Registration is now open for our 2023 field day season

Get ready for another season of farmer-to-farmer learning on PFI member farms! Over 40 farms across Iowa, as well as Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin, are opening their farm gates this year to share their knowledge on a range of agricultural topics, from relay cropping to double-cropping, sheep shearing to soil health, orcharding to oxbows and more. See the full schedule on our website.

Whether you’re new to PFI field days or a yearly attendee, you’ll find a welcoming atmosphere, a spirit of curiosity, a culture of mutual respect and farmers openly sharing their knowledge and experience.
We look forward to seeing you at a field day this season! View the field days and register online today.

View 2023 field days & RSVP

**NEWS**

**Are you an urban farmer? Get help boosting beneficial insects with our new cost-share**

![Image of bee on flower]

Do you operate an urban farm and want to boost beneficial insects on your land?

Through our new beneficial insect habitat cost-share, we will pay for **native plants so you can create insectary strips or beetle banks**. **Xerces Society**, our partner on the program, will then help guide you as you work to increase natural predation and pollination on your farm. **Apply online today**.

Priority will be given to applicants who have been historically underserved.

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**Research report: "Honeyberry Establishment"**

Honeyberries are gaining popularity as an early-season offering on diverse fruit and vegetable farms. Could shade cloth reduce heat stress for this northern native perennial?

PFI cooperators **Eric Franzenburg, Alice McGary, Jeff Sindelar and Tom Wahl** initiated a multi-year project in 2022 to find out.

The project will continue in 2023 to determine if shade has any effect on fruit set. **Read their initial findings**.

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**Blog: Taming the waterhemp beast**
Once little more than a nuisance to farmers, waterhemp, a native broadleaf, rapidly gained superweed status during the 1990s and 2000s.

In a relatively short amount of time, waterhemp has evolved resistance to six different herbicide groups. This 2019 blog post explains how planting cover crops may help.

Are you planning to plant cover crops in 2023? You may be eligible for PFI's cover crop cost-share program.

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**PFI is hiring - come work with us!**

Join our staff as we grow! PFI is now hiring for the following positions:

- **Grants finance manager**
- **Office assistant**
- **Graphic design and photography intern**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Spanish series: "A Year in the Life of a Poultry Producer"**

PFI and the [Center for Rural Affairs](https://www.centerforruralaffairs.org/) are launching a collaborative enterprise-specific course, "A Year in the Life of a Poultry Producer."

This series will be delivered in Spanish through a hybrid system of online courses and in-person farm visits to Kate Mendenhall’s operation in Okoboji, Iowa, and Carlos Williams’ operation in Solon, Iowa.

[View the complete schedule and register for free on our website.](https://www.practicalfarmers.org/employment)
Join us at our first Spanish social of the year

We are excited to offer Spanish speakers an opportunity to connect at our first Spanish community social of the year on Saturday, May 20, at the Johnson County Historic Farm in Iowa City, Iowa.

Marcela Hurtado, of Emprendimiento Latino 5M, will host the event. Marcela farms at the Global Food Project, and guests will also have a chance to learn about that initiative.

View all upcoming Spanish socials and register for an event near you.

More upcoming PFI events

May 20: "Livestock on the Land" – Farm to Film Fest  
3 p.m. | Washington, IA

June 3: A Year in the Life of a Poultry Producer – Sundog Farm  
10 a.m. – Noon | Solon, IA

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

Rob Faux of Tripoli, IA, was featured in The New York Times: EPA accused of failing to regulate use of toxic herbicides despite court order

Randy Riediger of Hinton, IA, and Sarah Carlson, PFI’s senior programs and member engagement director, were featured on AgWeb: Flexible Farming: Small grains add diversity, market options to the crop management plan

Shae Pesek and Anna Hankins of Coggon, IA, were featured in The Gazette: "MY BIZ: Over the Moon Farm & Flowers"

Anna Hankins of Coggon, IA, and Giselle Bruskewitz of Iowa Valley RC&D were featured in Iowa Public Radio News Morning Edition: "USDA program paying local farmers for fresh produce, meats"

Kristine Lang of Brookings, SD, was featured in Farm Forum: South Dakota Local Foods Coalition continues 20-year effort to provide ‘good food for all’
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

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