GROWING ORGANIC KERNZA AS A THIRD CROP
Can I “afford” to grow small grains (or other cool season crops)?

1. 3 years alfalfa or Kernza (perennial)

Dwayne Beck, Dakota Lakes Exp. Station

– Net return to farm with 20% of acreage in wheat is similar to entire farm in corn and soybeans
U of M Researchers looked at six combinations of three-year crop Rotations

The rotations contained various three-year combinations of corn (C), Soybeans (S), alfalfa (A), and wheat (W): CCC, SCC, CSC, SWC, SAC, AAC.

The results showed that the rotations most effective at suppressing the emergence of giant ragweed seedlings were those containing ALFALFA or WHEAT.
ROTATIONS ARE A WORK IN PROGRESS

Rotate for function as well as Market opportunities
Fertility

Treat Kernza much like any other small grain.
In this case similar to Winter Wheat
Seed Bed Preparation
Seeding Kernza

Optimum seeding rates are currently being studied carefully. In my organic fields I am at 12 to 15#'s per acre in 6” Row spaces. I am concerned about weed suppression.
Treat Kernza seed like any grass seed. Shallow rather than deep.
Harvest Date/Moisture/Combine Settings
Stripper Head
Thank You