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Small  
Grains  
**NEWS**  
September 2021

Happy September!

We're talking all things winter small grains in this issue since it is nearly time to start seeding. We have a first look at the results from our [2021 rye variety trials](#) as well as information on seeding rates, dates and crop insurance.

Don't forget to [reserve cost share](#) for your winter small grain acres or any corn acres following your 2021 small grain where you plan on reducing nitrogen fertilizer rates - we have **two** programs for crops in extended rotations in 2022.

Good luck getting your winter small grain crop in,  
The Strategic Initiatives Team

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Preliminary results from 2021 rye variety trials are in!

In 2021, PFI trialed nine rye varieties on four Iowa State University research farms. Across all farms and varieties, the average yield was 65.3 bushels per acre. Hybrid varieties, Bono, Brasetto and Serafino, had the highest yields at each site. Hazlet and Danko were the top yielding open-pollinated varieties at each site.



Germination results are pending, but preliminary numbers are above 90%, reinforcing that Iowa grown rye is a great option for cover crop seed.

A full report will be published within the next couple of weeks, but take a look at [this preliminary report](#) with yields, plant height, and test weight of all the varieties at each site.

## Apply for extended rotations cost share in 2022



Since last month, over 60 growers have signed up for cost share for extended rotations. Remember - you may sign up for cost share for small grains with a legume cover crop OR corn that follows your 2021 small grain crop - or both!

Cost share for either program is capped at 200 acres per farmer and runs at \$15 per acre. Growers in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin are eligible. [Check out our flyer to learn more.](#)

[Apply for cost share today](#)

## IN THE FIELD

### Growing rye for seed? Consider adjusting your seeding rate

#### How to Calibrate a Grain D...



Rye seed differs in size depending on the variety. For example, the varieties for our 2022 trial range from 12,830 to 22,670 seeds per pound. That's a big difference! To get to a target population of 1.1 million seeds per acre, seeding rates can vary from 54 to 95 pounds per acre.

Curious how to calculate the seeding rate of your rye? [Check out this blog](#) for a how-to-guide.

### Seeding dates for winter small grains

Optimal timing for seeding winter small grains ranges from late September to early October. For wheat especially, planting too late can decrease winter survivability.

Don't think you'll get your small grains planted until late October?

#### Timing of Cereal Rye Planting



Fear not! [There are things you can do to help mitigate yield loss.](#)

## Winter small grains crop insurance deadline is September 30

If you're planning on insuring your winter small grains, make sure you enroll your acres by September 30. Don't know what kinds of small grain crop insurance policies are available in your county? Check out the "Commodity Programs" tab of this [interactive map from RMA](#).

If there are no crop insurance policies for winter small grains in your county you can still get a custom policy so long as you have three years' worth of production information. [Check out this blog to learn more.](#) PFI can write letters of support for growing and marketing small grains in your area - contact Lydia English [lydia@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:lydia@practicalfarmers.org) to learn more.

## Recording from our "Live From The Farm" on forages

We waited out the rain in Brandon, Wisconsin to talk with Josh Hiemstra and Becky Wagner about all things forages on Josh's farm. Josh grows a cocktail mix after wheat that he mechanically harvests and is experimenting with co-seeding clover and alfalfa into in silage corn.

[Check out the recording to learn more!](#)

### Diverse Forages for Dairy Ope

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Come watch "Livestock on the Land" with us!



**Saturday, September 25 | 7:30 p.m. CT**  
Lauridsen Amphitheater at the Des Moines Water Works Park

Join Practical Farmers of Iowa for a free outdoor screening and panel discussion of "Livestock on the Land," a feature-length documentary that tells the story of regenerative grazing and its promise for the Iowa landscape.

[Click here to learn more about the film and the free outdoor screenings](#)

All times listed are in central daylight time.

## September

### Workshop: Cover Crop Management & Equipment

Hosted by: Fulton County (IN) and Pulaski County (IN) SWCD

September 23 | 4 - 7 p.m. | Akron, IN

### Seminar: Challenges of Developing a Resilient Cropping System in a Semi-Arid Environment

Hosted by: Cody Creech & University of Nebraska - Lincoln

September 24 | 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. | Online

### Catching Up: Organic Cropping Systems: Rotations with Small Grains, Weed Management

September 29 | 10 a.m. - Noon | Shelby County, IA

## October

\*\*\*No shared learning call in October - good luck with harvest!\*\*\*

## SMALL GRAIN POLL

Do you adjust your small grain seeding rate from year-to-year?

Yes, based on variety, seeding method and/or seeding date

Select

Not yet, but I'm curious to try

Select

Nope, I stick with the same rate each year

Select

### Previous poll results:

In a year that was too hot and dry for many, how was your small grain yield and test weight?

- Better than expected - 61.1%
- Worse than usual - 27.8%
- About the same as usual - 11.1%

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.

STAY CONNECTED



## Looking for more? Contact us today!

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