
Small Grains News - Explore winter grains + New market opportunity for hybrid rye

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.





Many Ways of Growing Wheat

Doug and Kim Adams and their farm partner **Harley Hett** grow wheat for cover cropping, relay cropping and seed. Doug, who works with other farmers to reduce erosion and improve soil health through the Natural Resources Conservation Service, understands the benefits that small grains provide for the soil and puts it into practice on his own farm. Used as a cover crop, winter wheat is planted in October and grows through the fall and spring, providing cover to the ground to reduce erosion and prevent weeds from emerging.

Relay cropping wheat and soy: In addition to cover cropping with wheat, Doug has started relay cropping - planting beans into growing wheat in the spring. He planted beans on May 19 this year and was happy with the moisture soaked up by the wheat prior to planting. At wheat harvest in mid-July, the grain is direct cut close to the head to avoid damaging the soybeans, which may get smashed a bit by the combine, but usually bounce back.

Mid-summer planting: In addition to relay cropped fields, the farm raises acres of winter wheat for cover crop seed. The wheat seed is later used on the same farm and after it is harvested, it provides an opportunity for a subsequent multi-species summer cover crop mix that fixes nitrogen, controls weeds and retains moisture for future crops.

PROGRAM UPDATES

August small grains shared learning call: "KWS Cover+™: A New Market Opportunity for Hybrid Rye"



Hybrid cereal rye, developed by KWS Cereals, typically yields over 100 bushels per acre and requires few crop protectants. These attributes have sparked a growing following among farmers. It now has a new market opportunity - cover crop seed via the KWS Cover+™ program.

In the next [shared learning call](#) on August 2, hear from KWS Country Manager **Becca Brattain** about hybrid rye, KWS and the new Cover+ Initiative.

Tell us about your ideas for the 2025 annual conference!



Planning is underway for the 2025 annual conference and the field crops team wants to hear your ideas for session topics and speakers!

Use [this form](#) to share your ideas with PFI staff **before August 23**.

Incentive opportunity for winter grain growers in Minnesota



The Environmental and Economic Clusters of Opportunity (EECO) 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 before you plant the crop!](#)

IN THE FIELD

Recordings from Albert Lea Seed's virtual conference now accessible to all



Earlier in July, Albert Lea Seed hosted their [2024 Winter Grains and Cover Crops Conference](#) virtually for anyone wishing to dive into topics related to diversifying grains and successfully incorporating cover crops.

[Check out this playlist](#) of all the sessions to learn about winter wheat, ancient and heritage grain varieties, cover cropping with winter grains and more!

Additional resources

- Blog post: [A Wealth of Winter Wheat](#)
- PFI Virtual Field Day: [Wheat: A Gateway Crop to Soil Health, Resilience and More – Virtual Field Day](#)
- Blog post: [Small Grains Harvest: Maintaining Quality With the Equipment You Have](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Field day: "Boots on the Ground: Tips for Transitioning to No-Till"

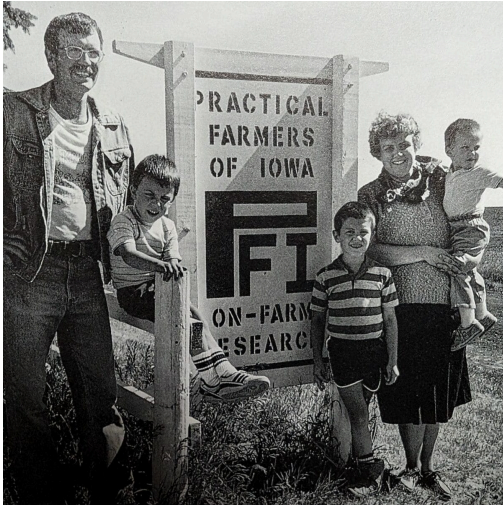


Friday, Aug. 9 | 1-3:30 p.m. | Sartell, MN

The **Udermann family** owns and operates Meadowbrook Dairy. Their farm includes a 100% no-till, 1,000-acre row crop operation. They grow cereal rye for seed, use cover crops extensively, custom-haul liquid and solid manure and do custom no-till planting and cover crop seeding.

If you're curious about cover crops, transitioning to no-till and other practices that build more resilient soil, [don't miss this chance to learn from the Udermann family.](#)

Field day: "Honing Pasture Management With Rotational Grazing + Cover Crops"



Saturday, Aug. 10 | 3-5 p.m. | Harlan, IA

Rosmann Family Farms, a 700-acre certified organic farm in Harlan, Iowa, is a mixture of field crops, pasture, popcorn, small grains and hay as well as cattle and hogs.

Come to this field day to hear how the farm lowers its overall inputs by composting manure and how the Rosmanns seed hybrid rye for livestock feed and as a supplement for cattle and hogs.

Field day: "Scaling Up Custom Cover Crop Application"



Friday, Aug. 23 | 10 a.m.-Noon | Logan, IA

Mike and Kara Dickinson own and operate Mike Dickinson Farms. In 2019, they started a custom cover crop application business, CoverPro 365, with business partner, Mark Unruh.

Together, they have been scaling up their seeding applications to make cover crops more accessible for large-scale farms. Come learn how to grow a cover crop seeding business, see the seeding equipment Mark and Mike use and explore fertilizer management and cover crop strategies. **RSVP today!**

Upcoming PFI events

All events listed in Central time.

Aug. 6: Workshop – Central Nebraska Cover Crop Workshop
9 a.m.-4 p.m. | Gothenburg, NE

Aug. 7: Meet-Up – Farm Family Meet-Up
In partnership with ADM
5-7 p.m. | Lena, IL

Aug. 8: Meet-Up – Farm Family Meet-Up

In partnership with ADM
11 a.m.- 1 p.m. | Perry, MO

Aug. 13: Meet-Up – Farm Family Meet-Up

In partnership with ADM
11 a.m.- 1 p.m. | Rutledge, MO

Aug. 30: Field Day – Reducing Nitrogen With Rotational Cover Cropping and Biologic Additions

Host: Ross McCaw
4-6 p.m. | Marengo, IA

Friends of PFI events

Aug. 8: Webinar – Farmers & Flyers: A Marketing Webinar Series: Logo, Business Card, Banner

Hosted by: The Midwest Growers Collaborative
6-8 p.m. | [Online](#)

Aug. 12: Field Day – Transitioning to Organic – Farm Tour and Discussion

Hosted by: Iowa Organic Association
1-4 p.m. | Waterloo, IA

Aug. 20: Field Day – Hoffman Organic Farm Field Day

Hosted by: OGRAIN
10 a.m.-3 p.m. | Earlville, IL

Aug. 28: Field Day – Soil Health and Cover Crops Field Day

Hosted by: University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension
TBD | Ithaca, 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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