

Practical Farmers of Iowa Small Grains Cost-Share



To Participate in the Program:

- Plant a **small grain** (barley, cereal rye, oats, triticale or wheat) that will be harvested in 2018 and follow it with an underseeded or summer planted **legume cover crop**;
- On land that is **NOT certified organic** (transitioning OK) and **NOT already cost shared** through another program for extended rotations (NRCS Practice 328);
- Complete our **online survey** in the small grain year and the following corn year describing your production practices and expenses;
- Attend at least **one learning opportunity** per year such as a shared learning call, annual grower summit call, or the in-person small grains annual conference;
- Become a **PFI member!**

Benefits of an Extended Rotation:

This program will help PFI and its supply chain partners understand farm finances, environmental benefits, and the business case for expanding small grain markets/or developing new small grain markets. Here are some of the benefits of small grains we know so far:

3-year rotations have...

- 31%** more particulate organic matter carbon
- 24%** more microbial biomass
- 21%** less erosion
- 10%** lower bulk density
- 88%** less mineral fertilizer use
- 56%** less fossil energy use

...than 2-year rotations

Because diverse rotations can control weeds effectively with up to **6 times less herbicide** use, their potential **freshwater ecotoxicity** is up to **200 times lower** than that of a corn-soybean alternation.

"The ability to diversify my operation is the key. The more diversified your operation, the more able you are to ride through the rough trends by subsidizing your operation one place or another."
- Wade Dooley, PFI Member

Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa farmers - earn **\$40/acre cost share on up to 80 acres** by diversifying a corn and soybean rotation with a year of small grains and a summer cover crop.

As a member of Practical Farmers of Iowa you will have access to **additional support on producing small grains!** Members gain access to a field crop discussion group, invitations to on-farm field days, opportunities to participate in on-farm research and much more.

Contact Alisha (alisha@practicalfarmers.org or 515 232 5661) with questions or to register acres for the program.



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Practical Farmers of Iowa strengthens farms and communities through farmer-led investigation and information-sharing. Founded in 1985, farmers in our network raise corn, soybeans, livestock, hay, fruits and vegetables, and more. To learn more, visit <http://practicalfarmers.org>.