you already enrolled there no need to enroll again. If you are now adding spring small grains to your farm and have NOT enrolled in our small grain cost share please do so now! Cost share is assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, and acres are limited.

The [2021 Practical Farmers Annual Conference](#) is in full swing, but you can still join us for the remaining sessions through Saturday evening. We'd love for you to join us even if just for one session.

Be well,
The Strategic Initiatives Team

Have you applied for 2021 small grain cost share yet?

Farmers in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio and Wisconsin are invited to apply for cost share on small grains harvested in 2021 and followed by a legume-containing cover crop. Small grains include barley, oats, rye, triticale or wheat and a legume cover crop could be under- or co-seeded clover or alfalfa or a summer planted cover that includes hairy vetch or field peas.



PFI will pay \$15 per acre cost share on up to 200 acres for this combination of main crop and cover crop. We also have a growing number of programs that

link this cost share with a market opportunity for a small-grain crop that you may qualify for based on your location and production practices.

Apply for small grains cost share!

February 5 call: Management for fusarium in small grains

Fusarium head blight, also known as scab, has the potential to decrease yield and lower test weight of small grain crops. But with intentional management, producers can reduce the risk of crop damage by fusarium.

On our February call, we'll hear from **Jochum Wiersma**, a small grains specialist and extension professor at University of Minnesota, on fusarium management.

Call in on February 5 at 12:15 p.m. to hear Jochum speak about reducing impact of fusarium head blight, including variety selection, disease identification, cultural management and management with fungicides.



To join dial (605) 313-5784 and enter passcode 239000# when prompted.

Re-cap blog: Entrepreneurial opportunities with seed cleaning small grains



Earlier this month, **Bill Frederick** of Jefferson, shared some of the lessons he has learned while expanding Iowa Cover Crop's seed cleaning capacity.

Read about the various seed cleaning set-ups Bill has had, and [his tips for seed cleaning in this blog](#).

2020 Oat Selector Tool Variety Trial Report

Since 2018, PFI has worked with plant breeders to develop models to predict small grain performance in localized environments. These models power a "selector tool" that will assist



farmers in choosing varieties suited to their location and end market. But all models need calibration, so in 2020, five Iowa growers tested the efficacy of this selector tool by growing their typical oat variety alongside a variety predicted to do well by the model.

[Check out the research report](#) to see how the varieties stacked up (Hint: it varied by farm).

Test oat varieties on your farm in 2021



PFI is looking to continue to calibrate our small grain selector tool and is seeking Iowa farmers to perform an on-farm trial in 2021.

Participants will plant their typical oat variety alongside a variety predicted to perform well by a genotype-by-environment model.

PFI will assist trial design and provide compensation. If you're interested in participating or want to learn more, contact lydia@practicalfarmers.org.

EVENTS

February

[Shared Learning Call: Management for Fusarium in Small Grains](#)

February 5 | 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. CST | dial (605) 313-5784 and enter passcode 239000#

[Farming for the Future: A Forum Exploring Ecosystem Markets](#)

February 12 | 11:20 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. CST | [Online](#)

[OGRAIN: Reducing Tillage in Organic Grain Productions-- Latest in Agronomics and Equipment](#)

February 19 | Noon - 1:30 p.m. | [Online](#)

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



STAY CONNECTED



Looking for more? Contact us today!

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