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Small grains production will be focus of Practical Farmers conference, plus several field days this summer

AMES, Iowa — Practical Farmers of Iowa is answering the call for more resources and education on small grains production with a conference and several field days devoted to the topic in 2018.

Attendees at these events will learn about a range of issues related to growing small grains crops – which offer several benefits, from economic to environmental – and will also benefit from meeting other farmers who are curious about or experimenting with these crops.

For the second year, Practical Farmers is putting on a conference focused exclusively on small grains. The conference – “Rotationally Raised – Making Small Grains Work” – will take place on Monday, July 30, from 10 a.m-5:30 p.m., at the Centennial Student Union at Minnesota State University-Mankato.

Practical Farmers of Iowa is expanding its work to include areas of Wisconsin and Minnesota due to a Conservation Innovation Grant awarded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in 2016. The grant funds programming to help farmers add small grains and green-manure legume cover crops to their farming systems.

A block of rooms has been reserved at the AmericInn Hotel and Suites Mankato for conference attendees. Registration is required by Monday, July 23 and is free for PFI members and \$40 for non-members.

The conference will start at 10 a.m. with nine breakout sessions throughout the day that includes sessions on integrating animals with a small grains operation, marketing small grains, the agronomy behind successfully raising small grains and more. Lunch will be served, and a reception will follow the conference. For the full conference schedule – or to register – visit practicalfarmers.org/news-events/events/small-grains-conference.

Practical Farmers has also organized several small grains-focused field days as part of its 2018 field day series where farmers can learn more about the benefits of small grains directly from their farming peers:

- **June 27** – Combine Clinic for Small Grains Harvesting – **Grundy Center, Iowa**
10 a.m. – Noon.; *Hosted by: Titan Machinery*
- **June 28** – Small Grains, Big Opportunities – Graze, Brew, Harvest, Build Soil – **Bedford, Iowa**
5 – 8 p.m.; *Hosted by: Rick and Pam Sprague*
- **July 12** – Small Grains, Modest Gains: A Pragmatic Approach – **Janesville, Wisconsin**
8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.; *Hosted by: The Hughes Family*
- **July 17** – Expanding Conservation with Cover Crops, Livestock and Small Grains – **Dayton, Iowa**
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.; *Hosted by: Kellie and AJ Blair*
- **September 10** – Cover Crops + Small Grains = A Perfect Pair for Soil Health and Water Quality – **Stanton, Iowa**
2:30 – 5:30 p.m.; *Hosted by: Mark and Melanie Peterson*

A flyer summarizing all the Practical Farmers small grains events taking place this summer is available at practicalfarmers.org/small-grains (click the "Summer Events" button). For questions about these events, contact Alisha Bower at (515) 232-5661 or alisha@practicalfarmers.org.

Practical Farmers' 2018 field days are supported by several sustaining and major sponsors, including: Albert Lea Seed; Applegate Natural & Organic Meats; Blue River Organic Seed; Cascadian Farms; Center for Rural Affairs; Farm Credit Services of America; Gandy Cover Crop Seeders; Grain Millers, Inc.; Green Cover Seed; Green Thumb Commodities; Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance; Iowa Beef Center; Iowa State University Department of Agronomy; Iowa Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE); ISU Extension and Outreach; La Crosse Forage and Turf Seed; MOSA Organic Certification; Natural Resources Defense Council; Organic Valley / Organic Prairie; PepsiCo; Pipeline Foods; Premier 1 Supplies; Sunrise Foods International; The DeLong Company; The Fertrell Company; The Scoular Company; Unilever; University of Iowa College of Public Health (I-CASH); USDA: Natural Resources Conservation Service; Wallace Chair for Sustainable Agriculture; and Welter Seed & Honey Co.

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Practical Farmers of Iowa works to equip farmers to build resilient farms and communities. Our values include: welcoming everyone; farmers leading the exchange of experience and knowledge; curiosity, creativity, collaboration and community; resilient farms now and for future generations; and stewardship of land and resources. To learn more, visit <http://practicalfarmers.org>.