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PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

Practical
NEWS

May 22, 2023

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



PFI members find clarity about their farming operations using Holistic Management framework

For years, **Dayna Burtness** who farms in Spring Grove, Minnesota, worked full-time on vegetable farms, grinding herself into burnout. Until a Holistic Management class made her pause.

Originally developed by Allan Savory, Holistic Management, is a multi-step process that provides a framework for making decisions.

Using the example of a puzzle, **Steve Riggins** of Cambridge, Iowa, explains that “all the different pieces of what you’re doing on the farm have to fit together. All the puzzle pieces have to fit together for the same picture, rather than three different puzzles that you’re working on for three different pictures.”

[Find out how farmers are using Holistic Management to find clarity in their lives and solve problems at their source on their farms](#) in this spring magazine article.

NEWS

Shared learning calls are back this summer!



If you're a small grains enthusiast, join us again for our monthly shared learning calls this summer.

During our June 2 call, we'll discuss growing cereal rye and other small grains for cover crop seed. [RSVP to listen and talk with other farmers.](#)

In the meantime, [check out this blog post](#) from our last spring shared learning call with **Ben Dwire** of Arco, Minnesota, who discussed all things oats production.

Welcome Emma to the PFI staff!



Emma Link joins PFI as the senior research coordinator for the Cooperators' Program. In this role, Emma works with field crop, fruit and vegetable and livestock farmers to co-design on-farm research trials, and to analyze and interpret results.

Emma currently lives in an intentional community in Minneapolis. After work, you can usually find her outside riding a bike, gardening or reading in a hammock. [Read more about Emma.](#)

Find lettuce varieties that stand up to summer heat

Iowa vegetable farmers need to grow lettuce year-round, including during scorching summer heat.

“Having lettuce longer in the season would be really helpful to keep up the variety before the late-summer crops like tomatoes and sweet corn come in,” says **Carmen Black**, who participated in a PFI lettuce variety trial.



In 2017 and **again in 2018**, six farmers compared lettuce varieties to find which ones could help them meet this challenge.

Discover cover crop services near you with PFI's app



Our **Find Cover Crops app** and **website** can help you easily locate cover crop seed, services and suppliers in your area.

Download the free app in the [App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#), or [click here to access it in your web browser](#).

Plus, get paid \$10 an acre for an unlimited number of acres when you [sign up for PFI's cover crop cost-share](#). Applying takes less than 10 minutes and is non-binding.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Field Day: Profitability With Cover Crops

June 9 | 4-6 p.m.

James Hepp and his family grow 1,400 acres of corn, soybeans and cereal rye near Rockwell City, Iowa. They practice custom seeding and raise rye for cover crop seed in their new business enterprise.

At this field day, James will share the benefits that result from his rye cover



crop along with practical financial advice for getting started with cover crops. [Please click here to RSVP.](#)

Field Day: No-Till Organic Relay Cropping

June 13 | 10 a.m.-Noon

Caleb Akin and **Noah Wendt** started A&W Farms near Cambridge, Iowa, in 2006. They feed cattle, produce conventional corn and soybeans and grow organic grains on 1,500 acres.

At this field day in June, they will discuss how they relay-crop rye and soybeans in their organic no-till system and will show their organic cultivation equipment and custom-built roller-crimper and planter. [Please RSVP online.](#)



[View our complete list of 2023 field days](#)

More upcoming events

June 2: Shared Learning Call – [Harvest and Handling of Cover Crop Seed](#)

Noon-1 p.m. | Online

June 5: "Livestock on the Land" Screening & Panel Discussion – [Bear Creek Friends Meeting House](#)

6-9 p.m. | Earlham, IA

June 3: A Year in the Life of a Poultry Producer – [Sundog Farm](#)

10 a.m.-Noon | Solon, IA

June 22: PFI Spanish Social – [La Luz Centro Cultural](#)

1-3 p.m. | Hampton, IA

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Seth Watkins of Clarinda, IA, was mentioned in [Food Matters Live: The system must change to secure the future of food, is the key message at the Extinction or Regeneration conference](#)

Dean and **Josh Sponheim** of Nora Springs, IA, and **Rachel Amundson** of Osage, IA, were featured in [Kansas Farmer: This is not your dad's cover cropping: Farmers are using cover crops in farming systems that work for their goals](#)

Margaret Smith and **Doug Alert** of Hampton, IA, were featured in [Agri-View: Crop rotations earn rewards](#)

Hannah Bernhardt of Finlayson, MN, was mentioned on [Minnesota Public Radio: Farming on the frontlines of the climate crisis](#)

Hannah Bernhardt and **Jason Misik** of Finlayson, MN, were featured in the magazine [Experience Life: Consider Agritourism for Your Next Vacation](#)

Drake Larsen of Aylmer, Ontario, was interviewed by former PFI AmeriCorps member Lia Carrillo on the "Roots Watering Hole" podcast: [Lia Carrillo Production](#)

PFI in the News

Nick Ohde, PFI's marketing and communications director, was featured on [Iowa Public Radio: A new film fest opens in the home of the world's longest-running movie theatre](#)

Practical Farmers of Iowa was mentioned in [AgUpdate: Beef producer relishes 'long-term gains'](#)

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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