



Practical Cover Cropper - Apply for nitrogen rate reduction protection + New blog on phosphorus and potassium fertilizer

From Beth Waage <beth.waage@practicalfarmers.org>

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



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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



New blog: "Don't Forget About Phosphorus and Potassium"

Phosphorus and potassium are nutrients essential to plant growth but are talked about much less than nitrogen when discussing crop fertility needs. Begin with soil sampling to learn if you have limiting deficiencies or an abundance of phosphorus and potassium in your fields.

Healthy soils may be capable of very rapid phosphorus and potassium nutrient uptake by high-yielding modern corn varieties without the need for additional fertilizer. PFI member farmers **Dale Schlarmann** from Dubuque, IA, and **Scott Richert** from Gresham, NE, both plant cover crops and have seen the need for phosphorus and potassium diminish over the years.

PFI member **Ryan Johnson** generally applies maintenance levels of phosphorus and potassium fertilizer. He currently uses a no-till or strip-till system and strip-tills dry phosphorus and potassium fertilizer with his anhydrous ahead of corn.

[Read more about these farmers practices on the latest blog.](#)

PROGRAM UPDATES

Get a second opinion on your nitrogen rate while safeguarding your revenue



If you're thinking of giving lower nitrogen rates a try next growing season, lessen your financial risk by enrolling in our N Rate Risk Protection Program. You choose the lower nitrogen rate – and if your yield drops after doing so, you'll receive a per-acre payment from PFI.

Farmers who are new to reducing inputs, as well as those who've reduced nitrogen rates previously, are both eligible for the program.

[Learn more and secure your spot.](#)

Sign up for PFI's cover crop cost-share



Are you preparing to, or have you already seeded your cover crops? Are you sharing the cost with PFI?

Applications for our cover crop cost-share program are open.

Payment rates are \$10 or \$15 per acre on an unlimited number of acres. The program extends beyond Iowa and is stackable with any publicly funded cost-share programs.

[Check your eligibility and enroll.](#)

Grow your business with our new Sustainable Agriculture Business Incubator



Are you looking to scale up an existing agricultural business and explore the possibility of outside investment?

Check out our **[Sustainable Agriculture Business Incubator](#)**, a two-phase program to support agricultural businesses looking to grow and explore private equity investment.

[Apply for the program today.](#)

Welcome Beth to PFI's field crops team!



Beth Waage joined our team in August 2024 as a field crops education coordinator. In this role, she works with the farmer-led education and field crops departments to engage farmers and coordinate educational programs, both virtual and in the field.

Beth grew up in north-central Iowa and attended Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, graduating with a degree in environmental science. Beth served two AmeriCorps terms, one in Montana and one in Oregon, before returning to her home state of Iowa. [Read Beth's bio.](#)

IN THE FIELD

Phosphorus fertilizer guidelines: Four midwest experts talk profit, yield, soil tests and more



In this episode of the University of Minnesota Extensions' Nutrient Management Podcast, experts discuss phosphorus fertilizer guidelines throughout the Midwest.

Get guidance and advice from the panel pertaining to phosphorus guidelines.

[Listen to the podcast and find additional resources on the UMN Extension website.](#)

Video: "Farmers Find Profit With Phosphorus Management"



Jon Stevens of Maple Grove Farms in Rock Creek, MN, shares tips on how he's altering phosphorus rates given today's farm economy. Jon discusses strip placement of phosphorus, in-season phosphorus application and more.

[Check out his thoughts on how to save on phosphorus fertilizer rates.](#)

Additional resources

- **[Webinar: "Precision-Seeded Cover Crops"](#)**
- **[Source Seed and Applicators with Find Cover Crops](#)**
- "Practical Cover Cropper" YouTube series: **["Combine Seeder Saves Time and Fuel by Seeding Covers during Harvest - Practical Cover Croppers"](#)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Free meals for pickup during the busy harvest season!

Harvest Dinners
Free Meal Pickup

FARMERS, FUEL YOUR HARVEST!

**This October sign up for
free hot meal pickup!**



More info at practicalfarmers.org/events

Fuel your harvest! Practical Farmers of Iowa and ADM re:generations are partnering to provide hot, delicious meals to farmers and their families this harvest season.

Working with local caterers, free meals will be available for pickup at select locations in eastern Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois and Missouri this October.

[View locations and sign up](#) to secure free meals for your harvest crew today.

Friends of PFI events

Oct. 4-5: Workshop – [Biological Systems, Soil Health, and the](#)

Oct. 9: Webinar – [Meaghan Anderson, Iowa State Extension](#)

Nutrient Density of Food with Dan Kittredge

Hosted by: Sustainable Farming Association

9 a.m.- 4 p.m. | Clearwater, MN

Oct. 17: Meet-Up – Conservation On Tap

Hosted by: Iowa Learning Farms, Des Moines Water Works and

Conservation Learning Group

6-7 p.m. | Des Moines, IA

Nov. 19: Conference – Central Nebraska Regenerative Ag Conference

Hosted by: Central Community College

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. | Holdrege, NE

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

Topic: Waterhemp Is Killing Us, but Can Cover Crops Save Us?

Hosted by: Iowa Learning Farms

Noon-1 p.m. | Online

Oct. 22: Workshop – Keys to Success: Creating and Implementing a Business Plan

Hosted by: Center for Rural Affairs

5:30-7:30 p.m. | Pierce, NE

Nov. 24-25: Conference – 2024 Iowa Organic Conference

Hosted by: Iowa State University Organic Agriculture Program

7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. | Iowa City, IA

[View our events calendar](#)

Contact our team

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

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