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Small  
Grains  
**NEWS**  
January 2022

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*

**Terry Gjersvik** of Alden, Minnesota started raising oats four years ago, growing between 50 and 60 acres per year. In 2022, he's planning on seeding 270 acres - more than quadruple what he's previously grown.



**Why increase:** A combination of favorable oat prices, high input costs and confidence from recent crops led Terry to make the change this year. "All these additional oat acres were going to be corn this spring," he says, "corn has just become such a high input crop." Terry has already forward-contracted his oats, taking advantage of the high bids released this winter.

**Modifications for scaling up:** This year Terry direct cut his oats for the first time. While swathing has worked well for the farm in previous years, it's too time consuming for them to operate at a larger scale. "We have a combine with a draper head, which hopefully will be perfect," he notes.

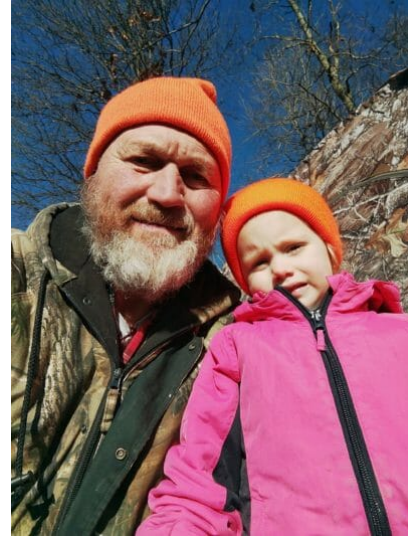
**Livestock add value:** Terry added a goat herd to his operation in 2020. In addition to grazing goats on cover crops, increasing his oat acres this year will provide him with more straw.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

**Call February 4 at noon on red clover**

**Friday, February 4 | Noon - 1 p.m. CT**

Red clover is a reliable cover crop when under-seeded or frost-seeded into a small grain, and it can provide benefits such as N fixation, weed control and summer forage. On February 4, hear from **Roger Wenning** as he describes his experience over the last decade frost seeding red clover into his winter wheat and winter barley. Roger will talk through how red clover is established, hayed, and chemically terminated on his farm and the benefits he sees for other crops in his rotation.



Roger Wenning farms in Decatur County, Indiana on roughly 900 acres with his family. The Wennings raise corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and have a small herd of feeder calves. They use cover crops and no-till on all their acres and have a tiling and excavation business.

### We'll be convening on Zoom

To join by computer: click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83632167882>

To join by phone: dial **+1-312-626-6799** and enter meeting ID **836 3216 7882** followed by #

Add to Google Calendar

Add to Outlook Calendar

Registration is open for the Small Grains Conference

*You're Invited!*

## 2022 SMALL GRAINS CONFERENCE LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Practical Farmers' fifth annual small grains conference will take place on March 1st in Lincoln, Nebraska. This one-day event will gather farmers, researchers and small grain buyers to share their expertise on making the most of small grains in a rotation.

### PRE-CONFERENCE SOCIAL HOUR

Boombox Social  
Feb. 28 | 6 p.m.

### SMALL GRAINS CONFERENCE

Nebraska Innovation Campus  
March 1 | 8 a.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Sessions include:

- "Improving Quality of Life with Diversified Rotations" with **Scott Heinemann**
- "Growing and Selling Cover Crop Seed" with **Keith Berns**
- "Feeding Small Grain Silage to Livestock" with **Justin Raikes** and **Jarrold Knorr**

And much more!

**Learn more and register today!**

***This event is free for PFI members and \$40 for non-members***

## **Blog online: Oats Bearing Profits: Cutting Inputs by Extending Crop Rotations**



On our January shared learning call, we heard from **Jeff Steffen** of Crofton, Nebraska on how he's making more money by extending his rotation with a small grain crop.

While corn might bring in more revenue on a yearly basis, as Jeff says, "there's no way I could reduce my inputs on corn without oats in the rotation."

**[Read up on the profitability of Jeff's system today.](#)**

Thinking about lowering fertilizer inputs on corn that follows a small grain rotation? Don't forget we offer **[cost-share and technical assistance](#)** to help guide you.

## **IN THE FIELD**

### **Extended Rotation Economic Resources**

Hungry for more information about how extended rotations with small grains can be profitable? We've got you covered:

- Blog on **[calculating the value of small grains in a rotation](#)**
- Two-year enterprise budgets for **[conventional](#)** and **[transition to organic](#)** oats in rotation
- **[Rotationally Raised Episode](#)** on lowering inputs with small grains in rotation

Rotationally Raise...



## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

*All times listed are in central daylight time*

**January**

**[OGRain Annual Winter Conference](#)**

## February

### Farminar: On-Farm Research Explores Cover Crops, Manure, Nitrogen & Returns

Hosted by: Woody Van Arkel, Cameron Ogilvie & Practical Farmers  
**February 1 | 7 p.m. | Online**

### Eastern Nebraska Soil Health Conference

Hosted by: University of Nebraska Extension  
**February 2 | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. | David City, Nebraska**

### Oats, Barley & Forages Day

Hosted by: Albert Lea Seed  
**February 3 | 10 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. | Online**

### Shared Learning Call: Red Clover Establishment and Termination

Hosted by: Roger Wenning & Practical Farmers  
**February 4 | Noon - 1 p.m. | Online**

### Organic Grain Conference

Hosted by: The Land Connection  
**February 9 - 10 | Champaign, IL**

## STRAW POLL

Have you reduced input costs for your corn or soybean crops grown in extended rotations?

**Yes, I've lowered my fertilizer and/or crop protectant expenses** [Select](#)

**Not yet, but I might experiment in the future** [Select](#)

**No and I'm hesitant to try** [Select](#)

**NA, I don't have corn or soybeans in extended rotations** [Select](#)

### Previous poll results:

How would you characterize your small grain marketing?

- **Varied. How I market changes year-to-year, but I can get rid of grain** - 37.5%
- Uncertain. I struggle to get rid of grain - 31.3%
- Consistent. I know where I'm going to market each year - 18.8%
- NA. I don't currently market small grains 12.5%

Send us your small grain poll ideas! We want to know what YOU want to know.  
Reply to this email with your ideas for the next poll.

STAY CONNECTED



**Looking for more? Contact us today!**

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