

Practical News - Save the date for our 2024 Annual Conference in Des Moines!

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Save the date for our 2024 Annual Conference, in Des Moines this year!

Mark your calendars for our 2024 Annual Conference Jan. 19-20. **Please note: We are excited to announce that we are hosting the conference at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines.**

Since our founding, the annual conference has been a keystone event for sharing knowledge, building connections and celebrating agriculture in Iowa (and good food!).

As our conference grows to over 1,000 attendees, we are pleased to offer three pre-conference short courses, plus over 60 farmer-led sessions on a wide variety of agricultural topics. **Please watch for registration to open in November.**

NEWS

Savings Incentive Program applications due Nov. 20



The Savings Incentive Program offers targeted learning, mentorship from experienced farmers, goal-setting support and the opportunity to save up to \$2,400 matched by PFI.

To apply, you must be a PFI member, have seven or fewer years of farming experience and farm in Iowa or an adjoining county.

Eligible candidates are encouraged to [apply by Nov. 20.](#)

New blog post: "A Wealth of Winter Wheat"



Finding a variety of wheat that thrives in the Midwestern humidity and fits well into farmers' rotations can be tricky. However, it holds promise for weed control, erosion control and profit.

[Check out this blog post recapping our September small grains shared learning call.](#) You'll learn about **Daniel and Emily Sheetz's** experiences growing winter wheat and what motivates these PFI members to continue including it in their rotations.

PFI research explores how garlic seed stock size impacts yields



Most vegetable growers save their largest bulbs of garlic for seed stock thinking that these bulbs will produce larger yields the next season.

Three Iowa farmers – **Roxane Mitten, Jon Yagla and Jordan Scheibel** – participated in a Cooperators' Program trial to test this idea during the 2022 season.

[Learn what they found and how planting different sizes of garlic, as well as potato onions, compared.](#)

Video: "Marketing Food-Grade Oats"



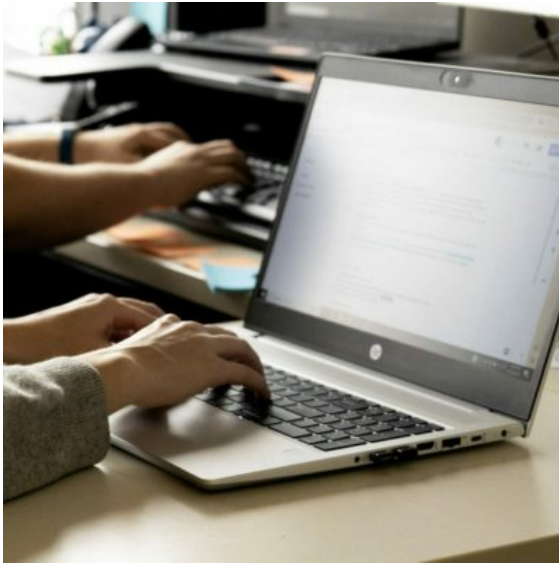
In the latest video in our "Practical Cover Croppers" series, we explore how **Ben and Kristi Dwire** of Arco, Minnesota, navigate market access for a third crop.

They discuss how they direct-market food-grade oats and the importance of having a backup plan for when a crop doesn't meet food-grade specifications.

[Watch now.](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Is it too late to seed cover crops? Get advice on this and more in our email discussion groups



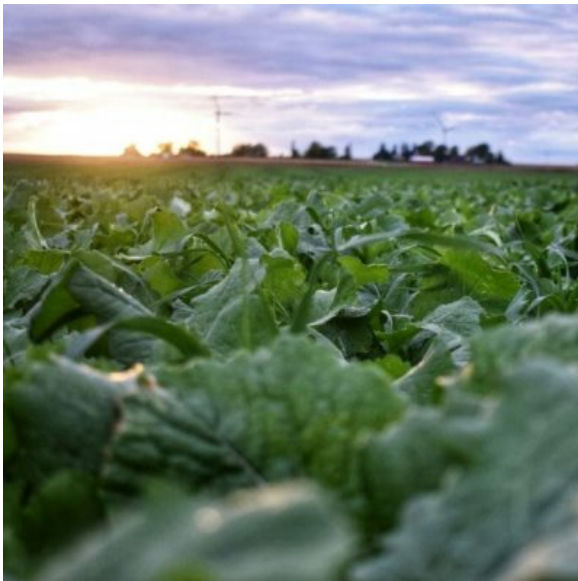
Last week, a PFI member asked our field crops email discussion group: *Is it too late to seed spring wheat and spring oat cover crops?*

As several responses echoed, it depends! Members shared agronomic advice and personal experiences to help troubleshoot together.

Our members-only discussion groups provide a platform for farmers to connect, share knowledge and collaborate virtually. [Learn more and join today.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us at the Central Nebraska Regenerative Ag Conference



Nov. 14 | 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. | Holdrege, NE

Join us at the [Central Nebraska Regenerative Ag Conference](#), "Building Your Soil from the Ground Up," hosted by Central Community College-Holdrege. **For discounted rates, please register by Nov. 6.**

PFI is sponsoring the conference, including specific sessions with a focus on cover crops and grazing. We will host a social right after the conference, starting at 5 p.m.

More upcoming events

Oct. 31: Spanish Social – [House of Compassion](#)

Hosts: House of Compassion
5-7 p.m. | Marshalltown, IA

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

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

Jan. 19-20: Conference – PFI 2024 Annual Conference

All Day | Des Moines, IA
***Registration opens Nov. 2023**

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Aaron Lehman of Polk City, IA, was featured on the DonnaLonna Kitchen Show podcast: ["076: Farmers, Food and the Farm Bill"](#)

Kellie and A.J. Blair of Dayton, IA, were featured on Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network: [Environmental on-farm evolution is expanding](#)

Rob Stout of Washington, IA, was featured on Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network: [MRCC encouraging all farmers to practice sustainable agriculture](#)

Denise O'Brien of Atlantic, IA, and **Natasha Hegmann**, PFI's senior horticulture and local foods coordinator, were featured in Western Iowa Today: [Southwest Iowa Summit Showcases Local Foods](#)

Francis Thicke of Fairfield, IA, was featured in Country Folks: [Crop Comments: Real Organic Project Conference](#)

PFI in the News

PFI was mentioned in Delicious Food: [Regenerative Agriculture Initiatives for Sustainable Agriculture](#)

PFI was mentioned in Telegraph Herald: [Tri-state area farmers cautiously optimistic despite dry year, wet week](#)

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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