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Small
Grains
NEWS
December 2021

Season's greetings,

Exciting changes are in store for Small Grains News. Starting in 2022, we will be sending out our monthly newsletters on the **fourth Tuesday of the month**. Expect us back in your inboxes on January 25th!

This is also the last time we'll be introducing our newsletter with a preamble from Practical Farmers staff. Next month, we'll begin our newsletters with a farmer feature. You might love hearing from us, but hearing from your farmer peers is better. Who knows, maybe we'll feature *you* in an upcoming issue.

But while we still have your attention, let's talk New Years Resolutions. Thinking you'd like to save money on input costs, build nitrogen in your soils and spread out labor across your 2022 season? You already know what we're going to say - plant a small grain and a legume cover crop! Don't forget that we have two types of **cost share** to help you along the way.

Wishing you happy holidays,
The Strategic Initiatives Team

PROGRAM UPDATES

Call January 7 at noon on the economics of extended rotations

Friday, January 7 | Noon - 1 p.m. CT

Small grains bids are higher than average for 2022, but understanding the economic benefits of growing small grains requires looking beyond just one year. Join **Jeff Steffen** for our January **shared learning call** as he walks through the ways small grains increase his bottom line across his

three- and five-year rotations. From reducing nitrogen fertilizer in corn to saving costs on untreated seed, Jeff will explain how his whole system makes money.



Jeff Steffen farms on 600 acres near Crofton, Nebraska with his wife Jolene. The Steffens raise corn, soybeans, oats, rye and peas and they custom graze cow-calf pairs on their 200 acres of pasture.

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 updated on small grain marketing



On December 3 we gathered for a [shared learning call](#) on small grain marketing with **Mike Schulist**, who works for NF Organics.

Curious about how to sell a small grain? [Read our updated blog](#) on frequently asked questions about small grain market options and start planning ahead for 2022!

Harvesting small grains in 2022? Sweeten the pot with cost share!

Farmers in **Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin** with conventional or transition-to-organic small grain acres are still 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!

Join us in Lincoln, Nebraska for the fifth annual Small Grains Conference

Save the Date!

SMALL GRAINS CONFERENCE

MARCH 1, 2022

Nebraska Innovation Campus
Lincoln, Nebraska

Mark your calendars! We'll be convening for our annual Small Grains Conference on **Tuesday, March 1st** in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Look forward to breakout sessions on marketing straw, building N with red clover, successful wheat production and much more!

Information will be updated on the [website](#) soon and **registration opens January 3rd**. This event is FREE for PFI members.

IN THE FIELD

Marketing resources

It's best to start thinking about marketing before your small grain is in the ground. Here are some more resources to help guide your decision making:

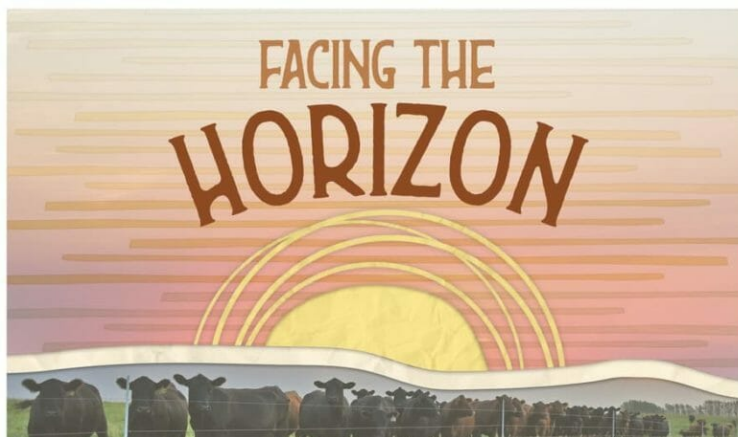
- Blog on [brewing and distilling markets](#)
- Video from our 2019 Small Grains Conference on producing small grains for [seed markets](#).
- Presentation on growing and marketing [organic food-grade small grains](#).
- [Rotationally Raised Episode](#) on small grain market challenges and opportunities

Marketing Small Grain



UPCOMING EVENTS

Learn about small grains at PFI's annual conference



There's plenty of small grains content at [Practical Farmers' annual conference](#) this year. Learn about high yielding oats, relay-cropping, transitioning-to-organic and more on January 21 and 22 in Ames, Iowa.

Check out the [full lineup of sessions](#). Pre-registration is required and [closes on January 13](#). We hope to see you there!

All times listed are in central daylight time

January

[2022 National No-Tillage Conference](#)

Hosted by: No-Till Farmer

January 4 - 7 | Louisville, KY

[Shared Learning Call: Economics of Extended Rotations](#)

Hosted by: Jeff Steffen & Practical Farmers

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

[OGRAIN Annual Winter Conference](#)

Hosted by: OGRAIN

January 27 - 29 | Madison, WI

February

[Shared Learning Call: Topic TBD](#)

Hosted by: Practical Farmers

February 4 | Noon - 1 p.m. | Online

[Organic Grain Conference](#)

Hosted by: The Land Connection

February 9 - 10 | Champaign, IL

STRAW POLL

How would you characterize your small grain marketing?

Consistent. I know where I'm going to market each year.

Select

Varied. How I market changes year-to-year, but I can get rid of grain

Select

Uncertain. I struggle to get rid of grain.

Select

NA. I don't currently market small grains

Select

Previous poll results:

Do you find the selector tool a helpful resource?

- **Yes - please continue working on this! - 62.5%**
- No - I don't find it useful - 25 %
- Not really - I'd prefer a tool that summarizes trial data - 12.5%

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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