

Practical Cover Cropper - Cover cropping sessions at the annual conference

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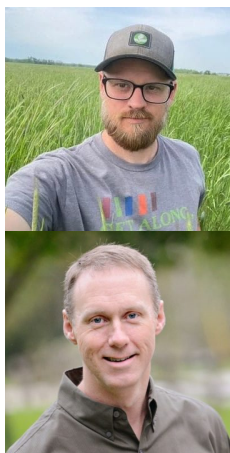
Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

Previewing cover crop sessions at the annual conference

We hope you'll join us for these cover cropping sessions at PFI's 2024 Annual Conference on Jan. 19-20 in Des Moines, Iowa!

Get in on the best pricing when you pre-register by Jan. 11.

Cover Crop Strategies Ahead of Corn



Josh Nelson and Brent Larson both farm in north-central Iowa, and each has different strategies for cover cropping ahead of corn.

Brent primarily uses triticale while Josh often uses rye when applying hog manure, or a cover crop mix with a legume, brassica and rye. Learn about how these cover crops work for their operations.

Planter Set-Up for Cover Crops and No-Till



In this session, you'll have a chance to delve into the nitty-gritty details of setting up your planter. **Bruce Willems and Roger Wilcox** will discuss their planter-set up for planting into cover



crops in no-till or reduced tillage fields.

A single-row unit will be on-site to demonstrate the optimal set-up and to fuel this discussion-based session.

Improving Weed Suppression and Reducing Herbicides With Cover Crops



Improving Weed Suppression and Reducing Herbicides With Cover Crops

Do you want to learn more about using cover crops to control weeds and reduce herbicides?

Experienced cover croppers **Sam Bennett and Jon Bakehouse** will share their strategies and insights. Hear from both on how they've improved weed control with cover crops.

On-Farm Research: Relay-Cropping Soybeans and Cereal Rye



Relay-cropping involves planting a second crop into a standing crop to have two crops that can be harvested in the same growing year.

In this session, you'll learn how Iowa Soybean Association has been partnering with Iowa farmers including **Alex Schaffer and Jack Boyer** to conduct on-farm research related to relay-cropping soybeans and cereal rye.

Pre-register for the conference by Jan. 11

PROGRAM UPDATES



Short Course

Getting Started With Organic Transition

Pre-conference short course: "Getting Started With Organic Transition"



Jan. 18-19 | Thurs. 1:30-6 p.m. & Fri. 8-11 a.m. | Des Moines, IA

Thinking about transitioning to organic? Do you know someone who is looking to transition their operation?

You'll learn about strategies for transition, certification, record-keeping and more from seven different PFI member farmers who have experienced it all!

[Register now or share with someone you know.](#)

Reduce your input costs with our N Rate Risk Protection Program



Our **[N Rate Risk Protection Program](#)** can help you cut nitrogen applications to corn, saving you money and enhancing farm resilience.

You'll work with PFI agronomists to reduce nitrogen by at least 20 pounds per acre. If your yield drops, our program will help make up the difference at \$35 per acre. **[Apply today.](#)**

***For more information, attend "Exploring PFI's Field Crops Cost-Share and N-Rate Risk Protection**

**Programs" at the annual
conference.***

Practical Cover Cropper: A Year in Review



2023 was a big year for cover crops.

[Revisit these farmers' stories and resources from 2023](#) as we look forward to another year of putting Midwest cover croppers in the spotlight.

We want to feature you in 2024! **If you're interested in sharing your story, please reply to this email to let Taylor know.**

IN THE FIELD

New "Practical Cover Cropper" video: Using Cereal Rye Strategically Ahead of Corn



Experienced cover croppers **Nick Smith, Nathan Anderson, Will Cannon and Michael Vittetoe** discuss ways they have modified their cover cropping plan to minimize yield loss risk when using a cereal rye cover crop ahead of corn.

Ideas discussed include creating a space between the cereal rye and the corn crop and scaling cereal rye seeding rate down to minimize residue.
[Watch it on YouTube.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Conference season has just begun! Join us for the Midwest
Covers and Grains Conference**



**Monday, March 4 | All Day |
Mankato, MN**

Come learn from other farmers and advance your understanding of how diversified rotations and cover crops can work for you at the [2024 Midwest Covers and Grains Conference](#).

This one-day event will explore topics including: adding value with cover crops; incorporating oats and rye in rotations; grazing summer cover crops after small grains; and more.

[**Learn more & register**](#)

Upcoming PFI events

**Jan 12: Shared Learning Call –
[Integrating Hog Manure & Cover
Crop Grazing With Extended
Rotations](#)
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)**

**Jan 19-20: Conference – [PFI
2024 Annual Conference](#)
Friday 12:30-6:30 p.m. & Saturday 9
a.m.-5:15 p.m. | Des Moines, IA**

**Jan 18-19: Course – [Organic
Transition Short Course](#)
Thursday 1:30-6 p.m. & Friday 8-11
a.m. | Des Moines, IA**

Friends of PFI events

**Jan 24: Workshop – Utilizing
Cover Crops for Grazing & Forage
Workshop**
*Hosted by: Sac County Soil and
Water Conservation District*
10 a.m.- 1 p.m. | Carroll, IA
***Visit with PFI staff at this event**
To RSVP call or text Ethan Thies at
712-730-3018

**Feb 22-24: Conference –
[Marbleseed Organic Farming
Conference](#)**

**Feb 2-3: Conference – [OGRAIN
Winter Conference](#)
*Hosted by: OGRAIN & University of
Wisconsin Madison*
Friday 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. | Madison,
WI
Visit with PFI staff at this event*

Hosted by: Marbleseed

La Crosse, WI

***Visit with 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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