

SMALL GRAINS

PROGRAM

As many farmers already know, small grains can offer big gains!

But, trying something new on the farm comes with some uncertainty and risk. EFAO's Small Grains Program aims to address that risk by offsetting some of the initial cost of growing small grains and recognizing the **on-farm benefits** and **ecosystem services** that diversified rotations provide.

This program is open to all kinds of farmers and farms, regardless of your agronomic practices.

Program Eligibility

To participate in this year's Small Grains Program, farmers must:

- Be a current or previous member of EFAO, OSCIA, or both.
- Have not grown a spring small grain in the last three years (2019, 2020, 2021). For the purposes of this program, small grains include wheat, spelt, barley, rye, oats, triticale, buckwheat, amaranth and quinoa.
- Plan to grow a small grain on land within an eligible county/region. Please check [this page](#) for full list of eligible regions.

Application Timeline

Intake opens: January 4, 2022

Intake closes: January 11, 2022 at 11:59PM EST



Benefits of Small Grains

Incorporating small grains into field crop rotations has a diverse range of interrelated **ecosystem services** and **on-farm benefits**, particularly when followed by a legume cover crop. The specific gains depend on the context of your particular fields and farm, including soil type, crop rotation history, tillage practice, marketing strategy and many other factors.

Economic Benefits

Grow corn and soybeans with greater yields and yield resilience



Increase net returns

Fix nitrogen with legume cover crops



Reduce fossil energy use and other inputs

Spread out labour and cash flow; opportunity for niche marketing



Diversify farm income and labour; capture premiums



Grow continuous ground cover



Protect and build healthy soils

Promote living roots in the ground



Improve water quality

Disrupt weed and pest cycles



Reduce pesticide use

Ecological Benefits

Program Requirements

- Plant and harvest a small grain in 2022. For the purposes of this intake, small grains include wheat, spelt, barley, rye, oats, triticale, buckwheat, amaranth and quinoa. The grain crop can be seeded as preferred (i.e. frost-seeded, spring planted.)
- Plant a legume cover crop, cover crop mix with legume species that is inter-, under-, broadcast or direct seeded with the small grain in the same field; or planted in the same field after the small grain is harvested.

Auction Style Application Process

This year, applicants will submit bids to EFAO indicating the funding they require to plant a spring small grain followed by a legume cover crop on up to 100 acres in 2022.

The most competitive bids will be approved and funded. Bids will be ranked on a cost per acre basis, and funded starting from the lowest bid per acre, then the second lowest, and so on, until the available funds have been allocated.

This year's Small Grains Program will **not** offer a set cost-share rate or a set cost per acre. **Your application will be evaluated solely on the per acre cost of your bid.**



Interested in applying?

To receive an application form, please provide your email address by submitting [this form](#). Then, watch your email inbox on January 4 for application materials! (You might have to check your Junk folder.)

Submitting your email at this stage does not commit you to apply. Questions? See the [Small Grains Program FAQ](#).