

Small Grains News - Join us at small grains field days + Last call for 2024 small grains cost-share

Solveig Orngard <solveig.orngard@practicalfarmers.org>

Wed 7/31/2024 6:53 AM

To: Anna Pesek <anna.pesek@practicalfarmers.org>



June 2024

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



The Farmers in the Rye

Southeast Iowa farmers **J.D. Hollingsworth** and his father **Dave Hollingsworth** (and son Noah) have been taking steps in recent years to improve soil health and water quality by practicing no-till and cover crops on 100% of their acres since 2015. Rye plays an important role in that equation, helping to maintain living roots and soil cover for as much of the year as possible.

Crimping considerations: This year, they tried roller crimping on a few of their acres for the first time with the goal of eliminating one chemical pass on the field. But after the rye reached anthesis earlier and on more fields than expected, the Hollingsworth's decided to use their own 30' tool with a rolling cutter to crimp rather than borrow their neighbors' 10' roller crimper as initially planned. Their tool worked well but they had some issues with the tool plugging up with rye.

Timing impact: The Hollingsworth's also grow rye that they then harvest to use as cover crop seed on their farm. J.D. recommends planting rye for seed earlier than cover crop rye to achieve more tillering, leading to more yield potential. This past fall, he planted rye for harvest on Sept. 19 using a 15-inch row planter, one month earlier than the cover crop rye. He expects a 45-50 bu/rye yield and will try to keep 2 feet of standing stubble to provide protection for the soil.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Only five more days to apply for our small grains cost-share



Photo credit: Anne Plagge

We've reached our goal of enrolling 40,000 acres in our **small grains cost-share program** and have run out of guaranteed funding for most locations.

However, for those **farmers growing wheat and selling to ADM in Mendota, Illinois, or Lincoln, Nebraska**, we still have funding for you!

Apply today if you meet the above criteria or would like to be added to our waitlist. Applications due July 1.

Enrollment is open for the 2024 cover crop business accelerator program



With tailored business coaching, technical guidance and financial incentives, our cover crop business accelerator program supports cover crop seed or application businesses in starting, expanding or professionalizing their operations.

Benefits for participants include:

1. Business growth consulting
2. Capital investment funds
3. Incentive payments

Learn more and apply.

Introducing a new tool to compare the profitability of corn – soybean vs. extended rotation



Extending rotations beyond corn and soy holds many benefits, like breaking pest and weed cycles and reducing inputs. But the alternative crop must also be financially competitive.

The “Crop Rotation Analyzer” tool, co-developed by Practical Farmers of Iowa and Iowa State University Extension, seeks to simplify economic decision-making for selecting crop rotations by providing a holistic profitability summary for each rotation, including how yields and inputs vary across rotations.

[Check out the tool and learn more!](#)

IN THE FIELD

New wheat variety developed in Nebraska with high fungal resistance



Following a wetter than average season for western Nebraska in 2023, University of Nebraska-Lincoln is releasing a new wheat variety with high fungal resistance.

[In this article](#) from Nebraska Today, read about why the new variety, NE Prism CLP, was developed and how it can be beneficial to farmers when conditions are right for fungal diseases, including fusarium head blight.

Additional Resources

- Artisan Grain Collaborative videos: [Post-harvest handling for food-grade grains](#)
- From USDA's Agricultural Research Service: [Pearl Millet Wins Approval From Honey Bees and Other Pollinators](#)
- 2018 blog: [Small Grains Harvest: Maintaining Quality With the Equipment You Have](#)
- 2021 Live From the Farm: [Small-Grain Harvest and Post-Harvest Handling in the Little Sioux Valley](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Field day: "Nutrient Management Using Intercropping in an Organic Operation"



**Tuesday, July 2 | 10 a.m.-Noon |
Maynard, IA**

Scott and Catherine Wedemeier own and run an organic dairy and row crop operation called Grassway Farm in Fayette County, Iowa.

Attend their field day to see cover crop mixes and small grain-legume intercropping and to learn how these practices have reduced weed pressure and improved soil quality on their farm.

[RSVP today.](#)

Field day: "Innovative Strategies for Diversifying a Row Crop Operation"



**Wednesday, July 10 | 4-6 p.m. |
Corning, IA**

Chris and Shannon Gaesser farm just over 4,000 acres of corn, soybeans and small grains near Corning, Iowa and sell and custom-apply cover crop seed through their business, GX Agriculture.

Come to their field day to explore their strategies for diversifying rotations, learn about their on-farm research, and hear how they've partnered with neighboring farmers and Revelton Distillery to build a resilient farm and business. [RSVP here.](#)

Field day: "Going with the Grain: Diversified, Small-Scale Grain Farming With On-Farm Processing"



**Friday, July 19 | 4-6:30 p.m. |
Pecatonica, IL**

Andrea Hazzard farms heirloom corn, oats, wheat, barley, rye, flax and other small grains, oilseeds, and dry beans on Hazzard Free Farm outside of Pecatonica, Illinois. She processes all her own grains and sells to local restaurants, grocers and co-ops, along with shipping her orders.

At her field day, see Andrea's seed-saving process, explore her diversity of crops and walk through steps for processing and marketing food-grade grains. [RSVP here.](#)

Upcoming PFI events

All events listed in Central time.

June 28: Field day – [Creating Resiliency Through Diversity With](#)

July 18: [Workshop – Grundy County Workshop: Biologicals, the Hot Topic](#)

Crops and Livestock

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

July 18: Meet-Up – Farm Family Meet-Up

2-4 p.m. Textile Brewery | Dyersville, IA

July 26: Meet-Up – Farm Family Meet-Up

12-2 p.m. | Charles City, IA

July 24: Field day – Improving Soil Through Nitrogen Reduction and Conservation Practices

Hosted by: Alec & Rachel Amundson
2-4 p.m. | Osage, IA

Hosted by: Fred Abels, Courtney Myers & Grundy County SWCD
9 a.m.-Noon | Grundy Center, IA

July 25: Meet-Up – Field Crop Farmer Meet-Up

Hosted by: Chris Von Holten
7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. | Walnut, IL

July 31: Meet-Up – Farm Family Meet-Up

5-7 p.m. | N Burns St Lanark, IL

July 30: Field day - Establishing and Growing a Cover Crop Seeding and Service Business

Hosted by: Dan & Jessica Bahe
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Stanley, IA

Friends of PFI events**July 9: Field day – Midwest Organic Center Field Day**

Hosted by: Rodale Institute
8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Marion, IA

July 11: Conference – Winter Grains and Cover Crop Conference

Hosted by: Albert Lea Seed
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Online

July 18: Workshop – Effective Weed Management in Row Crops

Hosted by: Organic Agronomy Training Service
9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. | El Paso, IL

July 9: Field day – Getting Started – Organic Field Equipment with A&W Farm Operations

Hosted by: Iowa Organic Association
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Cambridge, IA

July 11: Field Day – Organic Grain Equipment Showcase

Hosted by: OGRAIN
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Arlington, WI

July 19: Social – Farm to Brew SD

Hosted by: Soil Regen
10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. | Valley Springs, SD

[View our events calendar](#)

[Contact our team](#)

Taylor Hintch

Solveig Orngard

*Senior Field Crops Education
Coordinator*
taylor.hintch@practicalfarmers.org

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.

Donate today

Join Practical Farmers



© 2023 Microsoft Dynamics. All rights reserved.

1615 Golden Aspen Dr Suite 101

[Unsubscribe](#)