Perennial Groundcover Field Days – A New Way to Cover Crop

Cover crops help prevent nitrate loss and protect soil from erosion, but also add work to plant in the fall. What if you could have a cover crop that you only had to plant once? Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will be hosting a field day, Wednesday, November 1, at Gaesser Farm, 2507 Quince Ave., Corning, Iowa from 1 pm to 3 pm. The field day is open to the public.

Participants will learn more about recent research about the use of perennial groundcover on farmland. The research is part of the project, Regen PGC, short for Regenerating America’s Working Landscapes to Enhance Nature Resources and Public Goods through Perennial Groundcover. Researchers are looking at ways to make year-round groundcover on cropland commonplace. Field day attendees will have the opportunity to learn about using perennials as groundcover within corn and soybean systems, view plots of perennial ground cover, hear system management and chemical suppression tips, and learn about economic opportunities perennial ground cover offers.

Dr. Raj Raman, Morrill Professor, agricultural and biosystems engineering, and director of the RegenPGC, encourages people to "come learn about the potential of perennial cover crops, as well about the challenges of this new approach, and the steps we’re taking to make this system more workable for farmers."

If you plan to attend the field day, an RSVP is greatly appreciated.

Additional information about the RegenPGC project can be found on the RegenPGC website.

Figure 1. Perennial ground cover post-harvest in the fall.

Tile Drainage and Water Quality Workshop Series for Women in Ag

By Kristina TeBockhorst

A series of two workshops on tile drainage and water quality intended for women in agriculture will be held by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Linn and Johnson counties.

The workshops are open to women who are working in ag as well as those who are not, such as off-farm landowners. The Linn County workshop will be held March 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the Kirkwood Linn County Regional Center in Hiawatha and will include presentations on the basics of field tile drainage, the economics of tile drainage, and water quality considerations. The Johnson County workshop will be held Nov. 8 at 5 p.m. in Washington Hall at the
Kirkwood Main Campus in Cedar Rapids and will include presentations on tile drainage-related water quality practices, such as edge-of-field bioreactors, saturated buffers, conservation drainage, and more, as well as the opportunities for cost assistance.

The workshop series is generously sponsored by a Wings2Water grant, [www.wings2water.org](http://www.wings2water.org).

After the workshop series, attendees should feel better equipped to make educated decisions regarding drainage and water quality practices on the land that they own or operate and will be able to answer questions such as:

- Would my field benefit from tile drainage and what makes a good drainage design?
- What does tile drainage typically cost and what economic return should I expect?
- How can tenants and landowners work together to meet drainage goals?
- Which water quality practices might be suitable for my fields?
- How can tenants and landowners work together to meet water quality goals?
- What cost share opportunities exist?

The meetings will be informal with time for questions and discussion. Register online at this link: [https://go.iastate.edu/07JTGJ](https://go.iastate.edu/07JTGJ). Registration is $10 each or $15 if you register for both workshops, which includes a meal and educational materials to accompany presentations. For questions, call either the Linn County or Johnson County offices.

The ISU Extension and Outreach Linn County office can be reached at 319-377-9839; and the ISU Extension and Outreach Johnson County office is available at 319-337-2145.

**Events**

October 20, 2023, 1:30 pm  
[Models & Tools to Improve Manure Management Part 2 webinar](https://go.iastate.edu/)

November 1, 2023, 1:00 pm  
Corning, Iowa  
[Perennial Groundcover Field Days – A New Way to Cover Crop](https://go.iastate.edu/)

November 6-8, 2023  
Ames, Iowa  
[Anaerobic Digestion on the Farm Conference](https://go.iastate.edu/)

November 8, 2023, 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
[Women in Ag: Water Quality Workshop](https://go.iastate.edu/)

December 4-5, 2023  
Altoona, Iowa  
[Integrated Crop Management Conference](https://go.iastate.edu/)

March 20, 2024, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm  
Hiawatha, Iowa  
[Women in Ag: Tile Drainage Workshop](https://go.iastate.edu/)

Figure 2: Women learning about tile management.