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Small
Grains
NEWS
April 2019

Hello!

I know you're all busy in the fields so I'll keep it brief - **don't forget about your small grains!** Flag leaf is the most important time to scout for disease and determine if a fungicide application is necessary. Flag leaf forms around 34 days after spring emergence so this may be in the next 2-3 weeks depending on your planting date.

If you scroll down you'll notice there are **TONS of upcoming small grains events**. After things slow down, remember to check back in for field days happening near you!

Good Luck,

Alisha

June 7 Shared Learning Call on Processing Small Grains for Animal Feed



If you have livestock, incorporating small grains into rations is a great way to support an extended rotation on your farm, but there are some equipment and animal health considerations to be aware of before taking the plunge. Cindy McCollough of Blue Stem Organic Feed will join our call on **Friday, June 7 Noon**

- **1 pm to review on and off farm milling equipment and kinds of grain milling or processing most suited to different kinds of livestock and their production phases.** We'll kick off the call with a focus on pigs and cattle, but bring your questions about other livestock for the Q & A.

To Join dial (605) 313-5784 and enter passcode 239000 on Friday, June 7 at noon.

Enterprise Budgets from Oat-Corn Years of Extended Rotation Show Profitability

One of the most common questions that I hear farmers ask when they consider planting a small grain as a year of their rotation is "what about profitability?" To help put some more solid numbers to this question we have taken some of the data provided by cost share participants in 2017 and 2018 to draw up enterprise budgets demonstrating short-term expenses and income for the oat and corn years of an extended rotation for both [conventional production](#) and [transition to organic](#). The results show that with some key management choices small grains can be profitable!



Check out these enterprise budgets the [Practical Farmers blog](#).

EVENTS

May

IL Wheat Growers: [Southern IL Wheat Tour](#)

May 29, 2019 | End at Belleville, IL, various tour locations nearby

June

PFI Field Day: [Harvesting Ryelage for Cattle Feed](#)

June 4, 2019 | La Porte City, IA

OGrain Field Day: [Promoting Soil Health and Fertility on Organic Farms with Small Grain/Legume Rotations and Approved Organic Inputs](#)

June 12, 2019 | Oconomowoc, WI

PFI Field Day: [Hybrid Rye: Managing, Marketing and Feeding Livestock](#)

June 13, 2019 | West Union, IA

PFI Field Day: [Using Small Grains to Protect your Bottom Line](#)

June 18, 2019 | Dyersville, IA

PFI Field Day: [Diversified Crop Rotations and Cover Crops](#)

June 20, 2019 | Keota, IA

UMN Extension Tour: [Small Grain Summer Plot Tour - Rochester](#)

June 24, 2019 | Rochester, MN

The Land Connection Field Day: [Growing and Milling Small Grains for Home and Artisan Bread Makers](#)

June 25, 2019 | Danforth, IL

UMN Extension Tour: [Small Grain Summer Plot Tour - Le Center](#)

June 25, 2019 | Le Center, MN

UMN Extension Tour: [Small Grain Summer Plot Tour - New Ulm](#)

June 25, 2019 | New Ulm, MN

PFI Field Day: [30 Years of Small Grains and No-Till on an Ohio Farm](#)

June 26, 2019 | Fostoria, OH

UMN Extension Tour: [Small Grain Summer Plot Tour - Marty-Kimball](#)

June 26, 2019 | Kimball, MN

UMN Extension Tour: [Small Grain Summer Plot Tour - Benson](#)

June 26, 2019 | Benson, MN

Upland Watershed Group Field Day: [From Grain to Plate](#)

June 30, 2019 | Ridgeway, WI

July

PFI Field Day: [Cover Crops With Purpose: Weed Suppression, Soil Health and Unexpected Benefits](#)

July 2, 2019 | Galva, IA

UMN Extension Tour: [Small Grain Summer Plot Tour - Fergus Falls](#)

July 9, 2019 | Fergus Falls, MN

UMN Extension Tour: [Small Grain Summer Plot Tour - Oklee](#)

July 10, 2019 | Oklee, MN

OGrain Field Day: [Growing Crops for Distilling](#)

July 10, 2019 | Onalaska, WI

UMN Extension Tour: [Small Grain Summer Plot Tour - Humboldt](#)

July 11, 2019 | Humboldt, MN

UMN Extension Tour: [Small Grain Summer Plot Tour - Strathcona](#)

July 11, 2019 | Strathcona, MN

PFI Field Day: [Organic Row Crop Production and Mechanical Weed Control](#)

July 17, 2019 | Sutherland, IA

August

PFI [Small Grains Conference 2019](#)

August 15-16, 2019 | Wisconsin Dells, WI

PFI Field Day: [Cultivating Farm Resilience for a Changing Climate](#)

August 16, 2019 | Harlan, IA

PFI Field Day: [Grazing Cover Crops & Building Community 101](#)

August 22, 2019 | Frederick, IL

IL Wheat Growers: [Summer Wheat Forum](#)

August 22, 2019 | TBD, IL

IN THE FIELD

Be Ready to Fertilize

The optimal time to apply fertilizer to small grains to avoid lodging is before planting or shortly after. Make sure you're ready to apply fertilizer at the right time.

1. The [fertilizing small grains](#) short from our rotationally raised video series.
2. The blog from [March 2017's shared learning call](#) with agronomists on optimal fertilizer strategies.
3. The blog from [June 2017's shared learning call](#) on Mark Ditlevson's fertilizer timing and rates.
4. University of Minnesota's [oat fertilizer recommendations](#).



Scouting and Disease Management

Maintaining yields and achieving market specifications like test weight or germination depend upon successful management of small grains diseases:

1. [Scouting and Disease Management Blog](#) from April 2019 shared learning call.
2. The [disease management episode](#) of our rotationally raised video series.



STAY CONNECTED



Looking for more? Contact us today!

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