

Small Grains News - Register for the organic transition short course

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

Meet annual conference speaker Noreen Thomas



Noreen Thomas owns and operates Doubting Thomas Farms near Moorhead, Minnesota, alongside her husband, **Lee**, and son and daughter-in-law, **Evan and Melany**. On their 1,200 acre organic farm, they currently produce wheat, rye, oats, barley, buckwheat, soybeans and blue corn.

Noreen will be leading sessions on the culinary potential of food-grade grains and on forging partnerships with White Earth Nation and other women-owned farms to distribute their grains.

Key takeaways: "I hope people leave with great resources to use and share and that they think deeply about what they can do to utilize the information."

What are you looking forward to at PFI's Annual Conference?: "The connections. Farming is often isolating, so making connections with other farmers is uplifting and can be a source of strength."

PROGRAM UPDATES

2024 small grains cost-share now open



Our small grains cost-share is back!
Combine the benefits of our two programs to earn more money across your extended rotations.

Receive \$20 per acre for harvesting a small grain and following it with a legume cover crop. Receive an additional \$20 per acre for taking Nitrogen credits in corn following in rotation. These programs are open for non-organic acres in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska or Wisconsin.

[Check eligibility requirements and apply for the 2024 season today.](#)

Registration now open for Midwest Covers and Grains Conference



Mark your calendars for the 2nd annual [Midwest Covers and Grains Conference](#), taking place this year in Mankato, Minnesota!

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 on everything from incorporating oats and rye in rotations to direct marketing small grains. [Register now.](#)

IN THE FIELD

New video: "Relay Intercropping Cereal Rye and Soybeans"



Relay intercropping cereal rye and soybeans "maximizes productivity, and you get two products to sell," says **Alec Amundson**.

Alec and his wife, **Rachel Amundson**, have been relay intercropping in Mitchell County, Iowa, since 2018. [In the latest video in our "Practical Cover Croppers" series](#), Alec shares valuable insights on planting timing, yield and profitability for anyone interested in combining a small-grain crop and soybeans in a relay crop system.

Explore grain variety trial data



Thinking about what small grain varieties you'll plant in the spring? Explore extensive [small grain variety trial data from the past few years from Albert Lea Seed](#).

[Check out PFI's Cooperators' Program page](#) to access our own variety trial reports and learn how you can get involved in on-farm research.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Shared Learning Calls

WINTER SERIES

January - April

January call: "Integrating Hog Manure and Cover Crop Grazing With Extended Rotation"



Friday, Jan 12 | Noon-1 p.m.

Kevin Prevo farms with his family near Bloomfield, Iowa where they raise corn, soybeans, rye, straw and livestock and have used cover crop and 100% no-till practices since 2014.

Join us for our first small grains shared learning call of 2024 to learn how hogs provide 95% of the fertilizer needs on the farm and how Kevin and his family incorporate cow-calf grazing following rye harvest. [**RSVP to attend.**](#)

See you in Des Moines at PFI's 2024 Annual Conference



Jan. 19-20 | All Day | Des Moines, IA

Registration is open for [PFI's 2024 Annual Conference](#), taking place in Des Moines, Iowa, this year!

This two-day event will feature a range of topics including relay-cropping rye and soybeans, producing food-grade grains and growing hybrid rye for livestock feed.

Preregistration ends Jan. 11. [Register today.](#)

Pre-conference short course on getting started with organic transition



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

Thinking about transitioning to organic? Attend our short course "Getting Started with Organic Transition" preceding the start of the Annual Conference.

Learn strategies for transition, record-keeping, certification and more from farmers who have experienced it all!

[View details and register.](#)

Friends of PFI events

Jan. 11-12: Conference – [Minnesota Organic Conference](#)

Hosted by: MN Department of Agriculture

Thurs. 8 a.m. - Fri. 3 p.m. | St. Cloud, MN

Feb. 2-3: Conference – [Annual OGRAIN Organic Grain Winter Conference](#)

Hosted by: OGRAIN

Fri. 12 p.m. - Sat. 6 p.m. | Madison, WI

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

[View our events calendar](#)

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

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