

Small Grains News - Profitability and markets

Solveig Orngard <solveig.orngard@practicalfarmers.org>

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



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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Looking at oat crop economics with Martin Larsen

"Profitability, of course, is yield or revenue minus expenses," reminds **Martin Larsen** as he discusses his decision to raise oats on his Byron, Minnesota, farm.

In this video from our "Practical Cover Croppers" series, Martin provides estimates on the expenses and revenue of raising oats in comparison with raising corn during the 2022 season. He describes how including oats in the rotation changes the overall profitability of his rotation - including reduced applied nitrogen in the corn year and increased yield in corn and soybean years. Plus,

Martin explains how rural economies are impacted by farmers staying profitable with extended rotation.

Come hear Martin speak at our [Midwest Covers and Grains Conference](#) in Mankato, Minnesota, on March 4.

PROGRAM UPDATES

2024 Midwest Covers and Grains Conference



Monday, Mar. 4 | 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Join us for the [Midwest Covers and Grains Conference](#), taking place this year in Mankato, Minnesota!

This one-day event will explore topics on everything from incorporating oats and rye in rotations to direct marketing small grains. You'll learn from other farmers and advance your understanding of how diversified rotations and cover crops can work for you.

[View the speaker line-up and register today!](#)

Apply for 2024 small grains cost-share



Combine the benefits of 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. Then, 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.](#)

Small Grains News: 2023 Year in Review



In 2023, we spoke with farmers from four different Midwest states about a variety of topics and practices.

[Revisit these featured farmers we heard from in 2023](#) as we look forward to another year of learning about extended rotations from farmers across the Midwest.

If you want to share your story in 2024, please reply to this email to let Solveig know.

IN THE FIELD

Blog post: “Frequently Asked Questions About Small Grains Markets”



When considering whether or not to grow small grains, one of the main considerations for farmers is: can I sell them?

[Read this blog post, updated in 2022,](#) for tips on finding small grains markets, including predicting prices, meeting grain specifications and deciding whether to hedge your grain.

Research report: PFI's 2023 oat variety trial



In preparation for the next shared learning call about breeding oats, [revisit PFI's oat variety trial results from 2023](#), evaluating 16 varieties across five sites in Iowa.

Learn what PFI member **Neil Peterson** and Iowa State University Extension researchers found to be the highest-yielding varieties and which varieties most consistently reached a high food-grade test weight.

[See last year's data.](#)

Additional resources

- PFI research report: [Oat Variety Trial 2022](#)
- PFI resource: [Small Grains Business Directory](#)
- PFI blog post: ["Regrowing the Small Grains Economy"](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Shared Learning Call: "Improving Resilience and Profitability through Oat Breeding"



Friday, Feb. 2 | Noon - 1 p.m. | Online

Melanie Caffé, an associate professor at South Dakota State University, leads the oat breeding program and has participated in the development and release of several oat varieties.

Tune in to our [February shared learning call](#) to hear from Melanie about the development of new oat varieties. Find varieties that grow well in your area and learn how they can improve profitability and reduce the risk of disease and lodging.

Upcoming PFI events

Feb. 27: Winter Webinar –
Revitalizing Soil for a Small-Scale
Hemp Farm in Iowa
Noon - 1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Mar. 1: Small Grains Shared
Learning Call – Topic TBD
Noon – 1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Mar. 19: Winter Webinar – An
Alternative Third Crop? Relay
Cropping Winter Camelina with
Soybeans
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Friends of PFI events

Jan. 30 - Feb. 1: Conference – The
Regenerative Nexus Summit
Hosted by: Green Cover Seed
All Day | Omaha, NE

Feb. 2 - 3: Conference – OGRAIN
Winter Conference
Hosted by: Organic Grain Resource
and Information Network (OGRAIN)
All Day | Madison, WI
****Visit with PFI staff at this**
event**

Feb. 6: Meeting – Cover Crop and
Small Grains Meeting
Hosted by: Sponheim Sales &
Services
9 a.m.-3 p.m. | Osage, IA

Feb. 22 - 24: Conference –
Marbleseed Organic Farming
Conference
Hosted by: Marbleseed
All Day | La Crosse, WI
****Visit with PFI staff at this**
event**

[View our events calendar](#)

Contact our team

Taylor Hintch
Senior Field Crops Education
Coordinator
taylor.hintch@practicalfarmers.org

Solveig Orngard
Field Crops Education Coordinator
solveig.orngard@practicalfarmers.org

Rebecca Clay

Senior Field Crops Viability Coordinator
rebecca.clay@practicalfarmers.org

Lydia English

Senior Field Crops Viability Manager
lydia.english@practicalfarmers.org

Chelsea Ferrie

Field Crops Viability Coordinator
chelsea.ferrie@practicalfarmers.org

Morgan Jennings

Field Crops Viability Coordinator
morgan.jennings@practicalfarmers.org

Megan Bark

Senior Cost-Share Administrative
Coordinator
megan.bark@practicalfarmers.org

Jennifer Reddel

Cost-Share Administrative Assistant
jennifer.reddel@practicalfarmers.org

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

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1615 Golden Aspen Dr Suite 101

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