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Small
Grains
NEWS
March 2021

Greetings,

Melting snow drifts, chirping birds, budding trees and greening cover crops makes it feel like spring has arrived. Plus, spring small grain planting is already underway in the southern parts of the Midwest – are you prepared? Check out some of the resources on seeding small grain crops and legume cover crops further on in the email, and be sure to [apply for cost share](#) if you haven't already.

This summer we will host a series of small, energizing, in-person gatherings on farms across Iowa. We're starting the planning, and the line-up will expand on a rolling basis throughout the summer as more pop-up, local events are organized. [Fill out this form](#) to let us know about your interests and availability.

Take care,
The Strategic Initiatives Team

Learning call re-cap blog: Estimating an N credit from legume cover crops

Accounting for an N credit from your legume cover crop can reduce corn production expenses while minimizing the risk of an N deficiency to corn. [Read the recently-published blog post](#) on estimating nitrogen availability to corn following clover or alfalfa.



We're taking a break from learning calls during planting and will continue the first Friday of June.

Field Crops VIRTUAL MEET-UPS

**Thursdays, Feb. 18-Apr. 8
6:30-8 p.m.**

Have you attended a Field Crop Virtual Meet-Up yet? Upcoming topics include grazing cover crops in the spring, summer, and fall, and how cover crops fit into organic production systems.

For those with cows that are calving, wear your headset in the barn and dial in to join us – no need to be in front of the computer! **These calls** will be held each Thursday 6:30-8 p.m. CST from now through April 8.

Research report: "Nitrogen Fertilizer for Food-Grade Oats"



In 2020 **Kellie and A.J. Blair** of Dayton, IA researched how increasing N fertilization rates from 0 to 50 lb N/acre impacted oat yield and profitability. After seeding oats in late March, they applied 50 lb N/acre as AMS and urea in mid April to replicated strips.

Yields were significantly higher in the strips where nitrogen was applied. After subtracting the expense of fertilizer and application, the ROI for N application was a net positive \$56.72/acre compared to not applying fertilizer. [Read the full report here.](#)

Video: Relay-cropping rye and soybeans

The most recent Field Crops Virtual Meet-Up on relay cropping reminded us of the great potential of relay cropping cereal rye and soybeans. In January, **Michael Vittetoe** and **Alec Amundson** shared their experiences with relay cropping; [watch the recorded annual conference session here](#).



March

[Field Crop Farmer Virtual Meet-Up: Grazing Cover Crops](#)
March 25 | 6:30 - 8 p.m. CST | [Online](#)

[Purdue Forum: Forage Friday - Making Quality Dry Hay](#)
March 26 | 11:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. CST | [Online](#)

April

(No shared learning call in April - happy planting!)

[Field Crop Farmer Virtual Meet-Up: Cover Crops in an Organic System](#)
April 1 | 6:30 - 8 p.m. CST | [Online](#)

[Purdue Forum: Forage Friday - Making Quality Haylage/Balelage](#)
April 2 | 11:00 a.m. - 12 p.m. CST | [Online](#)

[Field Crop Farmer Virtual Meet-Up: Topic TBD](#)
April 8 | 6:30 - 8 p.m. CST | [Online](#)

IN THE FIELD

Time to frost seed!

If you have winter small grains and want to establish an underseeding of clover to provide a cover crop after harvest, now is the time to get in the field to seed. Read up on these great frost seeding resources:

- [Frost seeding call blog](#).
- This [blog feature](#) on frost seeding master Doug Alert, which contains a great list with links to all of PFI's research reports on green manures after small grains



Achieving Desired Plant Population and Stand

Calibrating your grain drill and getting proper planting depth help control costs and maximize small grain yields. Here are some resources on how to calibrate your grain drill for small grains and how to reach target planting depths:

- The [drill calibration and plant population episode](#) of our rotationally raised video series.
- The [planting rates short](#) from our rotationally raised video series.
- [Episode 5 of our rotationally raised video series](#) focuses on seed bed preparation and achieving target population and stand for small grains.



STAY CONNECTED



Looking for more? Contact us today!

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