

Practical News - Tips for planting green

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Mon 4/8/2024 1:27 PM

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April 1, 2024

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Blog: "Corn Following Cereal Rye Cover Crops: Research Sheds Light on Planting Green"

Many farmers are now making plans for terminating their fall cover crop before planting corn this spring. If you're one of them, [check out this 2022 blog post](#) where **Stefan Gailans**, PFI's senior research manager, summarizes on-farm research results.

Here are three takeaways.

- Avoid letting the cover crop compete for moisture and nutrients, which could negatively affect corn development.

- If you're considering planting green, make sure the cover crop doesn't grow too tall.
- Increase the physical distance between your cover crop and corn plants by leaving skip zones when seeding the cover crop in the fall or by using aggressive strip-tillage in the spring

NEWS

Welcome Savannah Laur to PFI staff



Savannah Laur joins the PFI staff as business viability manager. In this role, she works to find access to capital for farms and farm-based businesses. She also offers business coaching for farmers and oversees the Savings Incentive Program.

With a background spanning multiple enterprise areas, she brings diverse expertise to support farmers' financial success and sustainability. [Learn more about Savannah.](#)

Trialing brewers spent grain as a vegetable fertility source



Kate Solko and Kyle Maxwell of Root to Rise Farm in Ames, Iowa, farm vegetables next to a brewery. They wanted to explore if brewers spent grain could be a source of organic matter and fertility on their farm.

In 2023, they tested it in their eggplant beds, comparing it to their typical application of composted turkey manure fertilizer.

[Learn what they found in our latest research report.](#)

Winter 2023 Magazine: "Gains With Grains"



In southern Minnesota, oats are re-emerging as a crop of choice, driving diversification on farms like the one **Brad Sheely** operates with his sons **Joel and Ben**.

By integrating oats into their operations, the Sheely family has diversified their enterprises, including expanding livestock ventures and engaging in custom harvesting, while navigating challenges such as the 2023 drought. [Read their story.](#)

Blog: "Precision Conservation Analysis: The Benefits of Habitat"



Brad Woodson, PFI's habitat viability manager, emphasizes the benefits of removing land from production in the final entry for his blog series on precision conservation analysis.

Converting select production acres to habitat will not only help him make at least \$45 more per acre – he will also create habitat, prevent erosion, increase water infiltration and promote soil health. [Read the blog.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter webinar: "Establishing and Grazing Native Perennials"



Tuesday, April 2 | Noon-1 p.m.

Including native perennials in your grazing system can have a range of benefits, from boosting drought resilience in a forage chain to adding important wildlife habitat.

Drawing on over 50 years of experience, **Kevin Fulton**, who farms in the Loess Hills of central Nebraska, will share how he establishes native perennial pasture and tips for grazing it successfully in [our upcoming winter webinar](#).

Register for our April shared learning call on fungicide and herbicide management



Friday, April 12 | Noon-1 p.m

Wade Dooley operates Glenwood Century Farm, a diversified crop and livestock operation in Marshall County, Iowa. He also grows cover crop seed for his business, Dooley Ag Stewardship, Inc.

[Join our next small grains shared learning call](#) to hear Wade's insights on how to effectively apply fungicide and herbicide to rye and oats.

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

April 3: Meet-up – [Meet & Greet: Practical Farmers and Pheasants Forever](#)

Noon-3 p.m. | Mankato, MN

April 16: Webinar – [Precision Conservation: Increasing Profitability and Conservation on Your Farm](#)

April 11: Social – [Field Crop Farmer Social](#)

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

April 23: Webinar – [Diversifying Pollinator Habitat on a Multi-Generational Illinois Farm](#)

Hosted by: Jacob Bolson &
Stephanie Nelson
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Hosted by: John & Nancy
Brannaman
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Rob and Tammy Faux of Tripoli, IA, were featured in [The Gazette: Cancer in Iowa: What role does agriculture play in Iowa's high cancer rates?](#)

Aaron Steele of Ames, IA, **Adam Ledvina** of Chelsea, IA, **Scott Haase** of Blue Earth, MN, **Meghan Filbert** of Spring Green, WI, and **Daniel Faidley** of Colfax, IA, were featured in [Modern Farmer: Ranchers Embrace Virtual Fencing for Greener Pastures](#)

Jeff and Jolene Steffen of Crofton, NE, were featured in [Successful Farming: Add profit with extended rotation](#)

Joel Gruver of Macomb, IL, was featured in [FarmWeekNow: Similarities between urban, rural farmers might surprise you](#)

Wendy Johnson of Charles City, IA, was featured in [Mongabay: New U.S. agroforestry project will pay farmers to expand 'climate-smart' acres](#)

Mitchell Hora of Brighton, IA, was featured in [WVIK, Quad Cities NPR: Farmers urge legislators to pass Farm Bill](#)

Will Cannon of Prairie City, IA, and **Jeremy Gustafson** of Boone, IA, were featured in [Cover Crop Strategies: Cover Crop Strategies' Best of the Web: March 22, 2024](#)

Rob Faux of Tripoli, IA, and **Jill Beebout** of Chariton, IA, were featured in a [Pesticide Action Network](#) blog: [Two Webinars: Small-Scale, Diversified Farming](#)

Maren and Tom Beard of Decorah, IA, **Carly and Ethan Zierke** of Calmar, IA, and **Clara Muggli-Toyloy** of Decorah, IA, were featured in [Decorah News: Over \\$45,000 Awarded to Four NE Iowa Farms](#)

Jan Flora of Ames, IA, was featured on [DonnaLonna Kitchen Show: "091: Workers that feed us - why we need immigrants"](#)

Mark Westbrook of Waverly, IA, was featured on [Iowa Public Radio: Waverly farm preps for Easter](#)

PFI in the News

PFI was mentioned in:

- [AgUpdate: Conservation ag affects financial results](#)
- [Mashed: False Facts About Ham You Thought Were True](#)

Have you been featured in the media? If you're a PFI member, tell us when and where to find a link to the article, and we'll feature you in a future issue of Practical News.

Contact: elizabeth.wilhelm@practicalfarmers.org

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