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PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

Practical
NEWS

June 5, 2023

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Making room for pollinators

The bee population is declining in Iowa due to many factors: mites, pesticides, loss of habitat and more. **Creating more spaces where bees and other beneficial insects can thrive** is one way farmers can help.

"Places where you are not able to physically farm or would not be profitable to farm are great places to help pollinators of all kinds," says **Ai Wen**, assistant professor of biology at University of Northern Iowa.

Pollinators also thrive in urban areas thanks to diverse blooms that provide a continuous nectar source. [Read our latest blog to learn more about Ai's](#)

[research](#) on how pollinators benefit horticulture farms and what farmers can do to foster the population growth of pollinators.

If you farm in an urban area and want to create more pollinator habitat, check out our [beneficial insects cost-share](#).

NEWS

Video: "Cover Crops and Weed Control"



Did you know **cover crops help manage problematic weeds and reduce herbicide resistance**? [Watch this video](#) to learn more about how cover crops can control weeds.

PFI can help you with technical assistance and **cost-share payments of \$10 per acre** if you plan to plant cover crops this fall. [View eligibility requirements and enroll](#).

Work with PFI!



PFI is now seeking a [grants finance administrator](#).

The grants finance administrator will take responsibility for processes, staff training and oversight related to grant accounting and invoicing.

This is a **full-time position** based in our Ames, Iowa, office with the potential for a **hybrid schedule**. Strong preference will be given to candidates who can work from the PFI office a minimum of once a week.

Welcome Kasey to PFI staff

Kasey Bunce joins PFI as the finance director. In this role, she ensures sustainable funding for programs and objectives while overseeing the financial vision and health of the organization.



Kasey previously worked at Living History Farms as the director of finance and administration.

Kasey lives in a small rural town outside of Des Moines, Iowa, with her four children and husband. [Learn more about Kasey.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet PFI in Hampton, Iowa, for our next Spanish social



Thursday, June 22 | 1-3 p.m.

We hope to see you at our next Spanish social at La Luz Centro Cultural in Hampton, Iowa.

You'll hear about PFI's Spanish programming and enjoy some delicious treats from La Chozita Antojitos Mexicanos y Marsicos!

[Register for this social](#) and view our full list of Spanish socials happening across Iowa.

Beginning farmers: Join us for a social at Luna Valley Farm



Saturday, June 24 | 5 p.m.

Let's gather around wood-fired pizza for a beginning farmer social at Luna Valley Farm in Decorah, Iowa. This is an informal gathering where farmers can connect, share ideas and learn about PFI.

Please RSVP to Rachel Burke at rachel.burke@practicalfarmers.org.

To view other upcoming beginning farmer socials, [visit our webpage.](#)

More upcoming events

June 9: Field Day – [Profitability With Cover Crops](#)

Hosted by: James Hepp
4-6 p.m. | Rockwell City, IA

June 13: Field Day – [No-Till Organic Relay-Cropping](#)

Hosted by: Caleb Akin & Noah Wendt
10 a.m.-Noon | Cambridge, IA

June 17: Field Day – [Creating a Soil Health System With No-Till, Cover Crops and Livestock](#)

Hosted by: Ross, Cassie, Henry & Ruthie Kurash
10 a.m.-Noon | Cambridge, IA

June 18: Field Day – [Maximizing Opportunity in a Small Town](#)

Hosted by: Steve Strasheim
1-3 p.m. | Mitchell, IA

June 21: Field Day – [Creating On-Farm Habitat to Foster Wildlife Diversity](#)

Hosted by: Bev & Dwight Rutter in partnership with Pheasants Forever
Noon-3 p.m. | Spencer, IA

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

1-3 p.m. | Hampton, IA

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Mary Swander of Kalona, IA, and **Shelly Buffalo** of Tama, IA, were featured on the "Donna Lonna Kitchen Show" podcast: "[058: Squatters on Red Earth, an Iowa play](#)"

Carly Zierke of Calmar, IA, and **Barb Kraus** of Decorah, IA, were mentioned in a column by **Ethan Zierke** of Calmar, IA, that was published in the [Driftless Journal](#): "[For the freshest Field to Fork moment, skip the fork](#)"

Ron Schoepp of Lodi, WI, was featured in [Wisconsin State Farmer](#): "[Schoepp family enjoys best of both worlds on Lodi farm](#)"

Hannah Bernhardt and **Jason Misik** of Finlayson, MN, were mentioned in [Morning Ag Clips](#): "[Many MFU Priorities Passed in 2023 Legislative Session](#)"

Lee Tesdell of Slater, IA, **John Norris** of Des Moines, IA, and **Jennifer Terry** of Des Moines, IA, were featured in the [Des Moines Register](#): "[Is Iowa's water cleaner after ten years of state efforts? It depends who you ask](#)"

Aaron Lehman of Polk City, IA, wrote an opinion piece that was published in the [Des Moines Register](#): "[Opinion: Encourage cover crops nationwide through the crop insurance program](#)"

PFI in the News

Margaret Chamas, PFI's livestock viability manager, was mentioned in [Agri-View: Managed grazing shared with passion](#)

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: elizabeth.wilhelm@practicalfarmers.org

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