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

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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

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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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