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Small
Grains
NEWS
June 2021

Greetings,

Continued drought coupled with unseasonably warm temperatures across the Midwest reminds us of the importance of extended rotations in making our farms more resilient. **Recently published research** from Canada shows that adding wheat to a corn-soybean rotation can be more profitable than a two-year, corn-soybean rotation. Moreover, the authors note that the improved soil properties of extended rotations can increase water availability for all of the crops in the rotation.

While society works to mitigate climate change, we must adapt our farms to be more resilient. Extended rotations are a part of the solution.

Toward resiliency,
The Strategic Initiatives Team

July 2 call: Hybrid rye production and use in swine rations

Hybrid rye yields higher than and has lower incidence of fusarium head blight than open-pollinated (OP) cereal rye varieties. For both organic and conventional farmers with livestock, hybrid rye can play an important role in the rotation and in rations.

Jude Becker pasture raises farrow-to-finish, organic hogs on his sixth-generation family farm, Becker Lane Organic, near Dyersville, Iowa. He has been raising hybrid rye for swine rations for four years. On **July 2 at 12:15 p.m. CT**, Jude will share key differences in management between raising hybrid rye and OP rye, comparative financials of hybrid rye and OP rye, and the impact of rye on sow and growing pig performance.

To join dial (605) 313-5784 and enter passcode 239000# when prompted.



Upcoming "Live from the Farm" on extended rotations with red clover

Red clover might just be **Ben Dwire's** favorite crop to grow. During [this episode](#), we'll take a peek at the red clover he's underseeded with his oats and discuss how he manages his cover crop together with his small-grain crop.



Then we'll take a look at corn that followed last year's red clover, where Ben is experimenting with cutting nitrogen by 40 units. Ben farms near Arco, MN, with his wife, Kristi, and two daughters.

This ["Live from the Farm" episode](#) will be held on June 22 at 2:00 p.m. CT. It is one event of our weekly-occurring ["Live from the Farm" series](#), in which you can catch glimpses of aspects of farms throughout Iowa and surrounding states. The event will stream live from YouTube.

Re-cap blog: Alfalfa as a staple in rotation and pasture

A couple of weeks ago, **John Schulte** of Norway, Iowa shared how and why he uses alfalfa on his diversified livestock farm.

Read what John has learned about establishing a new alfalfa stand, re-seeding alfalfa into pasture, and integrating alfalfa into cattle feed.



Farming for the Future: Ecosystem Market Summer Series

Farming for the Future
Ecosystem Market Summer Series
Four sessions exploring new management options and financial opportunities

June 22 | June 24 | July 13 | July 15
11:00am – 12:30pm CDT

Register today at:
ilsustainableag.org/ecomarkets

 ILLINOIS SUSTAINABLE AG PARTNERSHIP

Join the Illinois Sustainable Ag Partnership and organizations from Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, and Wisconsin for a free four-part webinar series exploring new management options and financial opportunities for Midwest farmers. The series will provide farmers and their advisors with practical and straightforward information on innovative incentives.

- Tuesday June 22nd features programs available from input providers (Bayer, Corteva, and Nutrien)
- Thursday June 24th explores innovative markets and data platforms available from CIBO, Gradable, and Truterra
- Tuesday July 13th examines market opportunities through the lens of grain buyers and consumer packaged goods companies (Cargill, General Mills, and PepsiCo)
- Thursday July 15th highlights water quality markets and additional potential revenue streams for ecosystem services

Each webinar will begin at 11:00 a.m. and conclude at 12:30 p.m. CT.

[Register today!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

June

Farming for the Future - Exploring Ecosystem Markets

June 22 & 24 | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CT | [Online](#)

Live from the Farm: Extended rotations with red clover, hosted by Ben Dwire

June 22 | 2:00 - 2:45 p.m. CT | [Online](#)

July

Shared Learning Call: Hybrid rye production and use in swine rations

July 2 | 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. CT | dial (605) 313-5784 and enter passcode 239000#

Farming for the Future - Exploring Ecosystem Markets

July 13 & 15 | 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. CT | [Online](#)

Live from the Farm: Small-grain harvest and post-harvest handling in the Little Sioux Valley, hosted by Roger Wilcox

July 27 | 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. CT | [Online](#)

IN THE FIELD

Do you have a post small grain cover crop plan?



Finding the right cover crop after a small grain depends on your goals.

[This article](#) by Green Cover Seed provides ideas on cover crop mixes to meet your goal.

Adjust side dress application for corn following legume cover crop

It's not too late to take a late spring nitrate test or pre-sidedress nitrate test if you grew a legume cover crop (e.g. clover) last year. Reducing fertilizer inputs in the corn year is a key aspect to increasing profitability in extended rotations, and legume cover crops can be a significant source of nitrogen. Check out these research reports and other resources to learn more:

1. [Nitrogen rate comparison in corn following green manure cover crop mixes](#)
2. [Underseeded vs. mid-summer-seeded green manures for corn](#)
3. [The Freedom from Inputs episode](#) of our Rotationally Raised Video Series

SMALL GRAIN POLL

Send us your small grain poll ideas! We want to know what YOU want to know. Reply to this email with your ideas for the next poll.

When do you typically seed your post-small grain cover crop?

Early spring (February-April)

Select

Late spring (May-June)

Select

Summer (July-September)

Select

Previous poll results:

Will you apply fungicide to any of your small grain fields this year?

- **Yes, I've already purchased fungicide - 48.4%**
- No, I don't plan to - **25.8%**
- N/A, my small grain fields are organic - **19.4%**
- Maybe, I'm still looking at the forecasts and/or scouting - **6.5%**

STAY CONNECTED



Looking for more? Contact us today!

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