Practical Cover Cropper - Cover cropping sessions at the annual conference

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Fri 1/12/2024 4:01 PM

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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 <u>"Soil Health Makes Sense ... But Does It Make</u> <u>Dollars?"</u> 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 <u>sessions on cover crop-focused topics</u>, including improving weed control, trialing biological products, planter-set up and much more, throughout the conference.

See more information about our Organic Transition **<u>Pre-Conference Short Course</u>** 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?"

<u>Learn more about the trials and get</u> <u>involved here.</u>

# 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.

## **Crop insurance discount for Iowa cover croppers**



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

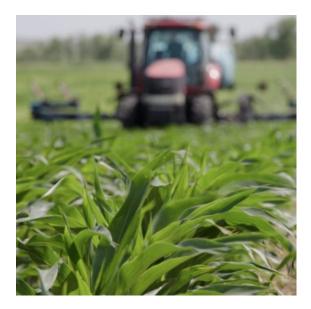
This program offers up to a \$5 per acre discount for participants using cover crops. To learn more, <u>view this fact</u> <u>sheet</u> or <u>apply here.</u>

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 <u>shared his</u> <u>experiences in this video from the</u> <u>Practical Cover Cropper video series.</u>

Curious how the lower N rates went for Jon? <u>See the results of the trial here.</u>

### 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

## 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.

## **Friends of PFI events**

## Dec. 20 : Webinar – <u>Minnesota</u> <u>Agricultural Water Quality</u>

<u>Certification Program</u> Hosted by: Iowa Learning Farms and Brad Jordahl Redlin Noon-1 p.m. | <u>Online</u>

#### Jan. 3: Webinar – <u>How Do We Best</u> Define and Promote Soil Health?

Hosted by: Iowa Learning Farms & Mike Castellano Noon-1 p.m. | <u>Online</u>

View our events calendar

## **Contact our team**

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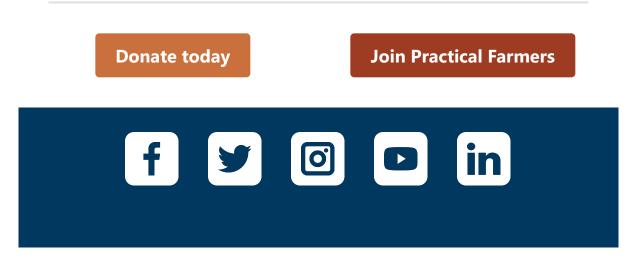
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#### Chat with any of us by calling the PFI office at (515)-232-5661.



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