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The Practical
**COVER
CROPPER**

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Air Seeding Cereal Rye during Corn Harvest

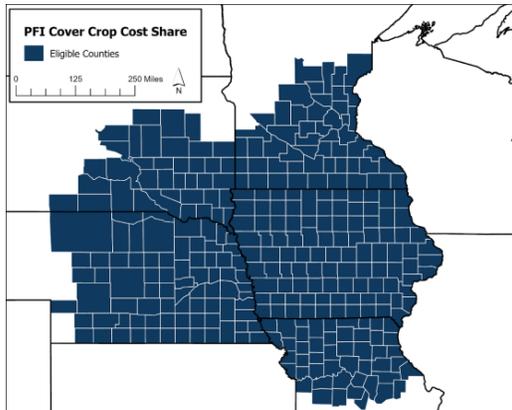
Air Seeding Cereal Rye during Corn Harvest

[The latest video in our Practical Cover Cropper series](#) was just released today! Watch as PFI members **Nick Smith** and his dad, **Jack Smith**, both of Epworth, Iowa, discuss their setup to plant a cereal rye cover crop and harvest corn simultaneously using a Gandy Company air seeder.

View the other videos in this series, including [“Water and Fencing Options when Grazing Cover Crops.”](#) on our YouTube channel. Subscribe to ensure

PROGRAM UPDATES

Apply for \$10/acre PFI cost-share ahead of the busy harvest season



If you'll seed covers this fall and farm in one of these blue counties, you're likely eligible for our cover crop cost-share.

Payment rates are \$10 per acre on an unlimited number of acres. This program is stackable with any publicly funded cost-share program.

[View program details, eligibility requirements and apply on our website](#), or call (515) 232-5661, and press 2 to chat with us about the program.

Call for on-farm research cooperators



Put your soil's health to the test with a nitrogen rate trial!

PFI is seeking **corn farmers with at least a 5-year history of soil health practices** to participate in a trial to compare N-fertilizer rates.

[Check out this flyer to learn about the program](#) and, to enroll, email PFI's senior research manager, **Stefan Gailans** at: stefan.gailans@practicalfarmers.org

IN THE FIELD

Research report: "Can We Reduce N Rates and Improve ROI?"

The first-year results from a multi-year study comparing nitrogen rates are now available in our latest research report.



Seventeen PFI research cooperators participated in the trial, which examined the yield effect and return on investment of reduced nitrogen rates.

[View graphs, takeaways and lessons for next season in the report.](#)

Research report: "Reduced N Rate to Corn After Repeated Use of Cover Crops"



In a field with a 9-year history of cover cropping, **Jack Boyer** compared corn yields and returns on investment between corn receiving different nitrogen rates.

Maximum returns on N were achieved at 150 lb/ac; 30 lb/ac lower than his typical application rate of 180 lb/ac.

[Read the results.](#)

Winter 2022 Magazine: "The Proof is in the Soil"



PFI farmers are testing if they can lower nitrogen rates without hurting yield on fields with long-term soil health practices.

[Read the article to learn more](#) about the history of trialing nitrogen rates at PFI and the next generation putting their practices to the test.

Additional resources:

- From the PFI Blog: [How Does Seeding Date and Method Affect Cover Crop Performance?](#)
- PFI webinar: [Successfully Aerially Seeding Cover Crops](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events below are listed in central standard time.

Field Day: Creating Space for Conservation and Regenerative Practices With Supportive Landowners



Friday, Sept. 8 | 12:30-2:30 p.m. | Belmond, IA

At this field day, hear from **Josh Nelson** about ongoing conservation efforts on his farm, new practices he's trying and how he has been able to engage with his landlords on regenerative practices.

[RSVP for this field day](#) to learn more about this diversified regenerative family farm.

Field Day: Cooperators' Trial With Soybeans Planted Green, Legume Covers and Strip-Till Corn



Monday, Sept. 18 | 10 a.m.-Noon | Hayward, MN

Tracy Skaar grows corn, soybeans, oats and hay with his son, **Mic**, on a combined 850 acres in Hayward, Minnesota.

[RSVP for this field day](#) to learn about Tracy's Cooperators' Program research plot: planting green with soybeans, corn green into fall strip-tilled alfalfa and legume cover crops following oat crop.

Events

Sept. 8: PFI Field Day - [Going With the Flow: Saturated Buffers to Improve Water Quality](#)

*Hosted by: Jerry Vander Wert
1-3 p.m. | Pella, IA*

Sept. 15: Shared Learning Call - [Technical Tips and Assistance Programs for Organic Small Grains Farmers](#)

Hosted by: Rosalyn Lehmann

Noon-1 p.m. | Online

Sept. 12: Workshop - [NRCS and Organic Farmer Training](#)

Hosted by: ISU Organic Ag & NRCS

9 a.m.-5 p.m. | Ames, IA

*****Visit PFI staff at this event!*****

Sept. 19: PFI Field Day - [Grazing Cover Crops for Soil Health](#)

Hosted by: Aaron Alons & Andy

Getting

10 a.m.- Noon | Ashton, IA

Sept. 21: PFI Field Day - [Cover Crops Following Small Grains and Grazing Cattle](#)

Hosted by: Scott & Nancy Schultz and Family

10 a.m.-Noon | Watertown, WI

Sept. 23: PFI Field Day - [Aerially Seeding Cover Crops, Talking Farm Transfer and Cooperators' Program Research](#)

Hosted by: Mark & Melanie Peterson and Monroe Peterson

10 a.m.-Noon | Stanton, IA

[View more events on our calendar](#)

Want to host a cover crop meet up? Are you planning or hosting a cover crop event? Contact taylor.hintch@practicalfarmers.org to plan something or to promote your event.

COVER CROP POLL

Send us your cover crop poll ideas! We want to know what YOU want to know. Reply to this email with your ideas for the next poll.

Which of these session topics for the PFI Annual Conference sounds the most interesting to you?

Reducing herbicides with cover crops

Select

Talking soil health with landowners and tenants

Select

Planter set-up for planting into covers

Select

Economics of diverse crop systems

Select

Previous poll results:

Have you used one of these sites to help graze or find cover crops?

- I've used the "Midwest Grazing Exchange" site. - **66.7%**
- I've used the "Find Cover Crops" app. - **33.3%**
- I've used both! - **0%**

- I haven't heard of these before, I'll check them out! - **0%**
- I've heard of them, but I don't use them. - **0%**

CONTACT OUR COVER CROPS TEAM

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Chat with any of us by calling the PFI office at (515)-232-5661.

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