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Small
Grains
NEWS
December 2020

Seasons greetings,

With a few inches of snow, the landscape feels dormant in central Iowa, even as preparation for the 2021 growing season is well underway. A notable highlight for people looking to grow oats in 2021: we've released the results of our [2020 Oat Variety Trial](#), which tested 18 varieties across four research farms. Read on for additional small grain production and marketing resources.

Wishing you happy holidays,
The Strategic Initiatives Team

January 8 call: Entrepreneurial opportunities with seed cleaning small grains

In the Corn Belt, markets for small grains are limited, but as cover crops gain momentum, the demand for cover crop seed is on the rise.

Enter selling small grains as cover crop seed. Seed should meet purity standards, and therefore should be cleaned.

For **Bill Frederick** (left) of Jefferson, Iowa, seed cleaning for small grains is a crucial part of his business, Iowa Cover Crop.



On January 8 at 12:15 p.m. [call in to hear from Bill](#) as he shares his experience with cleaning seed: from purchasing a cleaner, to settings and maintenance, to marketing.

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

Re-cap blog: Growing high test weight oats in Iowa: Tips from 23 years of experience

Last Friday **Darren Fehr** of Mallard, Iowa divulged that growing high test weight oats in Iowa is not all that hard if you are intentional in setting yourself up for success.

In this re-cap blog of the shared learning call, learn about the basics of growing high test weight oats.

[Darren shared advice on variety selection, seeding best practices, fertility, and more.](#)



Check out the small grains programming at our annual conference



The 2021 Practical Farmers annual conference is "Coming Home," meaning that in the depths of winter you need not make the treacherous journey to Ames this year. From January 21-23, you can participate in sessions from your home.

Sessions of interest include:

- [Choosing the Right Oat Varieties – Breeding to Buying](#)
- [Cover Crop-Based Organic No-Till Systems](#)
- [Relay-cropping Rye and Soybeans](#)
- [Getting Creative in Order to Integrate Crops and Cattle](#)
- [And so much more!](#)

Register for the conference

Southern Iowa oat and wheat market plus cost share

Farmers in southern Iowa will continue to have a new market option for wheat and oats. In partnership with Practical Farmers, **Smithfield grain elevators in Davis City, Iowa will again be offer contracting options for wheat and oats in 2021.**

The logo for Smithfield GRAIN features the word "Smithfield" in a large, bold, black serif font, with "GRAIN" in a smaller, bold, orange sans-serif font directly below it.

These contracts can be paired with [PFI's 2021 cost share program](#) as long as the small grain crop is followed by a cover crop that contains at least one legume species. [Learn more about the program here.](#)

EVENTS

January

[Shared Learning Call: Entrepreneurial opportunities with seed cleaning small grains](#)

January 8 | 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. CST | dial (605) 313-5784 and enter passcode 239000#

[Speaking of Oats: The T3 Database and Applications to Oats](#)

January 21 | 10 a.m. CST/11 a.m. EST | [Online, pre-registration required](#)

[Practical Farmers of Iowa Annual Conference: Coming Home](#)

January 21-23 | [Online](#)

February

[Shared Learning Call: Management for Fusarium in Small Grains](#)

February 5 | 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. CST | dial (605) 313-5784 and enter passcode 239000#

[Farming for the Future: A Forum Exploring Ecosystem Markets](#)

February 12 | 11:20 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. CST | [Online](#)

[OGRain: Reducing Tillage in Organic Grain Productions-- Latest in Agronomics and Equipment](#)

IN THE FIELD

Spring small grain variety selection

Here are some resources to help you select a small grain variety:

- A [compilation of variety trial data](#) from a number of neighboring state's universities
- A [blog on using oat variety trial results to guide selection](#) from Dec 2019
- The [variety selection episode](#) of our "Rotationally Raised" video series
- The [blog from Jan 2017's shared learning call](#) with seed dealer Mac Ehrhardt
- The [blog from Feb 2018 shared learning call](#) on variety selection with breeder Melanie Caffé
- PFI's [Past Practical Farmers of Iowa Oat Variety Trial Results](#)
- The Apr 2020 [blog on the importance of variety selection](#) and some things to think about when selecting a variety



STAY CONNECTED



Looking for more? Contact us today!

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