

## Practical Cover Cropper - Now hiring field crops outreach coordinators

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**March 2024**

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



### **Growth and impact of PFI's cover crop cost-share**

Whether you planted cover crops last year or are considering it for the future, we're here to support you with financial assistance and agronomic support through PFI's cover crop cost-share.

In 2023, nearly twice as many farmers enrolled in our cover crop cost-share than in the 2022 season. Over **1,900 enrollees** throughout the Midwest seeded over 600,000 acres of cover crops.

In addition, **970 participants became PFI members** for the first time. They say access to a community of seasoned cover croppers helped them get started with confidence. "I learned a lot from hearing about other farmer's experiences," notes **Cheri Klyn** of New Sharon, Iowa.

Don't miss out on this growing movement. [Sign up to be notified when the 2024 cover crop cost-share opens.](#)

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### New program: Save on nitrogen costs; safeguard your bottom line



Ever wonder if your nitrogen rate to corn is unnecessarily cutting into your bottom line?

In the [N Rate Risk Protection Program](#), participants reduce their N rate by at least 20 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

If they experience a yield loss below 95% of their non-adjusted APH, the program pays \$35 per acre to help make up the difference. [Enroll by April 30.](#)

### Now hiring: Field crops outreach coordinators



Join our team and support farmers adopting cover crops near you.

PFI is currently seeking field crops outreach coordinators to serve specific regions and drive positive change in agriculture. Part-time and full-time positions are available.

- [Field Crops Outreach Coordinator: Northern Region](#)
- [Field Crops Outreach Coordinator: Southern Region](#)

### Call for on-farm research cooperators



Put your soil's health to the test with a nitrogen rate trial! PFI is seeking corn farmers with at least a 5-year history of soil health practices to participate in a trial to compare N-fertilizer rates.

[Check out this flyer to learn about the program](#) and, to enroll, email PFI's senior research manager, Stefan Gailans at: [stefan.gailans@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:stefan.gailans@practicalfarmers.org).

## IN THE FIELD

### Blog: "4 Tips for Planter Set-up and Planting Green"



Planting green is essential for season-long corn and soybean health on **Jason Russell's** family farm near Monticello, Iowa.

We chatted with Jason about planting green and planter set-up for planting into covers.

[Check out what he's learned over the years and see a few photos of his set-up on the blog.](#)

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### Blog: "Feeding, Grazing and Growing Nitrogen With Red Clover"



During a shared learning call last winter, **Scott Schultz** presented about his operation and use of red clover.

[Read this blog post](#) highlighting how Scott makes the most of planting red clover and multi-species cover crops in his diversified livestock and row crop operation.

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## Additional resources

- Practical Cover Cropper video series: ["The Value of Red Clover Paired With Small Grain Production"](#)
- Blog post: ["New to Cover Crops Before Corn? Steve Berger Shares Tips for Success"](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Upcoming PFI events

*All events listed are in Central time.*

#### **March 12: Meet-up – [Field Crop Farmer Social](#)**

*Hosted by: Will & Cassie Cannon*  
1-3 p.m. | Prairie City, IA

#### **March 19: Winter Webinar – [An Alternative Third Crop? Relay Cropping Winter Camelina with Soybeans](#)**

*Hosted by: Robert Harvey*  
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

#### **April 11: Meet-up – [Field Crop Farmer Social](#)**

*Hosted by: Troy Benjegerdes*  
5-7 p.m. | Northwood, IA

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## Friends of PFI events

**March 7: Webinar – Equipment Considerations in Cover Crop Systems**

*Hosted by: John Pike and Farmers for Soil Health*

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | [Online](#)

**March 13-14: Conference – The Midwest Soil Health Summit**

*Hosted by: Sustainable Farming Association*

Mankato, MN

**\*Visit PFI staff at this event**

**March 20: Webinar – Grazing Cattle on Covers**

*Hosted by: Patrick Wall and Iowa Learning Farms*

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

**March 13: Webinar – Winter Cover Crop Effects on the Optimum N rate of Corn Across Multi-state Field Experiments**

*Hosted by: Hanna Poffenbarger and Iowa Learning Farms*

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

**March 14: Webinar – Equipment Considerations in Cover Crop Systems**

*Hosted by: Christopher Hudson and Farmers for Soil Health*

11:30 a.m.-12:30 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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