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PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

**Small
Grains
NEWS**
October 2022

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Kevin Prevo farms with his family near Bloomfield, Iowa, where they grow corn, soybeans and cereal rye. They also raise 12,000 custom-fed hogs and have a 150 head cow-calf operation. With the time to fertilize his cereal rye fast approaching, Kevin shares his late fall hog manure application strategy. This approach allows him to curb reliance on synthetic off-farm inputs that he's used in the past.

Manure timing: In late November or early December, Kevin uses a hooded splash bar to apply 1,500 gallons of hog manure to 150-200 acres of rye in 4-ft bands. This is when the "cereal rye is green and growing, just before the rye's

dormancy period,” says Kevin. His banded application provides approximately 70 lb N and 50-60 lb P and K per acre.

Trial and error: Too much nitrogen increases the risk of lodging in cereal rye. At his current rate of 70 units, Kevin has not had lodging issues. For those applying in spring instead of fall, he advises decreasing the N to 60 lbs. In the spring following a fall hog manure application, Kevin has observed more tillering and shoot growth, which he largely attributes to the fall phosphorus.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Artisan Grains: 2022 Grain Views & Habits Survey

We want to know about how you think about and purchase grains! 🌾

Help inform Artisan Grains and PFI about knowledge, attitudes and purchasing habits surrounding small grains by **filling out the @artisangraincollab 2022 Grain Views & Habits Survey**. It will only take ~5-7 minutes, and your responses are completely anonymous.

At the end, you can enter a drawing to win \$50 worth of Midwest-grown and processed grain goodies from AGC members! 🌾



PFI is a member of the **Artisan Grain Collaborative (AGC)**—a network of farmers, processors, end-users and advocates working together to strengthen our Midwest grainshed.

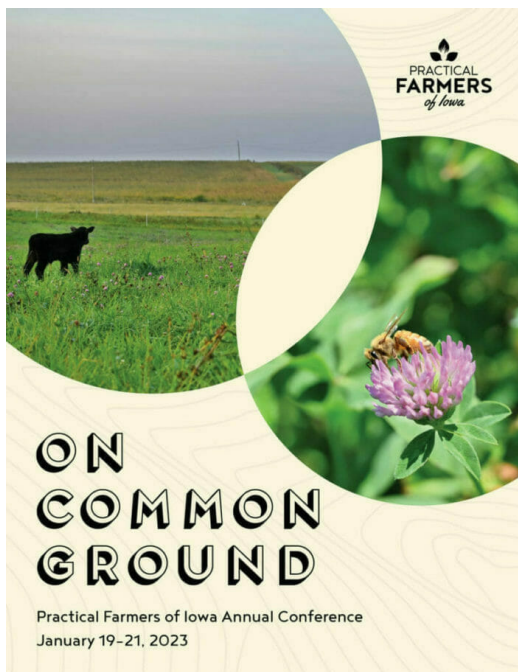
📷: Images in graphic are courtesy of AGC members Gwynn Hill Farm, Meadowlark Community Mill, Doughp Creations, and Beth Dooley. Photo credits to Sarah J. Elliott, Meadowlark Community Mill, Compass from Pioneer PBS, and Mette Nielsen, respectively.

Save the date for PFI's annual conference!

Mark your calendars for Jan. 19-21 for our 2023 annual conference!

This year's annual conference explores the ways we are all On Common Ground.

The conference invites attendees to think about where we can find this common ground, and the ways we can make space for it through connection, conversation and recognition of our shared impacts and interests.



More details, including sessions and speakers [coming in November.](#)

Tell us your ideas!



Help keep our work farmer-led!

If you have an idea for a conference session, presenter, field day host or farminar topic we want to hear from you!

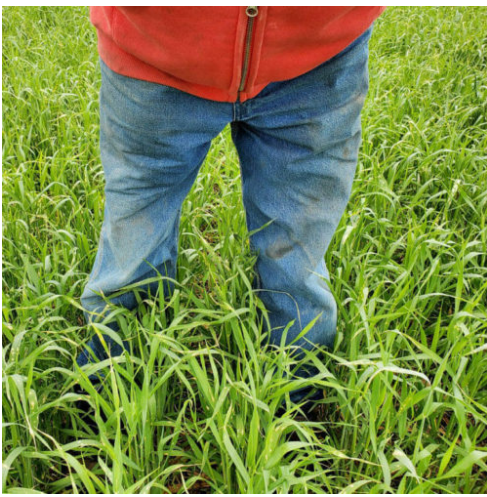
You are always welcome to call or email, but now you can also [submit your ideas through our handy Idea Form](#), which drops right into our "Idea Bank".

IN THE FIELD

New research report: Nitrogen Fertilizer Effect on Cereal Rye

Read our [latest research report](#) highlighting research conducted by cooperator, **Dick Sloan**. He conducted a trial to learn if applying N fertilizer to cereal rye would improve yield and quality of the harvested seed.

He compared two fertilizer treatments: a fall and spring split application and a spring application.



Results show no effect on yield with an average yield of 46.8 bu/ac.

New research report: Oat Variety Trial 2022



The latest [oat variety trial for 2022](#) released this month assesses the 17 oat varieties that were tested at four Iowa State University research farms.

Across all varieties and sites the average yield was 117 bu/ac. Yield by variety, disease ratings, food grade specs and more physiological characteristics are featured in the comprehensive research report.

Blog: Small Grain Fertility Requirements and Application Strategies



[This 2020 blog](#) looks into fertilizer needs for small grains including specifics for macro and micro nutrient application.

Read how to balance nitrogen, when to apply phosphorus and additional resources embedded throughout the article.

Additional resources:

- [Small grain summary report](#)
- [Blog: Fertilizers, Herbicides and Fungicides for Small Grains](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

All times listed are central daylight time

November 18: Field Day - [Get Covered to Cover Crop: Crop Insurance and other Cover Crop Incentives](#)

Hosted by: Iowa Farmers Union
11 a.m.-1 p.m. | Jefferson, IA
Visit PFI staff at this event!

November 20-21: Conference - [Iowa Organic Conference](#)

Hosted by: The Iowa State University
Organic Agriculture Program
Iowa City, IA

Visit PFI staff at this event!

[More upcoming events](#)

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

STRAW POLL

When do you typically fertilize your small grains?

Fall

Select

Spring

Select

Fall and spring

Select

I don't fertilize my small grains

Select

Previous poll results:

Do you harvest summer cover crops for fall forage??

- **I don't have livestock - 42.1%**
- Yes - 42.1%
- Not yet - 15.8%

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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