

Small Grains News - Tips for winter wheat

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Mon 11/13/2023 3:32 PM

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



Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Daniel and Emily Sheetz have been farming organically near Toledo, Iowa, for about 15 years and recently decided to grow winter wheat after trying out food-grade oats and soft red spring wheat which yielded poorly. With a higher price, Daniel found that winter wheat brings in double the profit of oats, even with comparable yields.

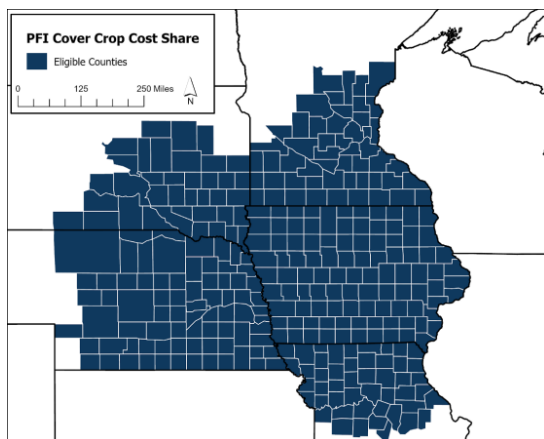
Variety matters: Despite initially being hesitant to try growing winter wheat in Iowa due to humidity and disease concerns, Daniel has found a variety – Wesley Hard Red Winter Wheat – suitable for their farm. "Last fall, I probably only had an inch or two of growth on the wheat, but there was enough growth to get through the winter, and it took off in the spring much better than my oats did."

Planning for weed control: Immediately after soybean harvest in mid-October, Daniel will plant the next winter wheat crop in 7.5-in. spacings at a rate of 2-2.5 bu/ac. He plans to use an Einbach 12-row Aerostar tine weeder in the spring to remove weed competition from the

first half-inch of soil for the young tillering wheat crop. That will reduce the need for tillage prior to seeding a cover crop following wheat harvest.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Apply for \$10/acre PFI cover crop cost-share



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. By joining this cost-share, you will automatically become a PFI member!

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

Tap into a community of knowledge-sharing with a PFI membership



[Join PFI's growing network of over 6,000 farmers, landowners and supporters!](#)

In addition to a supportive network, membership benefits include a subscription to our quarterly magazine, invitations to 100-plus events annually, eligibility to participate in our members-only email discussion groups and more.

[Join today](#)

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.](#) To enroll, email PFI's senior research manager, Stefan Gailans at: stefan.gailans@practicalfarmers.org.

IN THE FIELD

Blog: Raising High Yielding Winter Small Grains Starts in October with Planting



October is a busy month in the fields – not only are corn and soybean harvests underway, but it's time to plant winter small grains for next year's harvest.

Hear from farmers **Paul Mugge and Dick Sloan** about their tips for growing winter rye, barley and triticale in [this blog recapping a shared learning call in 2017.](#)

Video: "Where to Begin with Winter Wheat Production"



In 2018, **Kristy and Bob Walker** sought out advice on getting started with winter wheat, which led to a productive conversation with small grains farmer **Paul Ackley**.

[Watch this farminar recording](#) to learn what Paul shared with Kristy and Bob about using small grains to regenerate soil, reduce inputs, spread out the labor and provide wildlife habitat.

University of Nebraska Extension blog: Winter wheat variety selection – Fall 2023



Wondering what winter wheat variety will give you the best yield next summer? Want to see data from farms experiencing different types of weather-related stress?

[Read this blog](#) to learn from a variety research trial done through the University of Nebraska over the past year.

Access planting recommendations for winter wheat in [this blog post from University of Nebraska Extension](#).

Additional resources:

- Video: [Tine-Weeders – Organic Weed Control](#)
- Blog: [Small Grains, Large Gains: Feeding Wheat to Pigs](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Field day: Milling and Marketing Small Grains Through Multiple Channels



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

Father-son team **Earl and Jeff Hafner** grow corn, soybeans, wheat, rye and buckwheat that they stone-grind into flours, meals and cereals at their farm, Early Morning Harvest.

This field day will take place on the same day as their annual open house. [RSVP to learn all about the growing and milling of their small grains.](#)

Friends of PFI events

All events listed in Central Time.

Oct. 11: Field Day – [Carbon Intensity, Kernza and Water Quality](#)

*Hosted by: Clean River Partners
Noon-3:30 p.m. | Kellogg, MN*

Oct. 23: Conference – [Mid-Atlantic Grain Conference](#)

*Hosted by: Common Grain Alliance
All Day | Washington, D.C.*

Oct. 19: Social – [Conservation On Tap](#)

*Hosted by: Iowa Learning Farms
6-7 p.m. | Des Moines, IA*

Nov. 14: Conference – [Central Nebraska Regenerative Ag Conference](#)

Hosted by: Central Community College & University of Nebraska Extension

9 a.m.-4 p.m. | Holdredge, NE

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

[**View our events calendar**](#)

Contact our team

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

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