

## Practical Cover Cropper - Cover cropping sessions at the annual conference

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*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



### Cover croppers at the PFI 2024 Annual Conference

**Keith Berns**, Nebraska farmer and co-founder of Green Cover seed, will explore soil health in his keynote address **"Soil Health Makes Sense ... But Does It Make Dollars?"** at the PFI 2024 Annual Conference on Jan. 19.

Keith will show how soil health practices affect the bottom-line profitability of a farming operation. He'll discuss short-term and long-term benefits, as well as

direct and indirect financial impacts of investing in healthier soil. Come find out if soil health makes both dollars and sense!

Stick around for a Q&A session with Keith on Saturday, Jan. 20. Plus, attend a variety of other **[sessions on cover crop-focused topics](#)**, including improving weed control, trialing biological products, planter-set up and much more, throughout the conference.

See more information about our Organic Transition **[Pre-Conference Short Course](#)** in "Upcoming Events" below.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Open calls for on-farm research cooperators



Interested in on-farm research opportunities? **PFI's Cooperators' Program is seeking participants for two on-farm research trials.**

Join farmers across the Midwest in answering these questions:

- "Can We Reduce N Rates to Corn and Improve ROI?" and
- "Do Cover Crops Increase the Number of Days Suitable for Field Work?"

**[Learn more about the trials and get involved here.](#)**

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**Welcome Jennifer to PFI staff!**



Meet **Jennifer Reddel**, our newest PFI staff member.

Jennifer joins PFI as our cost-share administrative assistant, working with the field crops team and the back-end processes of PFI's cost-share programs.

Jennifer has a degree in business and is working to finish another in organizational leadership.

She and her husband, David, live in Ankeny, Iowa, and have two sons. [Learn more about Jennifer.](#)

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## Crop insurance discount for Iowa cover croppers



Applications are open for a crop insurance discount program offered through IDALS and RMA.

This program offers up to a \$5 per acre discount for participants using cover crops. To learn more, [view this fact sheet](#) or [apply here.](#)

Sign-up closes Jan. 26, 2024.

Other states may offer similar programs through respective state agriculture departments.

## IN THE FIELD

**New video: "Reducing N Rates to Corn in Soil Health Systems"**





Do soil health practices like cover crops enable us to reduce N rates to corn? What's the optimal nitrogen rate for corn to achieve the highest ROI?

To answer those questions, PFI Cooperator **Jon Bakehouse** participated in the on-farm research trial "Can We Reduce N Rates and Improve ROI?" and [shared his experiences in this video from the Practical Cover Cropper video series.](#)

Curious how the lower N rates went for Jon? [See the results of the trial here.](#)

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## Learn how to cut nitrogen with cover crops



No matter your rotation, cover crops can help you dial in your nitrogen and improve your bottom line.

[Watch this recording from the 2021 Cover Crop Bootcamp,](#) featuring **Stefan Gailans**, PFI senior research manager, and **Tom Pyfferoen** who farms in Pine Island, Minnesota, to learn more about reducing nitrogen with cover crops.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Midwest Covers and Grains 2024: Register Now!**



**March 4 | 8 a.m-4 p.m. | Mankato, MN**

Come learn from other farmers and advance your understanding of how diversified rotations and cover crops can work for you.

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**

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



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

Thinking about transitioning to organic? Attend our pre-conference short course "Getting Started with Organic Transition."

Learn about strategies for transition, certification, record-keeping and more from farmers who have experienced it all! **[Learn more and register.](#)**

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## Friends of PFI events

**Dec. 20 : Webinar – [Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program](#)**

*Hosted by: Iowa Learning Farms and Brad Jordahl Redlin*

Noon-1 p.m. | **[Online](#)**

**Jan. 3: Webinar – [How Do We Best Define and Promote Soil Health?](#)**

*Hosted by: Iowa Learning Farms & Mike Castellano*

Noon-1 p.m. | **[Online](#)**

**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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