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PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

Small
Grains
NEWS
March 2023

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Lanark, Illinois farmer **Doug Linker** grows corn, soybeans and wheat. For the last four years, Doug has frost-seeded red clover into winter wheat because, with good spring establishment, it will build soil health, fix nitrogen, and provide erosion control and forage until it is terminated the next spring before corn.

Spring seeding: In spring of 2022, Doug rented a Valmar air seeder from his local NRCS office to frost-seed. He seeded 10-12 lbs/ac of red clover on 171 acres into winter wheat.

When planting, Doug is typically looking for a slight frost crust on the ground, that it is dry enough to get in the field and that there's a forecast of freeze-thaw temperatures or snow.



Terminating red clover ahead of corn: "We have corn following wheat, so we terminate the red clover cover crop 10 days to two weeks prior to corn planting, which often falls between April 10 and 15," says Doug.

Doug grazes cattle on his clover during the fall, so by spring the clover may only be 3-4 inches tall.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Extended rotation cost-share open



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.

On top of that, we have an additional cost-share opportunity for taking a nitrogen fertilizer credit in corn that follows a small grain in an extended rotation.

[Apply today!](#)

Thanks for attending the Midwest Covers & Grains Conference!

On March 2, 135 farmers, purchasers and researchers came together in Cedar Rapids, Iowa to learn about small grains and cover crops at our inaugural Midwest Covers & Grains Conference!

Thank you to everyone who attended. We hope to see you next

year!

[Click here to view slides from our speakers.](#)



Watch: Diversified Crop Rotations in an Organic System

Diversified Crop Rotations ...



Miss the latest farminar?

Jacob Landis shared why he farms using diversified rotations, how he makes marketing decisions when raising different crops, and where potential lies for new crops in the midwest.

[Watch the recording.](#)

Yield Warranty Program



Interested in reducing your nitrogen rate in a soil health system?

PFI's Yield Warranty program can help you dial in your N program with reduced financial risk.

PFI will help you create a reduced nitrogen plan, and will pay up to \$35 per acre if your yield drops below your benchmark yield (95% of your APH) while following the plan. Learn more by signing up for a time to speak with one of our staff.

[Apply by March 31](#)

IN THE FIELD

Foolproof frost-seeding legumes



When winter just won't let up, consider clover!

[This 2018 blog](#) shares insights from **Tim Sieren** and **Keith Kohler** for frost-seeding red clover with small grains.

The silver lining: the freezing and thawing temperatures are ideal for frost seeding.

[Frost-seed legumes](#) – like red clover – into a winter small grain – like cereal rye and grow some nitrogen!

Rotationally Raised: Calibrate to Populate

Rotationally Raised - Plant...



[In this episode](#) of Rotationally Raised, learn about planting populations for small grains and how to calibrate a grain drill.

[Watch the entire Rotationally Raised video series](#) about small grains production in the Corn Belt on [PFI's YouTube channel](#).

Ron Rosmann's 10 Tips for Growing Small Grains in Iowa



Read **Ron Rosmann's** advice for growing consistent and successful oats in Iowa [in this 2018 blog](#).

His top three tips? Plant early, get the right seeding rate, and rotate.

Ron farms with his family at Rosmann Family Farm near Harlan in western Iowa.

Additional economic & market resources:

- From PFI's YouTube channel: [When to Plant Oats in Iowa](#)
- From the Crop Tech Cafe Blog: [Sulfur and chloride fertilizer for winter wheat](#)
- From PFI's YouTube channel: [Green Manure Crops and Nitrogen](#)
- Live from the Farm: [Extended Rotations With Red Clover](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

All times listed are central daylight time

March 23: Workshop - [Farm to Brew SD](#)

Hosted by: Soil Regen

10 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. | Valley Springs, SD

April 4: Field Day - [Cover Crop & Grazing Field Day](#)

Hosted by: Blair Farm & Iowa Learning Farms

10:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. | Dayton, IA

March 24: Webinar - [Reviving Heritage Grains](#)

Hosted by: University of Vermont

Extension and Northern Grain Growers Association

11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Online

[More upcoming events](#)

Contact taylor.hintch@practicalfarmers.org to plan or promote an event.

STRAW POLL

Which topic are you most interested in learning about at field days this year?

Answer the poll question below:

Relay cropping

Select

Oat production

Select

Summer cover crops

Select

Milling and marketing food-grade small grains

Select

All of the above

Select

I have another topic idea that I will tell Taylor about

Select

Previous poll results:

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. - 50%**
- I don't use clover in my rotations - 28.6%
- I haven't tried different clover varieties, I'm happy with red clover - 21.4%
- I've tried one or more varieties and they didn't work for me. - 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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