

Practical News - Join us for our last socials and field day of the season

Practical Farmers of Iowa <info@practicalfarmers.org>

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To:Carly Zierke <carly.zierke@practicalfarmers.org>



*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



### **Video: "Cereal Rye for Cover Crop Seed Opens the Door to a Diverse Rotation"**

**In this week's "Practical Cover Croppers" video**, farmers **Rachel and Alec Amundson** of Osage, Iowa, share how they're raising cereal rye to meet increased demand in the Midwest.

They also discuss how raising rye seed locally can help make distribution easier and reduce the risk of importing weed seeds.

"As the demand for cover crops in the state of Iowa increases, we're going to need more people growing rye," Rachel says. "There's no way we can cover the acres we need to, to address our water quality issues, with such a limited supply."

"We need to have the access close, and we need to have timely access, to be able to apply those cover crops in the fall."

## NEWS

### PFI participates in panel discussing Latino farmland and market access in Washington, D.C.



**Valeria Cano Camacho**, PFI's senior Latino engagement coordinator, traveled to Washington, D.C. to take part in a Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute panel on promoting diverse suppliers and small farms.

**[In this video recording](#)**, Valeria (seated at center) shares Latino farmers' barriers to entering and staying in agriculture and how her role seeks to create connections that make a difference.

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### Results from year five of cereal rye variety trials



The latest results of our ongoing "Cereal Rye and Triticale Variety Trial" are now in.

The project, carried out at Iowa State University research farms across the state over the past five years, aims to test how a range of varieties grow in different conditions. This year, we trialed 11 cereal rye varieties and one winter triticale variety.

**[View the top-yielding varieties for 2023.](#)**

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**Learn more about your N rate needs**



If you're a corn farmer with a five-year history of soil health practices on your farm, you might be eligible to participate in a paid research opportunity with us.

Recent research suggests that biologically healthy soils need less fertilizer. If you've been working to improve your soil health, we think you can reduce nitrogen to corn without sacrificing yield.

[Read the flyer to learn more.](#)

## MEMBERSHIP

**Thank you for helping us reach our membership goal!**



We're happy to share that, thanks to you, we reached our membership goal for this year's fall membership drive.

We'd like to thank the **113 members who joined or renewed** over the past few weeks.

Together, the PFI network is supporting a vision of Iowa with healthy food, clean air, clean water, resilient farms and vibrant communities.

If you didn't get a chance to participate in the member drive, [you can join or renew at any time online.](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Join us for a Spanish social in Marshalltown**



**Tuesday, Oct. 31 | 5-7 p.m. |  
Marshalltown, IA**

We hope to see you at our next Spanish community social hosted in collaboration with House of Compassion!

Enjoy dinner together and network with other aspiring, beginning and experienced farmers near you.

**Registration is encouraged but not required.**

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## **Field day: Milling and Marketing Small Grains Through Multiple Channels**



**Saturday, Nov. 18 | 2-4 p.m. |  
Panora, IA**

Father-son team **Earl and Jeff Hafner** operate a unique aquaponic, produce and grain farm.

The Hafners grow corn, soybeans, wheat, rye and buckwheat that they stone-grind into flours, meals and cereals. Learn about their production and how they get value-added products ready to market. **RSVP**

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### **More upcoming events**

**Nov. 14: Conference – Central Nebraska Regenerative Ag Conference**

*Hosted by: Central Community College-Holdrege*

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. | Holdrege, NE

**View our events calendar**

## IN THE NEWS

### Members in the News

**Wendy Johnson** of Charles City, IA, wrote an op-ed featuring **Hannah Bernhardt** of Finlayson, MN, and **Seth Watkins** of Clarinda, IA, in [Civil Eats: Op-ed: Farmers Want Climate Resilience, but GOP Lawmakers Want to Redirect Billions in Conservation Funds](#)

**Dayna Burtness and Nick Nguyen** of Spring Grove, MN, were featured in [Driftless Journal: Nettle Valley Farm practices barn-pasture hybrid pig farming](#)

**Jon Bakehouse** of Hastings, IA, **Will Cannon** of Prairie City, IA, and **Nathan Anderson** of Aurelia, IA, were featured in [Cover Crop Strategies: Cover Crop Strategies' Best of the Web: Oct. 13, 2023](#)

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**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](mailto:elizabeth.wilhelm@practicalfarmers.org)

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