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Small
Grains
NEWS
November 2022

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

Aaron Butler operates a certified organic operation near Malta, Illinois, where he grows 3,000 acres of corn, soybeans and food-grade oats. He has a license to grow Rushmore variety oats but also explores new varieties. Each year, Aaron reviews the latest Midwest oat variety trial reports to find promising alternatives to test on his farm.



What to look for: "The number one factor is a good test weight, which is especially important when selling oats into a food-grade market. We are also looking for a good disease package. We are organic; we need something that can hold up in a year with high disease pressure."

Market specs: After harvest, Aaron works with Grain Millers to determine milling quality and milling yield of his trial oat varieties. He's found that some varieties aren't worth milling. "We grew out Antigo and they didn't end up milling well; the berries were too small."

Final considerations: "When reviewing variety trial data don't forget to consider your local climate; not all varieties are transferable within the Midwest. "We once tried a late-season variety that worked well in the Dakotas but it did not work in Illinois!"

PROGRAM UPDATES

Shared Learning Call on Dec 2: Feeding Livestock with Small Grains

Hear from **Keith Gorham** on **Dec. 2** from **noon-1 p.m.** as he shares his experiences growing and feeding small grains to his livestock. Keith and his family have been farming regeneratively since 2016, and in the fall of 2016 they started growing small grains like wheat, rye and triticale for on-farm use.

They raise cattle, pigs, and some hobby goats and chickens. They also plant diverse cover crop mixes that the cattle graze in the fall and spring.



Learn more about Keith's operation and how he uses small grains as feed for his cattle and pigs. [Register here.](#)

Reduce your nitrogen input with PFI's Fertilizer Yield Warranty Program



With input costs rising and cutting into your farm's profits, it's time to look at reducing your reliance on purchased inputs.

With support from our staff and a yield warranty, PFI can help you reduce nitrogen applications on your farm – saving you money and increasing your farm's resiliency.

Farmers who are new to cutting purchased inputs, and farmers who've reduced nitrogen previously, are both [eligible for our program.](#)

Small Grains Cost-Share is open for 2023!

Already seeded your winter small grains?

Know how many acres of oats you'll be growing in 2023?

It's never too early to sign-up for our small grains cost-share. Check out our full [program requirements here.](#)



[Click here to reserve your acres!](#)

PFI welcomes Chelsea and Morgan as field crops viability coordinators



Meet Chelsea Ferrie (left) and Morgan Jennings (right), PFI's new field crops viability coordinators.

Chelsea and Morgan will provide support for PFI's growing cost-share programs, including our new [Fertilizer Yield Warranty Program](#).

Read more about [Chelsea](#) and [Morgan](#) on our [website!](#)

Register TODAY for On Common Ground: PFI's annual conference

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

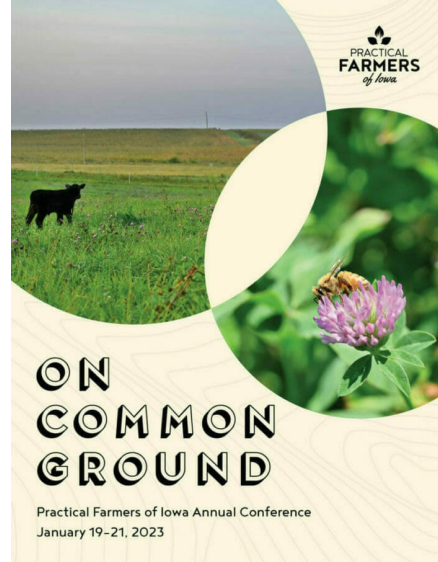
This year's annual conference explores the ways we are all On Common Ground.

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.

[Check out these session offerings:](#)

- Food-Grade Small Grains From Farm to Mill
- Incorporating Perennial Ground Covers in Row-Crop Production

- Extending Field Crops Rotations With Black Beans, Sorghum and Sunflowers



[REGISTER HERE](#)

IN THE FIELD

Research Report: Cereal Rye and Triticale Variety Trial



The [2022 cereal rye variety trial](#) released in October includes 11 cereal rye varieties, and one variety of triticale.

This research report looks into yield, germination and production specifics for hybrid and open-pollinated varieties of rye and triticale. The average cereal rye yield across all sites 81.3 bu/ac.

Eight years of small grains variety data



Review this [2020 blog](#) that highlights the importance of small grain variety selection and the tools available to make oat variety decisions.

The blog highlights the first 5 years of oat variety trials. As of 2022, PFI has 8 years of oat variety trial data available.

Review the [most recent data from 2022](#) and all years past in our

UPCOMING EVENTS

All times listed are central daylight time

Nov. 30-Dec. 1: Conference - [Integrated Crop Management Conference](#)

*Hosted by: Iowa State University Extension
Ames, IA*

Dec. 2: Shared Learning Call - [Feeding Livestock with Small Grains](#)

*Hosted by: Keith Gorham and Practical Farmers of Iowa
Noon-1 p.m. | Online*

Nov. 30-Dec. 1: Conference - [Southeast Kansas Soil Health Conference](#)

*Hosted by: Green Cover Seed
Iola, KS*

Dec. 5: Webinar - [Meet the Craft Malt Movement: Relocalizing Beer Supply Chains](#)

*Hosted by: Craft Maltsters Guild
2-3:15 p.m. | Online*

Dec. 1: Annual Meeting - [Iowa Organic Association Annual Meeting](#)

*Hosted by: Iowa Organic Association
3-7 p.m. | Marion, IA*

Dec. 15-16: Conference - [Soil Management Summit](#)

*Hosted by: University of Minnesota Extension
Waite Park, MN*

[More upcoming events](#)

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

STRAW POLL

When do you typically buy your small grain seed?

Fall

Select

Spring

Select

Winter

Select

Summer

Select

Previous poll results:

When do you typically fertilize your small grains?

- **Spring - 53.8%**
- Fall - 15.4%
- Fall and spring - 15.4%
- I don't fertilize my small grains

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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