

PRACTICAL FARMERS OF IOWA

2025

FIELD DAY

Guide



PRACTICAL
FARMERS
of Iowa

practicalfarmers.org

Why Plant Rye? Benefits of Adding Rye To Your Rotation



Thursday, Aug. 7 | 10 a.m.–Noon

1530 N 36th Road | Avoca, NE 68307

HOST: Lee Buchholz

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Lee Buchholz farms outside of Avoca, Nebraska. He started planting cereal rye as a cover crop 11 years ago with the goals of weed control and preventing soil erosion. He harvests the rye for seed to plant the following year and plants a diverse mix of high-carbon cover crops for grazing cattle after the rye. Lee has experimented with different ways to terminate the rye, including roller-crimping, chemicals and planting green. He's also changed rye varieties to help with the crimping. Join Lee at this field day to learn from his challenges and successes in using cereal rye as a cover crop.

See & Discuss

- Rye for weed control in front of soybeans
- Roller-crimping and chemical termination strategies for rye
- Diverse cover crops planted after a cereal grain
- Growing and harvesting rye for seed
- Grazing high-carbon cover crops

Adding Horticulture To a Cover Crop Enterprise at Glenwood Century Farm



Thursday, Aug. 7 | 5–7 p.m.

2162 Stanley Mill Road | Albion, IA 50005

HOSTS: Wade & Jenna Dooley | Glenwood Century Farms

MEAL: Refreshments will be available following the field day.

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Wade Dooley's background is mostly in field crops and livestock, but he has dabbled in growing horticultural crops for years. After college, Wade worked in seed research, focusing on melon production. This led to him growing up to 4 acres of melons commercially when he returned to the family farm in Marshall County, Iowa – though he eventually dropped melons as a crop.

Today, with his primary farm production shifted to cover crop seed and custom seeding, Wade is once again trying out a horticulture enterprise: seasonal ornamentals. He now raises and markets pumpkins and ornamental corn, with a few flowers thrown in. Join Wade on this romp through a conventional farmer's journey toward greater sustainability and the role of horticulture production on his farm.

See & Discuss

- Adding a horticulture enterprise to field crop and cover crop production
- Cover crop selection, root structures, timing and management
- Timing pumpkin planting into rye
- Variety selection, production and marketing for ornamental pumpkins
- Special equipment for small-scale specialty crop production

Sponsors: Iowa Farmers Union, Iowa State University Agronomy Department

Year-Round Production of Leafy Greens and More



Thursday, Nov. 13 | 1-3 p.m.

3681 Ibex Ave. | Sioux Center, IA 51250

HOSTS: John & Janna Wesselius | *The Cornucopia*

MEAL: Light refreshments will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

John and Janna Wesselius' excitement about the potential of winter greens is contagious. Now in their 20th year of farming, they raise vegetables, pastured poultry and eggs on 9 acres of outdoor space and in six high tunnels. They market their products through three farmers markets and 80 CSA shares. Growing greens in winter has long been part of their operation. But in recent years, they've studied, tried and refined techniques for year-round production. This has led to bridging sales from Thanksgiving to spring, adding new revenue and strengthening customer relationships.

Join this event as we head inside the high tunnels at their farm. John and Janna will share insights about planting dates, frost protection, harvest techniques and more. Come learn from farmers whose sales stay hot through the year's coldest months.

See & Discuss

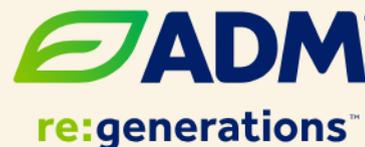
- Timing when to flip beds and seed crops to optimize production
- Farmer resilience and persistence when trying new tactics and techniques
- Frost protection methods and logistics, including materials handling and storage
- Greens harvest and handling techniques
- Preferred varieties for winter hardiness

Sponsor: **Johnny's Selected Seeds**

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the organizations, businesses and agencies that provide funding for PFI's field day season:

- Builders Initiative
- Cargill
- Cedar Tree
- Chef Ann Foundation
- Foundation for Food & Agriculture
- Iowa Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education
- Lifeline
- McKnight Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, with support from NRCS, Cargill, Inc, and Nestle USA
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, with support from the USDA through a subaward from the National Audubon Society
- North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
- PepsiCo
- Roger Ross Gipple on behalf of
- BeWildReWild and BIG RIVER CONNECTIVITY: bewildrewild.org
- Stranahan Foundation
- Unilever
- Vere Initiatives
- Walmart Foundation
- Walton Family Foundation
- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program Sustainable Agricultural Systems (SAS) grant no. F9000315202081 from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture.
- NRCS CIG through a subaward with Pheasants Forever under agreement number NR223A750013G028
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, through a subaward with ADM re:generations, under agreement number NR233A750004G053
- U.S. Department of Agriculture and Field to Market's Climate-Smart Agriculture
- Innovative Finance Initiative under agreement number NR243A750004G023
- U.S. Department of Agriculture and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, under grant ID 2004.22.075401 and agreement number 75401
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, under agreement number NR226114XXXXG003
- U.S. Department of Agriculture, under agreement number NR236114XXXXG003



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