

SHARE:

[Join Our Email List](#)

  
PRACTICAL FARMERS  
*of Iowa*

Practical  
**NEWS**  
May 8, 2023

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



## **A new study finds that PFI's network helps lead to positive changes on the landscape**

We often talk about the PFI model – how a strong network of farmers sharing information with each other is a powerful tool for creating positive change. But there hasn't been much formal research to back that up – until now.

PFI member and former staff member **Maggie Norton** worked with researchers from the University of California-Davis to study the link between the PFI network and the adoption of conservation practices.

The researchers had some interesting takeaways, all centered around the notion that **PFI's network allows people to participate, learn, build**

relationships and, ultimately, get more land in conservation. [Read the paper in the open-access journal "Agriculture and Human Values."](#)

## NEWS

### Meet the new Savings Incentive Program class



The Savings Incentive Program is a two-year program that pairs beginning and aspiring farmers with experienced farmer mentors.

[Meet the Class of 2024](#), including 11 different farms with unique enterprises from all across the state.

Over the next two years, they will focus on **business planning**, **building their network** and **investing capital** as they start their farming journeys.

### Applications are open for PFI's cover crop cost-share

Spring cover crop management is well underway, but it's never too early to think about fall application. PFI is back with another year of cover crop cost-share!

**Earn \$10 per acre on unlimited acres for seeding a fall cover crop** on conventionally managed corn or soybean acres in 2023. Stack any acres you enroll with us on top of any publicly funded cost-share program like EQIP or CSP.



[Enroll today](#)

### Spring magazine article: "Nourishing Nectar"

When hungry pollinators emerge in spring, they find vital early-blooming flowers, trees and grasses.

"At the end of the day, I really wanted to re-create those memories I have as a kid here in Iowa, the ones where



there were insects everywhere," PFI member **Gary Guthrie** says. "These prairie strips were installed with that dream in mind."

Read how members are creating habitat in [this article from the Spring 2023 magazine](#).

---

## New research report: "Fine-Tuning Fertility for Better Broccoli"

**Hannah Breckbill and Emily Fagan, Kate Edwards and Mark Quee** wanted to know how fertilizer practices on their farms affected broccoli production.

Each farm took a different approach to compare their typical practices with new ones to discover whether a change was in order.

[Read their findings in our latest research report.](#)



---

## Book a grazing consultation today



Want to talk through your grazing plans for 2023 and beyond?

[Book a call to talk to Margaret Chamas, PFI's livestock viability manager, online today!](#)

Margaret will work with you to identify some goals and outcomes to achieve. Her specialty is ruminants, but she will also facilitate calls (or find an expert) for monogastric animals and poultry.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

## Get a sneak peek of the 2023 field day season



Get ready for an amazing line-up of 40-plus farmer-led field days soon to be released on the PFI website!

**Online registrations begin May 12.**

At PFI field days, farmers share their knowledge, discoveries, mistakes and successes so you can learn and grow your own operation.

**Members:** Watch your mailbox for a printed field day guide coming soon.

---

**May 20: PFI Spanish Social –  
Johnson County Historic Farm**  
Noon-2 p.m. | Iowa City, IA

**June 22: PFI Spanish Social – La Luz  
Centro Cultural**  
1-3 p.m. | Hampton, IA

## IN THE NEWS

### Members in the News

**Nathan Anderson** of Aurelia, IA, and **Brandi Janssen** of Iowa City, IA, were featured in the [Sioux City Journal](#): **Iowans to see more health effects of drought, heat waves**

**Will Cannon** of Prairie City, IA, was featured in the [Des Moines Register](#): **Iowa farmers head to fields with record high production costs, lower corn, soybean prices**

**Jon Bakehouse** of Hastings, IA, was featured on [Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance's website](#): **Iowa farmers use "water quality toolbox"**

**Carmen Black** of Solon, IA, was featured on [Your Green Portal's "Green City"](#) radio show and podcast: **Carmen Black**

**Francis Thicke** of Fairfield, IA, was featured on [Your Green Portal's "Green City"](#) radio show and podcast: **Francis Thicke**

**Mark, Theresa and Robin Westbrook** of Waverly, IA, were featured in [Waverly Newspapers](#): **Paha Cider: A story of sun, earth and family on Waverly's Solstice Farm**

**Lisa and Jim French** of Partridge, KS, and **Brian Depew** of Lyons, NE, were featured in a story on [Center for Rural Affairs' website](#): **Planning seven generations ahead, Jim and Lisa French dedicate lives to soil health**

**John Norwood** of West Des Moines, IA, and **Mike Carberry** of Iowa City, IA, were featured on KCRG-TV: "[Regenerative Agriculture in Iowa](#)" - "[Ethical Perspectives On the News](#)" 04.16.2023

---

**Have you been featured in the media?** If you're a PFI member, tell us when and where to find a link to the article, and we'll feature you in a future issue of Practical News.

**Contact:** [tamsyn.jones@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:tamsyn.jones@practicalfarmers.org)

[Donate today](#)

[Join Practical Farmers](#)

**Love Practical News?** [Sign up for our specialty email newsletters.](#) In addition to our weekly email newsletter, Practical News, we also publish five monthly newsletters each focused on a different farming specialty.

---

