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Small
Grains
NEWS
February 2022

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

David Andris farms organically near Milford, Illinois and uses medium red clover with both his cereal rye and his oat crops. Whether frost-seeding or under-seeding, he broadcasts 15 pounds per acre of red clover with an air seeder.



Looking for freeze-thaw

weather: David knows it's time to frost-seed when he sees temperatures forecast in the 30s during the day and the low 20s at night. In his area that's usually late February or early March. "Get out there early in the morning and take advantage of the frozen ground. By late morning the warming temperatures and thawing ground can cause too much disturbance to your small grain seeding," he advises. David will frost-seed the clover onto a small amount of snow, but is cautious of subsequent windy conditions, which can blow the seed around.

Adjusting seeding rates: David makes two passes to seed his red clover with his oats in the spring. "It's tough to calibrate my drill accurately for both red clover and oats even with a grass seeder attachment," he notes. He broadcasts red clover first and then comes back the same day to drill his oats. David likes to plant Reins, but they're a shorter oat variety. To ensure the red clover is not too big by oat harvest – he's learned the hard way that this can cause harvesting problems – David will be increasing his oat seeding rate this year from 125 to 140 pounds per acre. He hopes upping the seeding rate can keep the red clover at bay until the oats come off.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Call March 4 at noon on small grain equipment essentials



Friday, March 4 | Noon - 1 p.m. CST

Grain drills, combines, swathers – oh my! For those old and new to small grain production, having reliable equipment (and using it correctly) can take some stress out of the growing season.



On March 4, we'll hear from **Tracy Skaar, Doug Alert and Margaret Smith** as they discuss what machinery they use for seeding, harvesting, adding fertility and more.

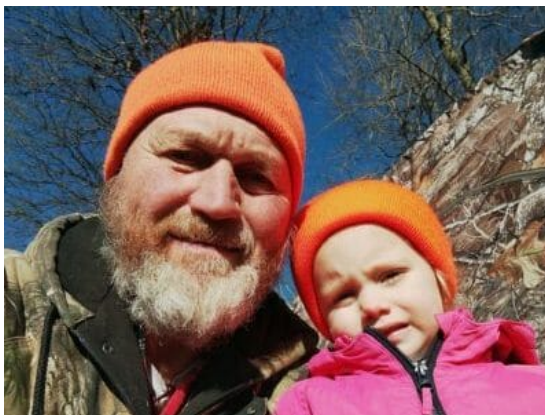
We'll be convening on Zoom

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](#)

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On our February shared learning call, we heard from **Roger Wenning** of Decatur County, Indiana on how he manages his red clover system and what benefits he sees from frost-seeding red clover on his land.

[Delve into Roger Wenning's experiences on red clover establishment and management.](#)



Rotationally Raised:

**MAKING SMALL GRAINS WORK
2022 CONFERENCE**

Last call to pre-register for the Small Grains Conference

Next week we'll be in Lincoln, Nebraska for the fifth annual small grains

conference. Highlights include:

- Keynote by **Gail Fuller** on his journey with small grains
- Breakout sessions on cover crop seed, red clover, grazing and more!
- Delicious breakfast and lunch made with local ingredients
- Happy hour the evening before (Feb. 28) with complimentary food and drink

PRE-CONFERENCE SOCIAL HOUR

Boombbox Social
Feb. 28 | 6 p.m.

SMALL GRAINS CONFERENCE

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

This event is free for PFI members and \$40 for non-members. Pre-registration closes tonight at midnight! All other registrations will be walk-in only.

[Register today!](#)

IN THE FIELD

[Blog: "Roger Wenning's Red Clover System"](#)

Red clover resources

Want to know more about frost-seeding red clover? Look no further; PFI has the following resources available:

- Blog on [Frost-Seeding Red Clover into Winter Small Grains](#)
- Blog on [Clover Cover Crop Management](#)
- Research Report on [Corn Following Clover and Rye Cover Crops](#)
- Research Report on [Nitrogen Replacement Value of Red Clover](#)
- Farminar on [Red Clover: Still the "Cadillac" of Cover Crops](#)

Red Clover: Still the "Cadill...



UPCOMING EVENTS

All times listed are Central Standard Time

Feb. 23 - Webinar: [Small Grains Update](#)

Hosted by: UMN Extension
9 - 10 a.m. | Online

Mar. 1 - Conference: [Rotationally Raised: 2022 Small Grains Conference](#)

Hosted by: Practical Farmers
Lincoln, NE

Mar. 4 - Shared Learning Call: [Small Grain Equipment Essentials](#)

Hosted by: Tracy Skaar, Doug Alert,
Margaret Smith & Practical Farmers
noon - 1 p.m. | Online

Mar. 7 - Meet-Up: [Field Crop Farmers](#)

Hosted by: Practical Farmers
6:30 – 8 p.m. | Online

Mar. 14 - Meet-Up: [Field Crop Farmers](#)

Hosted by: Erin Silva, Willie Hughes, &
Practical Farmers
6:30 – 8 p.m. | Online

Mar. 17 - Conference: [Small Grain Silage Conference](#)

Hosted by: University of Nebraska
Lincoln
Ithaca, NE

STRAW POLL

How much do you use red clover?

A lot - I frost-seed or underseed red clover on most of my small grain acres.

Select

Some - I use a combination of red clover and other summer cover crops.

Select

Seldom - I've tried red clover before but I don't currently use it.

Select

Never tried it

Select

Previous poll results:

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 - 50%**
- Not yet, but I might experiment in the future - 29.2%
- NA, I don't have corn or soybeans in extended rotations - 12.5%
- No and I'm hesitant to try - 8.3 %

Send us your straw 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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