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Small
Grains
NEWS
November 2021

Greetings,

We're doing a deep dive into variety trial information for our November issue. While it might seem like overkill, choosing a small grain variety that can deliver on performance goals can make or break a successful crop year. Don't know where to start with choosing a variety? Fear not! We've compiled lots of resources to help guide you.

Practical Farmer's winter event season has started and we have a great mix of virtual and in-person programming. Don't miss out on our [Shared Learning Call](#) series or the [Cover Crop Boot Camp](#). More information below!

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving,
The Strategic Initiatives Team

PROGRAM UPDATES

Call December 3 at noon on marketing small grains

Friday, December 3 | Noon - 1 p.m. CT

Small grain prices are looking good, but marketing isn't as easy as with corn and soybeans. On our December shared learning call hear from **Mike Schulist** as he describes common challenges and opportunities for marketing small grains like oats and wheat for food and feed markets.

Mike is the marketer for NF Organics and the organic grain program manager at National Farmers Organization. He has been helping farmers market their organic grain for 14 years.



Come with your marketing questions! There will be information for both organic and conventional growers.

New! We'll be convening on Zoom

To join by computer: click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83632167882>

To join by phone: **dial +1-312-626-6799** and enter meeting ID **836 3216 7882** followed by #

[Add to Google Calendar](#)

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Blog online from call on oat variety selection



On November 5 we gathered for the first of our [winter shared learning call series](#) and heard from **Matt Miller** and **Lydia English** about considerations for oat variety selection.

Matt consistently grows two oat varieties to spread risk and ensure a successful crop each year. To aid in variety selection, Lydia shared PFI's [selector tool](#), which predicts variety performance given a growers' ZIP code.

[Read all about Matt's process for choosing an oat variety](#) as well as some general tips for starting out on the right foot this spring.

2021 oat selector tool report published



This is the second year that five PFI cooperators put our [selector tool](#) to the test! Each cooperator compared their traditional oat variety with a variety predicted to do well by the genotype-by-environment model that powers the tool.

Once again, the results were a mixed bag. Four of the five cooperators chose Reins as their traditional variety and it performed well. [Read the full research report.](#)

Don't forget to sign up for small grains cost share



Farmers in **Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin** with conventional or transition-to-organic small grain acres are eligible for cost share of \$15 per acre when they follow their small grain with a legume cover crop. On top of that, we have **additional cost share** for taking a nitrogen fertilizer credit in corn that follows a small grain in an extended rotation.

Curious to learn more? [Check out our flyer with eligibility requirements.](#)

Apply for cost share today!

IN THE FIELD

Variety selection round up

Hungry for even more information on variety selection? Look no further!

- Watch our [Rotationally Raised Short](#), which covers the basics of why variety selection is so important for small grains.
- View a recording of our [an annual conference session](#) with breeder Melanie Caffé, buyer Mac Ehrhardt and farmer Chard Ingels all about oat variety selection.
- Read up on some blogs about [understanding variety trial data](#) and the [process of selecting a variety](#).
- See the results of PFI's 2021 [oat](#) and [cereal rye](#) variety trial reports.

Choosing a Small Grain Variet



Choosing the Right Oat Variet



UPCOMING EVENTS

Last chance! Register for the Cover Crop Boot Camp



Join Practical Farmers of Iowa for the **Cover Crop Boot Camp**, Tuesday, **Nov. 30, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. in Ankeny, IA**. We'll hear from fellow farmers about cutting nitrogen with legumes, growing your own cover crop seed, feeding rylage and much more!

This event is free and includes lunch, but **registration is required**.

All times listed are in central daylight time

November

Cover Crop Boot Camp

November 29 - 30 | Ankeny, IA

Iowa Organic Conference

Hosted by: Iowa State Organic Agriculture Program

November 28 - 29 | Iowa City, IA

December

Shared Learning Call: Small Grain Marketing 101

December 3 | Noon - 1 p.m. | Online

Organic Seed and Systems Day

Hosted by: Albert Lea Seed

December 3 | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | Online

The Big Soil Health Event

Hosted by: Soil Regen and Continuum Ag

December 6 - 7 | Riverside, IA

January

Shared Learning Call: Topic TBD

January 7 | Noon - 1 p.m. | Online

SMALL GRAIN POLL

Do you find the selector tool a helpful resource?

Yes - please continue working on this!

Select

Not really - I'd prefer a tool that just summarizes trial data (no predictions)

Select

No - I don't find it very helpful

Select

Previous poll results:

When do you terminate your overwintering legume cover crops (i.e. clover, vetch, alfalfa)?

- **Spring - 58%**
- Fall - 21 %
- A mix of both - 21%

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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