

Wows and Woes of Diversifying with Cover Crops and Small Grains



This field day will focus on the benefits and challenges of cover crops, especially focused on corn production following rye and the challenges of seedling diseases. Alison Robertson will share research her lab has conducted to understand the role of seedling disease in yield drag, and discuss best management strategies to reduce disease. You will also learn about incorporating small grains production into traditional row crop rotations, and the unique cover crop opportunities this provides. After lunch, stay for a tour of the depopulated layer facility.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19 • 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Lunch served after the discussion

HOSTS:

Arlyn and Sue Kauffman • Kauffman Structures

25186 Popcorn Road • Weldon • 50264

(641) 414-4470 • arlynakak@gmail.com

TOPICS:

- Cereal rye cover crop for corn and soybeans
- Mitigating potential corn seedling disease after a cover crop
- Adding wheat, rye and triticale into a cropping system
- Benefits and challenges of sharing labor and machinery with family

SPEAKER:

- **Alison Robertson** – Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Iowa State University

THE FARM:

Arlyn and Sue Kauffman farm about 250 acres of crops, including corn, soy, alfalfa and several small grains, and aim for 100 percent cover crop coverage on row crop acres. They share equipment and labor with extended family and neighbors. Arlyn and Sue are especially excited about warm-species cover crops following small-grains harvest, for soil amendment and grazing. They also raise cage-free, non-GMO eggs from 20,000 layers in one barn.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Wednesday, June 13.**



DIRECTIONS:

From Humeston: Take County Road J22 / Guy Porter Street west for 12 miles. Co Rd J22 becomes Popcorn Road. Kauffman Structures will be on the right (north) side of the road just before the junction with Co Rd R48.

From I-35: Take Exit 22 for Van Wert. Go east on Line Street / 120th Street / Co Rd J14 through Van Wert to U.S. 69, turn right (south) and go 1 mile to Co Rd J22 / Popcorn Road. Turn left (east) and drive for 2.25 miles. Kauffman Structures will be on the left (north) side of the road.



GRAIN MILLERS

Thinking Outside the Box With Cover Crops

Learn about a wide variety of ways to use cover crops in your operation. Whether you are interested in using a single species such as cereal rye, or diverse multi-species mixes, this field day has you covered. Mike and Denny will discuss the benefits and challenges they've experienced thus far on their cover crop journey. Alison Robertson, ISU extension plant pathologist, will share research her lab has conducted to understand the role of seedling disease in yield drag. She will also discuss best management strategies to reduce disease.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26 • 5 – 8 p.m.

Dinner will be provided

HOSTS:

Michael and Denny Vittetoe

2630 IA Hwy 92 • Washington • 52353

(319) 461-3702 • mvittetoe761@gmail.com

TOPICS:

- Cereal rye cover crop for corn and soybeans
- Mitigating potential corn seedling disease following a cover crop
- Diverse cover crop mixes
- Interseeding corn with cover crops in early summer

THE FARM:

Mike and Denny operate a multi-generation family farm in Washington County raising corn, soybeans and hogs. Family members strive to be good stewards of the land by using no-till and cover crops, and they conduct on-farm research to continue searching for ways to learn and improve their practices. The Vittetoes have been experimenting with early interseeding into corn as a way to increase cover crop species diversity.

DIRECTIONS:

From U.S. 218: Take IA Hwy 92 west toward Ainsworth. The farm is located about 5 miles west of U.S. 218 on the right (north) side of IA Hwy 92.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Wednesday, June 20.**



From Washington: Take IA Hwy 92 east out of town for about 1.5 miles. The farm is located on the left (north) side of IA Hwy 92.

SPONSORS:



Small Grains, Modest Gains: A Pragmatic Approach

In partnership with Organic Grain Resource and Information Network (OGRAIN)

Learn why growing small grains as part of an extended crop rotation benefits the other cash crops in both conventional and organic cropping systems. Find out how cover crops can serve as green manure, control weeds, reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. In addition, learn about growing organic and non-GMO corn and soybeans; and how to increase yields, provide crop protection and gain a premium for these crops. During the day, hear a presentation from Organic Seed Alliance on managing risk through variety selection, and UW Extension on transitioning to organic.

THURSDAY, JULY 12 • 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Coffee, pastries and lunch provided. **Note:** The lunch is a networking event to help small grains buyers and sellers connect with one another. **If you are a small grains buyer, please contact us to reserve your free spot.**

HOSTS:

The Hughes Family

4031 South U.S. 51 • Janesville, Wisconsin • 53546
(608) 359-1800 • whildenvi@gmail.com
whughesfarms.com/our-story

TOPICS:

- Small grains: conventional and organic
- Cover crops as green manures, and for weed control, soil erosion reduction and water quality improvements
- Corn and soybean production for organic and non-GMO

SPEAKERS:

- **Nick Baker** – Rock County Extension
- **Dave Gundlach** – Rock County NRCS
- **Matt Leavitt** – MOSES
- **Erin Silva** – Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin – Madison

THE FARM:

Hughes Farms is owned and operated by Randy and Judy Hughes, who own and rent over 5,000 acres of tillable land in Rock County, Wisconsin. The farm



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(515) 232-5661 by **Friday, July 6.**



mission is to grow and produce wholesome food in an environmentally sustainable way. Randy and Judy strive for a good quality of life that exemplifies solid family and community values.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-90: Take Exit 177, head west on WI Hwy 11 and turn left (south) on U.S. 51.

SPONSORS:



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Hughes Farms



Expanding Conservation With Cover Crops, Livestock and Small Grains

Kellie and A.J. will share how they've steadily increased their use of cover crops while also reducing tillage. The Blairs will explain how grazing cattle on their cover crops and conducting on-farm research with the Iowa Soybean Association have helped them expand their cover crop usage. Come learn more about their experiences and research results, as well as one of their newer endeavors: raising their own cover crop seed!

TUESDAY, JULY 17 • 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Lunch provided

HOSTS:

Kellie and A.J. Blair

3531 Paragon Ave. • Dayton • 50530

kellieblair@akrfarm.com • homeagainfinnegan.blogspot.com

Facebook: Home Again Finnegan • Twitter: @BlairKellie

TOPICS:

- Cover crops and reduced tillage
- Cover crops and livestock
- Raising your own cereal rye cover crop seed

THE FARM:

Kellie and A.J. are lifetime members of Practical Farmers who raise corn, soybeans, cattle and pigs with a focus on conservation and continual improvement.

DIRECTIONS:

From Dayton: Take IA Hwy 175 west to the junction with U.S. 169. Turn right (north) on Paragon Avenue. and go 0.75 mile; the farm will be on the left (west) side of the road.

SPONSORS:



Photo courtesy of Iowa Soybean Association

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Thursday, July 12.**



Cover Crops and Soil Health at the Grundy County Fair

In partnership with Grundy County Extension, and Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District

Farmers and landowners who attend this field day will learn more about ways to make soil health improvements on their farms for better corn, soybean and cattle production. Learn about cover crops, managed intensive grazing, edge-of-field practices, no-till and soil health testing as ways to make your farm more sustainable. Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has organized an event during the Grundy County Fair for several years to help farmers and landowners learn more about ways to improve their soil health. Admission is free to both the fair and the workshop.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18 • 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

PT Grillers from Morrison will serve roasted meat and side dishes



RSVP to Denise Freeseman, Grundy County SWCD, at denise.freeseman@ia.nacdn.net or (319) 824-3634, ext 3, by Wednesday, July 11 • grundyiaswcd.com

HOST:

Grundy County SWCD

LOCATION:

Grundy County Fairgrounds

1308 4th St. • Grundy Center • 50638

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Fred Abels – (319) 640-2002

farmerfred1981@hotmail.com • grundyiaswcd.com

Twitter: @abelsfred

TOPICS:

- Soil health and prairie potholes
- Reducing herbicide usage while maintaining yield
- Rotational grazing systems to benefit soil health
- Wildlife habitat
- Haney Soil Test
- Landowner-tenant collaboration to improve soil health through no-till, cover crops and diverse rotations
- Pollinator habitat
- Wetlands
- Buffer strips



SPEAKERS:

- **Doug Adams** – farmer and soil conservation technician, Humboldt County
- **Chris Henning** – landowner, Jefferson
- **Mitchell Hora** – soil health entrepreneur, Washington
- **Seth Watkins** – farmer, Clarinda

DIRECTIONS:

From the intersection of IA Hwy 14 and IA Hwy 175 in Grundy Center (near Rouse Motor): Go south 5.5 blocks on 4th Street; the fairgrounds will be on the left. The event will be held in the Alumni Building near the cattle barns.

Please note: There will be areas roped off, so follow the gravel road to the north of the fairgrounds over to the parking area.

Bus Trip to Joel Gruver's WIU Organic Research Farm

Join Practical Farmers of Iowa on a bus trip to tour Western Illinois University's (WIU) Organic Research Farm in Roseville, Illinois, with Dr. Joel Gruver. You will see several large-scale replicated field trials and demonstrations, as well as some smaller-scale plots. Strategies for cover crop diversification will be a major theme. We'll hear about diverse cover crop mixtures, interseeding cover crops and diversifying crop rotations. We'll also explore ways to reduce tillage frequency and intensity while achieving tillage objectives. Other topics will highlight mechanical weed control, pollinator strips, managing for high-yielding corn and more.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15 • Noon – 4 p.m.

Lunch prepared by a local Amish bakery

This free event is open to PFI members only. If you are interested in going but are not currently a member, visit practicalfarmers.org for membership information, call the office at (515) 232-5661 or complete the membership form on page 51 of this guide.

To register: Visit practicalfarmers.org or call (515) 232-5661. You must register by Thursday, July 26. Seating on the bus is limited, so reserve your spot early!

HOST:

**Joel Gruver • Western Illinois University
WIU Organic Research Farm**

Northwest corner of the junction of 20th Avenue and 20th Street • Roseville, Illinois • 61473

j-gruver@wiu.edu • wiu.edu/cbt/agriculture/farms/organic

DETAILS:

Ames Departure: The bus will leave at 7:30 a.m. from Quality Inn & Suites Starlite Village Conference Center (2601 E 13th St.). **Note:** Please park on the east or west sides of the building, not in front.

Second pick-up location: A second pick-up spot in east-central or southeast Iowa will be decided based on registrants' locations. The bus will leave from the second pick-up location at 9:30 a.m.



Return: We will leave the farm a little after 4 p.m. and should get back to Ames by around 8:30 p.m.

Meals: Lunch will be provided at the event. You are welcome to bring your own food. There is space on the bus for coolers. Snacks will be provided during the return trip to Iowa.

THE FARM:

The WIU Organic Research Farm is a 77-acre site rented for almost 30 years by Western Illinois University for practical farm-scale agricultural research. The farm has never been managed conventionally, and has been certified organic since 2009. The farm's main crops include corn, soybeans, small grains, peas, sunflowers and mixed hay. Recent research has focused on nutrient management, weed management (with and without tillage), cover crops and genetic evaluation.

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Stefan Gailans – stefan@practicalfarmers.org or (515) 232-5661

Visit Cover Crop Farmer Experts at the Farm Progress Show

Visit the PFI booth at the Farm Progress Show, Aug. 28 – 30. Practical Farmers of Iowa staff and cover crop farmer experts will answer production questions and share practical advice at the booth. Visit to learn more about cover crops as part of a conventional or organic corn-soybean system. Hear how cover crops can be used for livestock grazing; for better manure handling and weed control; and planted as part of a diversified system that includes small grains. Get your specific cover crop questions answered; view live potted cover crops; browse informative cover crop-related resources – and more!

TUESDAY – THURSDAY, AUGUST 28 – 30

Tickets must be purchased to enter the show, but parking is free and all booths are free to visit once inside the show. Visit farmprogressshow.com for more details.

Schedule:

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Tuesday and Wednesday)

8 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Thursday)

HOST:

Practical Farmers of Iowa

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Sarah Carlson – sarah@practicalfarmers.org

Twitter: @hmgrwn1

LOCATION:

Farm Progress Show • Varied Industries Tent

Booth 9515

1827 217th St. • Boone • 50036

DIRECTIONS:

The event will be held at the permanent Farm Progress Show site, located at the intersection of U.S. 30 and IA Hwy 17 northeast of Boone.

From U.S. 30: Take Exit 137 toward Madrid. Head north off the exit and go about 0.5 mile; you should see signs directing you.



Cover Crops and On-Farm Conservation

Come learn about the advantages of long-term no-till and cover crops. Discover how machinery modifications to accommodate deep-banding of fertilizer after planting can be successful when using cover crops. Dennis will share details about multiple Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practices, including those that foster habitat for upland game, pollinators and forests. Erin Hodgson, extension entomologist with Iowa State University, will share research her team is conducting on the role of host-plant resistance for soybean aphids, and how this can be an effective pest management practice.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 • 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Lunch provided

HOST:

Dennis Carney

2790 Jersey Ave. • Marble Rock • 50653
(641) 330-6545 • dacarney27@gmail.com

TOPICS:

- Cover crops + no-till
- On-farm conservation
- Host-plant resistance for soybean aphid

THE FARM:

This fifth-generation family grain farm has always been non-GMO and went to all no-till in 1983. Dennis has used aerially applied cover crops on all acres for the past three years and has 430 acres in CRP using several different practices. The farm is nearing the end of family operation and Dennis hopes to empower future operators to continue the farm's ethic of conservation.

DIRECTIONS:

From Marble Rock: Take 270th Street / County Road B60 east for 1 mile to Jersey Avenue / Co Rd T34 and turn right (south). In 1 mile, look for the farm on the left (east) side of the road.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Monday, September 3.**



From Greene: Take IA Hwy 14 north for 3.5 miles to 280th Street, turn left (west) and travel 2 miles. Turn right (north) on Jersey Avenue / Co Rd T34; the farm is on the right (east) side of the road.

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Cover Crops + Small Grains = A Perfect Pair for Soil Health and Water Quality

In partnership with Iowa Soybean Association

Explore the possibilities of adding a small-grains crop to your rotation, which allows a wider use of cover crops to cut down on needed inputs for the next corn crop. You will learn how to successfully integrate grazing with cover crops. We'll also discuss water quality in Iowa and sample nitrate concentrations coming out of tile lines from the small-grains field. Come find out how small grains and cover crops can work together for better soil and water quality!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 • 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Dinner provided by the Mills / Montgomery County Cattlemen

HOSTS:

Mark and Melanie Peterson • Bent Gate Farm

2311 N Ave. • Stanton • 51573

(712) 370-4004 • markpete@myfmtc.com

facebook.com/petersonbentgatefarm

TOPICS:

- Cover crops after small grains
- Cattle nutrition
- Soil health and water quality with small grains and cover crops
- Nitrogen application timing
- No-till soybeans into living rye

SPEAKER:

- Staff from Iowa Soybean Association

THE FARM:

Mark and Melanie farm about 500 acres outside Stanton. They are primarily corn and soybean farmers, and are working to add small grains into the rotation along with cover crops and grazing.



DIRECTIONS:

From Stanton: Take Frankfort Street / County Road H42 west out of town. This turns into 225th Street and curves south through an underpass; the farm is 0.6 mile farther.

SPONSORS:



GRAIN MILLERS