

Small Grains News - Planting specifics for winter small grains + Nitrogen reduction program enrolling

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



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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Planting winter rye

Dan Dietz farms with his son **Drew** near Nashua, Iowa, where they grow corn, soybeans and rye. Dan also finishes 900 head of cattle, which he purchases from Drew and his wife **Shannon**.

This year's harvest: Dan harvested 115 acres of Aroostook Rye, 30 of which were fed to his cattle and the remainder sold as cover crop seed. Following harvest, he

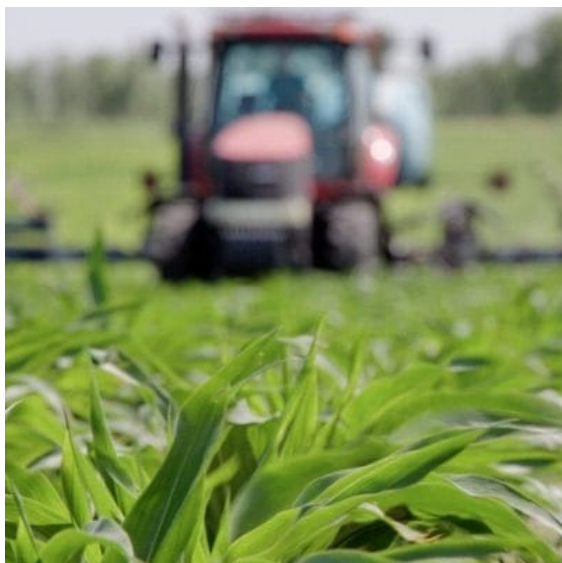
applies manure to the field and then plants a cover crop mix that includes kale, radishes, turnips and red clover.

Preparing to plant: Rye follows both corn and soybeans as a cover crop on 600 of Dan's acres. When planting to harvest the following summer, Dan plants his rye after the harvest of his 110-day corn, predictably around October 15. Since his operation is 100% no-till, he uses a John Deere 1590 no-till drill to plant the rye seed 1" deep with 7.5" row spacing at a rate of 120 lbs/ac. In contrast, his cover crop rye is planted at a rate of 60-90 lbs/ac.

Quick calibration: The no-till drill has both a scale and an acre meter which makes calibration simple. "It's very accurate. You just have to watch the scale and then check the acre meter and make adjustments as needed. It only takes about five acres to get the rate dialed in," Drew says.

PROGRAM UPDATES

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



Do you think you could be over-spending on nitrogen for corn?

The Nitrogen Rate Risk Protection Program provides field-specific consultation from a PFI agronomist on what N rate reductions may be feasible for your farm, while maintaining yields. Risk protection is provided in the form of a \$35 per acre payment if a yield loss occurs from reducing your typical nitrogen rate. This free program helps you to hone in your optimal N rate.

[Learn more and apply today](#)

New Climate Smart Commodities Incentives Program through Regenerative Agriculture Alliance



Regenerative Agriculture Alliance is accepting applications for their 2025 Climate Smart Commodities Incentives Program, which offers \$75 per acre for up to 100 acres of small grain crops including but not limited to oats, wheat, barley, flax and camelina.

Farmers must have an FSA number to enroll. Certified organic grain farmers and emerging or socially disadvantaged farmers are encouraged to apply.

Contact **Jennifer Zepeda** at jennifer@regenpoultry.com or (612)-267-7374 with questions or to apply.

Calling all Minnesota winter grain farmers!



The Environmental and Economic Clusters of Opportunity Implementation Program offered through the Forever Green Initiative provides technical and financial assistance to farmers intending to plant Kernza® intermediate wheatgrass, hybrid winter rye, winter barley or winter camelina this fall.

The EECO program provides \$20-\$40 per acre in ecosystem service payments just for planting the crops and covers up to half the cost of production in the event of a crop or market failure.

Apply now before you plant.

Is it time to renew your PFI membership?



Is it time to renew your PFI membership or consider upgrading to a lifetime membership?

Fall is a great time to renew to ensure you can take advantage of all the benefits PFI membership has to offer including free registrations for **PFI's Midwest Covers and Grains Conference** happening March 5, 2025, in Wisconsin.

Renew your membership.

IN THE FIELD

New research report: "Cereal Rye and Triticale Variety Trial"

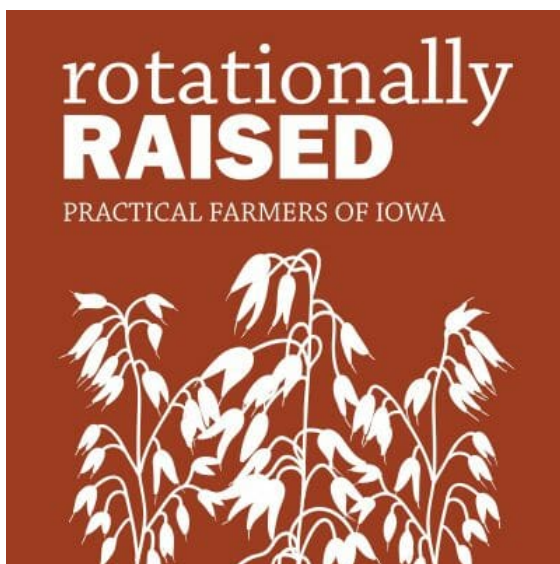


For the past six years, Practical Farmers of Iowa has been coordinating cereal rye variety trials at Iowa State University research farms throughout the state.

In 2024, PFI looked at one winter triticale variety – Tulus – along with 11 cereal rye varieties, including three new cereal rye varieties: SU Bebo, SU Cossani and SU Performer.

See the results of this trial and full research report.

"Rotationally Raised" videos: "Planting I: Calibrate to Populate" and "Planting II: Seed to Soil"



When prepping to plant small grains, it is important to identify a planting population and prepare the seed bed.

Watch two videos about planting small grains featuring a wealth of tips from PFI member farmers and researchers:

- **Planting I: Calibrate to Populate** provides helpful insights into determining a planting population.
- **Planting II: Seed to Soil** shares key tips for preparing the field and equipment for preferred planting specifications.

Blog post: “Small Grains Equipment Essentials”



Seasoned small grain farmers **Tracy Skaar, Doug Alert and Margaret Smith** shared about their equipment considerations for seeding, harvest and post-harvest during a 2022 shared learning call.

Review what these experienced farmers had to say about their small grain operations and equipment in this blog post recapping the call.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- Blog post: **“Raising High Yielding Winter Small Grains Starts in October with Planting”**
- Blog post: **“Delayed Planting for Winter Small Grains”**
- Minnesota Field Crops Variety Trials: **2024 preliminary yield results**

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

Practical Farmers of Iowa and ADM 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 Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois and Missouri this October.

View locations and sign up using the form on our website to secure free meals for your harvest crew today.

Upcoming PFI events

All events listed in Central time.

Oct. 2: Field Day – Starting Out and Building Up With Pigs, Poultry and Small Grains

*Hosts: Ryan & Ashley Wallace
10 a.m.-Noon | Luzerne, IA*

Friends of PFI events

Oct. 2: Community Education Event – Regenerative Agriculture for MN Communities at Bang Brewing Company

*Hosted by: Great River Greening
5-8 p.m. | St. Paul, MN*

Oct. 4: Field Day – Cover Crops Management and Selection Field Day

*Hosted by: University of Wisconsin-Madison Extension
10 a.m.-1 p.m. | Gillett, WI*

Oct. 17: Meet-Up – Conservation On Tap

*Hosted by: Iowa Learning Farms
5:30-7 p.m. | Des Moines, IA*

Nov. 6: Webinar – Pennsylvania's Remerging Flax to Linen Industry

*Hosted by: Rodale Institute
1-2 p.m. | Online*

Nov. 19: Conference – Central Nebraska Regenerative Ag Conference

Hosted by: Central Community College

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

View our events calendar

Contact our team

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Chat with any of us by calling the PFI office at (515)-232-5661.

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