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Practical
NEWS

May 15, 2023

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



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



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.

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.](#)



Blog: Taming the waterhemp beast



(Photo courtesy of the United Soybean Board)

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.](#)

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](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

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



PFI and the [Center for Rural Affairs](#) 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.](#)

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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