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PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

Practical
NEWS

October 9, 2023

Don't miss your chance to **join or renew during our fall membership drive** and receive a free gift – 99 members have already taken part!

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Get help navigating a successful land lease

Several years ago, beginning sheep farmer **Stennie Nelson** (above left) was looking to move her starter flock to begin farming independently. She met a potential landlord at the PFI's virtual annual conference in 2021, but was intimidated by the lease negotiation process and wasn't sure how to start.

After learning about PFI's Farmland Access Navigator program, she was connected with **Amber Mohr**, who helped her advocate for a lease that met the needs of her growing business. Once on the land, Amber helped Stennie think through infrastructure and systems for the new farm.

Today, Stennie leases about 34 acres of land near Turin, Iowa, along with adjacent wildlife management areas.

"Amber has been a steadfast support, helping me keep perspective during these first few challenging years as I was trying to figure everything out seemingly at once," Stennie says.

[Find a farmland access navigator near you to start your journey.](#)

NEWS

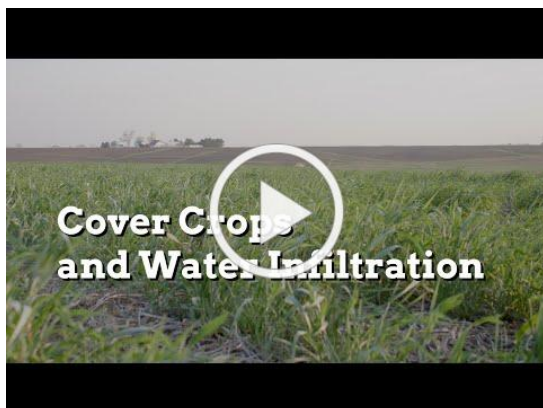
Six factors to consider when planting and harvesting rye for cover crop seed



Despite the rise in cover crop acres in Iowa, most of Iowa's cover crop seed is sourced from out of state. Resourceful Iowa farmers have started growing cover crop seed for themselves, neighbors and beyond.

[This blog post covers the six main factors you should consider when planting rye for cover crop seed.](#) It also highlights benefits that go beyond economics, like diversifying your operation, income streams, crop rotation and labor needs.

Improving water infiltration with cover crops



New this week in our "Practical Cover Croppers" video series, **Jon Bakehouse, Will Cannon and Nathan Anderson** share stories of how covers have improved soil quality and protected their fields.

"To see that cereal rye up and growing and absorbing energy from that storm really does give us peace of mind that our soil is protected," Jon says. [Watch now.](#)

Reduce your nitrogen application rates with PFI



With input costs increasing, it's time to discover more about how much nitrogen your corn crop really needs to maintain yields.

PFI's N Rate Risk Protection Program can help you try reducing your applications while offering compensation if your harvest benchmark yield isn't met.

[Apply now for the 2024 season.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Field days



Nov. 18: Field Day – [Milling and Marketing Small Grains](#)

Hosts: Jeff Hafner & Earl Hafner
2-4 p.m. | Panora, IA

Early Morning Harvest is a unique aquaponic, produce and grain farm run by father-son team, **Earl and Jeff Hafner**. They grow various grains like corn, soybeans, wheat, rye and buckwheat, which they stone-grind into flours, meals and cereals. Join us to learn about their small-grain cultivation and milling. [RSVP](#)

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Beth Hoffman of Lovilia, IA, was featured on [Raccoon Valley Radio](#): [Let's Talk Guthrie County: Author to Visit Stuart Public Library](#)

Arlyn Kauffman of Weldon, IA, was featured on [WHO 13](#): [Honoring Iowa Farmers: Arlyn Kauffman](#)

Angela Tedesco of Johnston, IA, was featured on [Iowa Public Radio](#): [Iowan reflects on years of farming and trail blazing in new book](#)

Kim Andersen of Brighton, IA, **Denise O'Brien** of Atlantic, IA, and **Margaret Smith** of Hampton, IA, were featured on the [American Farmland Trust webpage](#): [Two-Time Cancer Survivor, Kim Andersen Runs the Only Certified Organic You-Pick Blueberry Farm in Iowa](#)

Aaron Lehman of Polk City, IA, was featured in three news stories this week:

- the [Des Moines Register](#): [Farmers, can you spare a toenail? UI seeking clippings for evidence of chemical exposure](#)
- on [KCCI](#): [Iowa farmers could be heavily impacted by potential government shutdown](#)
- on [We Are Iowa](#): [Iowa farmers concerned despite avoiding government shutdown](#)

Dirk and Kjersten Oudman of Worthing, SD, and **Kristine Lang** of Brookings, SD, were featured in [Morning Ag Clips](#): [SDSU Extension to Host Short Educational Course on High Tunnels](#)

Ben Saunders of Des Moines, IA, and **Jordan Scheibel** of Grinnell, IA, were featured in a story by **Adrian White** of Garber, IA, in [Modern Farmer](#): [Small-Scale Farming Shouldn't Just Be a Hobby. So Why Is It So Hard to Make a Living?](#)

PFI in the News

Taylor Hintch, PFI's senior field crops education coordinator, was mentioned in [Morning Ag Clips](#): [Scientists Ratchet Up Key Amino Acid in Corn](#)

PFI was mentioned in the [National Cover Crop Survey Report 2022-2023](#)

Have you been featured in the media? If you're a PFI member, tell us when and where to find a link to the article, and we'll feature you in a future issue of Practical News.

Contact: elizabeth.wilhelm@practicalfarmers.org

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