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**PRACTICAL FARMERS**  
*of Iowa*

Small  
Grains  
**NEWS**  
February 2023

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



**J.L. Meagher** farms near Elbow Lake, MN where he raises beef cattle, horses, grows perennial pastures, hay, corn and soybeans. This year J.L. will graze his animals on 24 acres of red clover, orchard grass, alfalfa and wheat and an additional 20 acres of pasture grasses and red clover.



**Frost-Seeding Red Clover:** J.L. frost-seeds his clover with a 3-point broadcast seeder pulled by his tractor. "If the

ground is frozen I'll go over it with the drag, but after 3-4 days you will root up potential seedlings. I usually just leave it and hope for the best."

**Grazing Red Clover:** The red clover is typically under-seeded in pasture or hay at 3 to 4 lb/acre which is his preferred rate to balance the red clover with grasses. "When grazing early in the spring I don't put animals out when it is wet, and I make sure they've had some feed in their stomach to prevent bloating." In addition to grazing clover, J.L. can reduce nitrogen application to these fields; the red clover provides some nitrogen for the grasses in the pasture.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### NEXT WEEK: Midwest Covers & Grains Conference

Get ready for a day of learning and networking farmers and industry professionals on **March 2 in Cedar Rapids!**

**Today is the last day to pre-register online** or by calling the office at (515) 232-5661. Missed the deadline? **Walk-in registrations are welcome beginning at 8 a.m. the day of the conference.**

**FREE for PFI members; \$40 for non-members**

If you are in town the night before, **join PFI staff and other farmers at Lion Bridge Brewing at 6 p.m.** to chat over beer and bar food.

See you there!



### Blog: Feeding, Grazing and Growing Nitrogen With Red Clover



**Scott Schultz** presented about his operation and use of red clover during a Shared Learning Call in January.

**Read this recap blog** highlighting how Scott makes the most of red clover and multi-species cover crops in his diversified livestock and row crop operation.

## Survey: Crop and livestock integration



### Match Made in Heaven Livestock + Crops

Integration of crops and livestock brings both benefits and challenges. **The “Match Made In Heaven” survey** wants to hear where you’re at! Share your interests, experiences and barriers around integration.

**[Take the survey here.](#)**

*Match Made In Heaven: Livestock + Crops” is a partnership between crop and livestock associations, universities, public agencies and soil/water groups.*

## Open now: Small grains cost-share



Farmers in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin with conventional or transition-to-organic small grain acres are still eligible for cost-share of \$20/acre when they follow their small grain with a legume cover crop.

Additional cost share is available for taking a nitrogen fertilizer credit in corn that follows a small grain in an extended rotation.

**[Head to our website to learn more and apply today!](#)**

## IN THE FIELD

### Frost Seeding Red Clover



Brush up on PFI’s frost seeding resources for red clover as the time is drawing near for getting red clover in the field.

**[This blog](#)** addresses benefits of clover as well as essential clover management tactics.

## Roger Wenning's Red Clover System



Re-visit the highlights of Roger Wenning's 2022 shared learning call [in this blog article](#).

Learn about Roger's operation and his management practices for red clover including seeding, grazing, and planting green with red clover.

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### Additional Resources:

- From PFI's Youtube Channel: [Green Manure Crops and Nitrogen](#)
- From PFI's Magazine: [The Proof is in the Soil](#)
- Fact Sheet: [Organic Small Grain Marketing](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Shared Learning Call (on Zoom) March 10 at Noon: Oats from Planting to Post-Harvest



On March 10, hear from **Ben Dwire** about [all things oats from variety selection and planting to post-harvest](#).

Ben farms near Arco, Minnesota, with his wife, Kristi, and two daughters. The Dwires grow soybeans, corn, oats, wheat and annual forages on 550 acres, and are 100% no-till and non-GMO. They have an additional 150 acres of hay and pasture where they raise cattle, pigs and chickens.

[Register](#)

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### Farminar March 7: Diversified Crop Rotations in an Organic System

In this farminar, Illinois organic farmer **Jacob Landis** will share his experience with crop rotations, including alfalfa, field peas and sunflowers, both as single crops and double crops.



You'll learn more about [how these crops fit within Jacob's operation](#), the way cover crops can fit into diverse rotations and the influence of variable weather conditions. Jacob will also share what he's learned about integrating diversified crop rotations into his organic system.

[Register](#)

*All times listed are Central Time*

**Feb 23-25: Conference - [The Marbleseed \(formerly MOSES\) Organic Farming Conference](#)**

*Hosted by: Marbleseed  
La Crosse, WI*

\*\*\*Visit PFI staff at this event!\*\*\*

**March 7: Farminar - [Diversified Crop Rotations in an Organic System](#)**

*Hosted by: Jacob Landis and Practical Farmers of Iowa*

Noon-1:30 p.m. | Online

**March 2: Conference - [Midwest Covers & Grains](#)**

*Hosted by: Practical Farmers of Iowa  
8 a.m.-4 p.m. | Cedar Rapids, IA*

**March 10: Shared Learning Call - [Oats from Planting to Post-harvest](#)**

*Hosted by: Ben Dwire & Practical Farmers of Iowa*

Noon- 1 p.m. | Online

[More upcoming events](#)

Contact [taylor.hintch@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:taylor.hintch@practicalfarmers.org) to plan or promote an event.

## STRAW POLL

Have you successfully grown other varieties of clover (crimson, berseem, balansa, alsike, etc.)

**I've tried one or more varieties and they work well for me**

[Select](#)

**I've tried one or more varieties and they didn't work for me**

[Select](#)

**I haven't tried different clover varieties, I'm happy with red clover**

Select

I don't use clover in my rotations

Select

## Previous poll results:

*How does your corn yield following a legume cover/hay (clover, alfalfa, vetch, etc.) in extended rotation compare to your corn yield in a two-year corn-soybean rotation?*

- **About the same - 61.5%**
- 0 - 10 bushel/acre increase following a legume cover/hay - 23.1%
- Over 10 bushel/acre increase following a legume cover/hay - 15.4%
- Lesser corn yield following a legume cover/hay - 0%
- N/A - 0%

*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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