
Small Grains News - On-farm processing of small grains + New hybrid rye market opportunity

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To Emily Yaddof <emily.yaddof@practicalfarmers.org>



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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.





Milling small grains on-farm

Andrea Hazzard operates Hazzard Free Farm near Pecatonica, IL, where she grows heirloom corn, hullless oats and barley, wheat, rye, flax and other small grains, oilseeds, and dry beans. She mills all her grains on-farm creating flours and meals that are sold to local bakers, restaurants, grocers and co-ops.

Food-grade status: To achieve food-grade status, the vomitoxin levels in the grains must be below one part per million. Andrea asserts how vital it is to keep equipment clean. She sends in each variety of grain to be tested before running any of it through the mill. In between grain varieties, she uses a brush and air compressor to ensure that all the milled grain is removed from the mill. Magnets in the mill can also help remove any small flecks of metal that may have come off equipment during harvest.

Getting started with small-scale grains: Andrea continues to expand her operation and is working on getting a larger mill up and running so that she can process 300 lbs/hr rather than the current mill's pace of 60 lbs/hr. She recommends others interested in small-scale grain farming and processing to go slow when getting started.

Andrea says, "Don't bite off more than you can chew. Have mentors and a support network for equipment, seed and information. People in these networks are so helpful and always excited to share."

PROGRAM UPDATES

Market alert: Hybrid rye opportunity in northern Iowa



Smithfield Foods is conducting a pilot to include hybrid rye in some of their hog rations. They are looking to source 1,000 acres that can be delivered to their Algona, IA, facility starting in August 2025.

Hybrid rye can boast consistent stands and high yields, but the window to seed it this fall is fast approaching!

Please contact Lydia English
lydia.english@practicalfarmers.org
or call the PFI office at (515)-232-5661 to learn more about bids and contracting.

Enroll in our cover crop cost-share today



Are you planning to plant cover crops this fall? Our cover crop cost-share program is still enrolling farmers!

Participants must farm in eligible counties in Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska or South Dakota.

Payment rates are \$10 or \$15 per acre on an unlimited number of acres. There are no requirements on the species or seeding method used.

[Enroll on our website.](#)

IN THE FIELD

Blog: "Making the Most of Winter Grains in an Extended Rotation"



Soon it will be time to plant winter small grains and there is a lot of prep work that must happen before planting can take place.

Learn from **Kevin Wagner** in this blog recapping his 2022 shared learning call about how he fits winter small grains into his rotation, tracks his soil temp and calibrates his no-till drill as planting time nears.

[Read the blog.](#)

Blog: “Milling Small Grains for Livestock Feed”



When milling small grains for livestock feed, it can be challenging to get a grind that isn't so floury that it causes ulcerations and other health issues but also isn't so whole that it moves right through the animals and provides no nutritional quality.

[This blog](#) recapping a 2019 shared learning call provides recommendations for grinding grains, from degree of coarseness to helpful equipment and tips for their upkeep.

Food-grade grain networking resource



Looking for places to clean, process or sell your food-grade small grains?

Artisan Grain Collaborative offers many helpful resources for anyone in the grain chain – from farmers to millers to distillers to advocacy and educational organizations.

Their regional grain map shares a vast network of these contacts across the Midwest and Great Lakes region.

[Check out the map and other helpful resources on their website.](#)

Additional resources

- Blog post: ["Small Grains Equipment Essentials"](#)
- Power point presentation: ["Raising and Marketing Organic Small Grains in the Driftless Area: A Value-Added Approach"](#)
- Blog post: ["The 'Why' of Winter Barley, Plus 4 Tips on Winter Barley Double Cropping"](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Shared learning call: "Square Up With Wheat: Growing and Marketing Small Square Straw Bales"



Friday, Sept. 6 | Noon-1 p.m. |
[Online](#)

Angela and Kerry Knuth farm with their son Gregory in Mead, Nebraska. The Knuths raise corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa and market an average of 6,000 small square straw bales annually.

Join our September shared learning call to hear how the Knuths found their small square straw bale markets with a feed store and the Henry Doorly Zoo. They will also share the benefits and challenges they've found related to growing and marketing wheat.

[Register today.](#)

Field day: "Making a Livelihood With Livestock: A Whole-Farm Approach with Forage Crops and Cover Crops"



**Thursday, Sept. 12 | 4-6 p.m. |
Bouton, IA**

Dan Taylor farms with his family in southwest Iowa growing corn, soybeans and forage crops for their cattle and raising 2,400 pigs. Dan and his son, Noah, are passionate about finding a third crop for Iowa and have worked to grow and trial both canning and field peas.

[Learn more and RSVP.](#)

Upcoming PFI events

All events listed in Central time.

Sept. 5: Meet-Up – Field Crop Farmer Meet-Up

*Host: Richard Sperflage
In partnership with ADM
5-7 p.m. | Winthrop, IA*

Sept. 12: Meet-Up – Field Crop Farmer Meet-Up

*Host: Paul Hoffman
In partnership with ADM
8 a.m. | Earlville, IL*

Sept. 10: Field Day – Advanced Cover Crop and Nutrition Management

*Host: Michael Vittetoe
5-7 p.m. | Washington, IA*

Sept. 19: Field Day – Livestock Between the Rows: An Adaptive Approach to Diversifying Illinois Row Crop Operation

*Hosts: Luke and Jen Jones with Clara, Elliott, Rhett and Emmett
9 a.m.-Noon | Astoria, IL*

Friends of PFI events

Sept. 4-6: Meeting – OFARM Regional Meeting

*Hosted by: Organic Farmers Agency for Relationship Marketing
All day | Various locations in SD and IA*

Sept. 10: Field Day – Cover Crops Field Day

*Hosted by: University of Minnesota Extension
3:30-7 p.m. | Rochester, MN*

Sept. 5: Field Day – Cover Crop Field Day

*Hosted by: Iowa Learning Farms
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Delmar, IA*

Sept. 11: Field day – Winter Cereal Rye Field Day

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

**Sept. 25: Webinar – Crop
Diversification in the Midwest
Improves Soil Health and Farm
Profitability**

Hosted by: Rodale Institute
1 – 2 p.m. CDT | [Online](#)

[View our events calendar](#)

Contact our team

Solveig Orngard

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

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