

## Practical Cover Cropper - Cover crop cost share now open + New research reports available

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**June 2024**

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*

### **Join us for another season of farmer-to-farmer learning!**

This year, in our biggest field day season yet, nearly 60 farms across Iowa, as well as Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin, are opening their farm gates for another season of farmer-to-farmer learning.

All PFI field days are **free for anyone to attend**; membership in PFI is not required or expected. Our goal here is simple: We want farmers to visit with and learn from one another. [\*\*RSVP and view the schedule\*\*](#) on our website.

**Here is a preview what the field day season has in store:**

### **Rye Resiliency: Strategies for Using Rye to Build and Maintain Soil Health**



**Monday, June 17 | 4:30-6:30 p.m. |  
Packwood, IA**

*Hosts: J.D. Hollingsworth & Dave Hollingsworth*

*Speakers: Jason Steele, NRCS; Ryan Wolf & Chris Wolf, Farm neighbors*

**See & discuss:**

- Roller-crimping rye in soybeans
- Management strategies for cereal rye pre-harvest
- Cutting fertilizer and chemical inputs
- Slake test demo and rainfall simulator

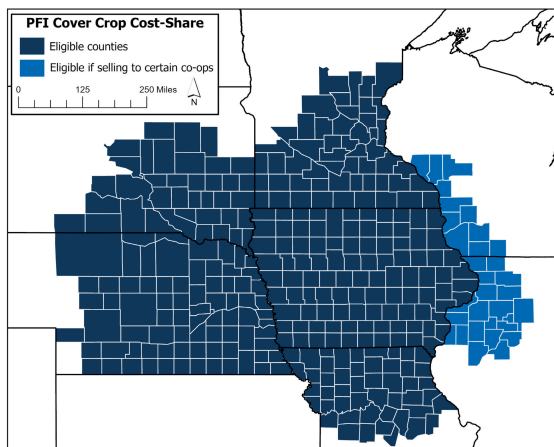
**RSVP for this event.**

**Find more June field crop field days in the “Upcoming Events” section below or [visit our website for the full list](#), including events showcasing cover crops, small grains, soil health, input reduction and more from June to November.**

We look forward to seeing you at a field day this season!

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Cover crop cost-share: Enroll now!



Practical Farmers offers cost-share and technical assistance for those who are seeding fall cover crops.

Participants must farm in **eligible counties.**

Payment rates are \$10 or \$15 per acre on unlimited acres. Rates vary depending on the documentation provided. Any species or seeding method can be used.

**Sign up here** or reach out to our cover crop cost-share team with questions at [covercrops@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:covercrops@practicalfarmers.org) or (515) 232-5661.

**Join our team as a field crops education coordinator**



We continue to grow and are seeking a field crops education coordinator to join our team.

In this position, you'll connect with field crops farmers to learn about their challenges, opportunities and how PFI can serve them. You'll also help coordinate field days, conference sessions, webinars and more to help farmers build peer networks and learn from one another.

[Learn more and apply.](#)

## IN THE FIELD

### New research report: "Interseeding Cover Crops in Corn"



Interseeding cover crops into standing corn is a growing practice that allows for earlier cover crop establishment and grazing opportunities.

Cooperator **Noah Wendt** investigated the corn yield and fall forage potential effects of interseeding a diverse, cool-season cover crop mix versus a warm-season sorghum-millet mix in his organic corn field.

[Read the research report.](#)

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### New research report: "Horganix Bio 800+ Compost Tea for Corn"



**Jack Boyer** of Reinbeck, IA, investigated the yield impact of applying Holganix Bio 800+, a commercial compost tea, at corn planting in addition to his regular corn fertilizer treatment.

Jack found that Holganix Bio 800+ did not affect corn yield and cost an extra \$20/ac to apply compared to his standard nutrient program.

[Read more about these findings.](#)

## New blog: "Observations from a Trial Season of 60-inch Row Corn"



Planting corn in rows 60 inches apart provides a unique opportunity for growing cover crops while simultaneously growing a cash crop.

**David Dedert** of Quincy, Illinois, tested out 60-inch corn in 2023 in hopes to graze a cover crop following corn harvest. Learn more about his experiences in [this recent blog post.](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Upcoming PFI events

*All events listed are in Central time.*

**June 19: Field Day – A Legacy of Stewardship: Using Cover Crops, Biochar and Nature for Sustainable Agriculture**

Hosted by: Rob Stout  
4-6 p.m. | Washington, IA

**June 26: Field Day – Building Soil Health Through Relay-Cropping, Extended Rotations and Reduced Tillage**

Hosted by: Doug & Kim Adams and Harley Hett  
4:30-6:30 p.m. | Humboldt, IA



**June 20: Field Day – Discovering  
Covers: Options From Seeding to  
Species and How They Affect Soil  
Health**

*Hosted by: Edmund & Barbara Ruff*  
4-6 p.m. | Garnavillo, IA

**June 27: Field Day – Farming  
Outside the Box: A Fresh  
Approach to Diversification on a  
Nebraska Farm**

*Hosted by: Junior & Katelyn Pfanstiel,  
Gene & Julie Pfanstiel*  
10 a.m.-Noon | McLean, NE

**June 22: Field Day – Maintaining  
High Yields with Cover Crops and  
Conservation**

*Hosted by: Kurtis & Kathy Kadolph  
and Al Kadolph*  
10 a.m.-Noon | Hubbard, IA

**June 28: Field Day – Creating  
Resiliency Through Diversity with  
Crops and Livestock**

*Hosted by: Kevin Wagner & family*  
10 a.m.-Noon | Cuba City, WI

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## Friends of PFI events

**June 21: Field Day – Hepp Farm  
Field Day**

*Hosted by: Hepp Ag Company*  
2 p.m. | Rockwell City, IA

**June 25: Workshop – Cultivating  
Conversations: How and Why  
Illinois Farms Implement Edge-of-  
Field Practices**

*Hosted by: University of Illinois  
Extension*  
9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. | Galesburg, IL

[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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