

## Practical Cover Cropper - Thinking ahead to weeds suppression and cover crop termination

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**April 2024**

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



### **Practical Cover Cropper video: "Suppressing Waterhemp in Soybeans With Cover Crops"**

Waterhemp and other weeds in the pigweed family are becoming increasingly problematic in soybean production as they continue to develop resistance to several herbicide modes of action.

**In this video from our Practical Cover Cropper series**, PFI farmer members **Jon Bakehouse** of Hastings, Iowa, **Ben Dwire** of Arco, Minnesota, and **Will Cannon** of Prairie City, Iowa, explain how using cover crops has helped keep weed populations like waterhemp in check.

“Our herbicide application window was much wider,” says Jon. “Cereal rye really helped control the size of that waterhemp so our herbicides were more effective.”

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### New research report: “Utrisha N Biological Nitrogen Supplement for Organic Corn”



Last season, PFI research cooperators **Keaton Krueger, Scott Shriver and Noah Wendt** performed replicated strip trials testing whether adding Utrisha N, an organic certified fertilizer amendment product that contains N-fixing bacteria, to their typical fertilizer program provided any yield benefits.

Key findings note that the three cooperators found no statistically significant corn yield impacts. [Read their takeaways.](#)

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### Get PFI support for conservation practices on your farm



PFI’s [Habitat Incentives Program](#) helps you achieve your conservation goals by providing technical and financial support for several practices.

Supported practices include:

- Prairie (buffer) strips
- Pollinator habitat
- Precision conservation analysis

[Learn more and submit a contact form.](#)

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### Last call for on-farm research trials



PFI's Cooperators Program will be closing applications to participate in these two on-farm research projects next Wednesday, April 10:

- Can We Reduce N Rates to Corn and Improve ROI?
- Do Cover Crops Increase the Number of Days Suitable for Field Work?

**[Learn more about each trial and sign up to participate.](#)**

## IN THE FIELD

### 2022 research report: "Delayed Rye Cover Crop Termination in Soybeans"



PFI research cooperator **Tim Sieren** wanted to maximize the weed-suppressive benefits of a rye cover crop before his soybean crop in his no-till system.

His trial found that the soybean yields between the two cover crop termination timings were not statistically different.

**[Read Tim's observations and the results of the trial here.](#)**

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## 10 years of PFI research on planting green



Many farmers are now making plans to terminate fall cover crops before planting 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.

Find tips from a decade of PFI research on planting corn following cereal rye cover crops.

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## Additional resources

- Midwest Cover Crop Council training module: ["Cover crop termination"](#)
- Midwest Cover Crop Council training module: ["Planting following a cover crop including 'planting green'"](#)
- Research report: ["Soybean Row-Width and Seeding Date When Using a Roller-Crimper for Cereal Rye Cover Crop"](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Talk small grains and more at our next meet-up



**Thursday, April 11 | 5-7 p.m. | Northwood, IA**

Join farmer host **Troy Benjergedes** at our next social in northern Iowa.

Connect with other farmers, discuss challenges and share farm stories. Conversation topics will be centered around marketing small grains, but all farm-related discussions are welcome.

Refreshments will be provided. [View details](#). To RSVP, email [solveig.orngard@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:solveig.orngard@practicalfarmers.org) or reply to this email.

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



**Friday, April 12 | Noon-1 p.m. | Online**

**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 timely insights on when and how to effectively apply fungicide and herbicide to rye and oats.

### Upcoming PFI events

*All events listed are in Central time.*

**April 16: Winter webinar – Precision Conservation: Increasing Profitability and Conservation on Your Farm**  
Noon-1 p.m. | **Online**

**April 23: Winter webinar – Diversifying Pollinator Habitat on a Multi-Generational Illinois Farm**  
Noon-1 p.m. | **Online**

### Friends of PFI events

**April 23: Field Day – Cover Crop Field Day**  
*Hosted by: Byron Seeds*  
8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. | Rockville, IN

**April 30: Field Day – Cover Crop Field Day**  
*Hosted by: University of Nebraska-Lincoln*  
1-3 p.m. | Concord, NE

[View our events calendar](#)

### Contact our team

**Taylor Hintch**

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**Chat with our cover crops team by calling the PFI office at (515)-232-5661.**

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**Donate today**

**Join Practical Farmers**



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