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.

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**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!**

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**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!
Watch: Diversified Crop Rotations in an Organic System

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

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

**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

**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

Contact [taylor.hintch@practicalfarmers.org](mailto: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](#)
- [Oat production](#)
- [Summer cover crops](#)
- [Milling and marketing food-grade small grains](#)
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.

Looking for more? Contact us today!

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