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Scott Shriver is tapping the power of on-farm research to answer his questions about roll-crimping

Emma Link, Practical Farmers' senior research coordinator (pictured at left), listens as **Scott Shriver** (right) discusses his roll-crimping on-farm research project. Emma and **Stefan Gailans**, PFI's senior research manager, visited Scott's farm near Jefferson, Iowa, last Wednesday.

Through **PFI's cooperators' program**, Scott is conducting on-farm research to find out how roll-crimping cereal rye affects soybean yield, weed control, soil

temperature and moisture. Specifically, he is comparing the effects of rolling the rye two weeks before planting soybeans versus two weeks after.

Read the results from Scott's previous roll-crimping trials from [2017](#) and [2018](#).

Are you curious about an observation you have made on your farm and want to learn more? PFI can help you plan a research project that explores your questions. Email Stefan at stefan.gailans@practicalfarmers.org to get started.

ON THE BLOG

Restoring beneficial insects to Iowa urban farmscapes



Sweet Tooth Farm's **Monika Owczarski** in Des Moines, Iowa, has installed pollinator habitat on her farm with the help of PFI and [Xerces Society's](#) beneficial insects cost-share and has plans to add more habitat to her two new production spaces.

"Urban farms are like an oasis in the city, and even a small operation can make a big difference regarding such important species," she says. [Read the rest of her story on the blog.](#)

If you are an urban farmer, you may be eligible for this cost-share. [View requirements and apply.](#)

NEWS

On-farm research: Natural dewormer appears to be a viable option in year-one trial



Dayna Burtness, who raises pigs on pasture at Nettle Valley Farm in southeast Minnesota, started a PFI research trial in 2022 to find out how a natural dewormer (SwineX) compared with a chemical dewormer (levamisole).

"I honestly didn't think the SwineX would work," Dayna says. After seeing the results – no significant difference – she is becoming convinced that SwineX may be a viable option. [Check](#)

[out her findings in our latest research report.](#)

MEMBERSHIP

We can't steward our PFI community without you

"PFI is like a library that has come alive," says member **Jim Dillavou**. Just as a traditional library is a collection of books for study, inspiration and recreation, the PFI network shares a broad collection of knowledge via our diverse membership.



Our living collection is evolving as new ideas are generated, shared with other people in the network and tested on our farms.

It takes effort to curate and steward such a precious collection, and **we need your help to continue**. To meet our budget for the year and bring you the programming we're scripting, we have a goal to raise \$55,000 with this spring fundraiser.

If you have capacity to give, [please consider making a donation today.](#)

Help us meet our \$55,000 goal

UPCOMING EVENTS

Field day: No-Till Organic Relay Cropping



Tuesday, June 13 | 10 a.m.-Noon

Join us for a field day with **Caleb Akin** and **Noah Wendt**, who started A&W Farms near Cambridge, Iowa, in 2006.

At this field day, they will discuss how they relay-crop rye and soybeans in their organic no-till system.

Attendees will see the organic cultivation equipment Caleb and Noah use, and the custom-built roller-crimper and planter Caleb uses to crimp rye and plant soybeans. [Please RSVP online.](#)

Field day: Creating a Soil Health System With No-Till, Cover Crops and Livestock



Saturday, June 17 | 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Kurash Family Farm is located near Fort Atkinson, Iowa. The family raises corn, soybeans, rye, hay and beef cattle. They practice no-till; plant green for both corn and soybeans; drill hybrid rye in the fall; and drill a cover crop mix after rye in the summer.

At this field day, **Ross Kurash** will discuss how he has made cover crops and no-till work on his farm. [**RSVP today.**](#)

Field day: Maximizing Opportunity in a Small Town



Sunday, June 18 | 1-3 p.m.

At this field day, **Steve Strasheim**, of Twisted River Farm, will share how he has made the most of the opportunities and available spaces to operate his farm in Mitchell, Iowa.

Steve uses several production-maximizing techniques often associated with urban farms to make the most of a small footprint.

At the end of the event, we'll travel 7 miles to a field where Steve grows crops in a geothermal-heated hoophouse. [**Please RSVP here.**](#)

More upcoming events

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 24: [Beginning Farmer Social – Luna Valley Farm](#)

5 p.m. | Decorah, IA

June 28: [Field Day – Rematriating Iowa's Historical Prairie](#)

Hosted by: Shelley Buffalo
10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Prairie City, 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 **Shelley Buffalo** of Tama, IA, were featured on [Iowa Public Radio](#): [New play highlights the partnership between Amana Inspirationists and Meskwaki people](#)

The following members were featured in "[The Art of Climate Dialogue: Stories from Iowa Podcast](#)":

- **Omar de Kok-Mercado** of Spring Green, WI, was featured in [Envisioning Climate Futures Through Art](#)
- **Ruth Rabinowitz** of Santa Cruz, CA, was featured in [Documenting Climate Resilience Through Art](#)
- **Angie Carter** of Hancock, MI, was featured in [Sharing Personal Narratives, Reshaping Societal Narratives](#)
- **Jean Eells** of Webster City, IA, and **Stephanie Enloe** of Ames, IA, were featured in [Micro-Stories Leading to Climate Action](#)
- **Mary Swander** of Kalona, IA, was featured in [Stories Beget Stories](#)
- **Shelley Buffalo** of Tama, IA, was featured in [Amplifying Narratives of Connection](#)
- **Alice McGary** of Ames, IA, was featured in [Creating Spaces Where We Invite, Imagine, Empower](#)

Mark Peterson of Stanton, IA, and **Lisa Schulte Moore** of Ames, IA, were featured in [Successful Farming](#): [Level Up on Soil Health with Livestock](#)

Martin Larsen of Byron, MN, was featured in [Progressive Farmer](#): [Ag and Climate Change Hearing Set for Senate Budget Committee](#)

Beth Hoffman of Lovilia, IA, was featured in "[Down to Earth: The Planet to Plate Podcast](#)": [From urban journalist to country farmer](#)

Dayna Burtness of Spring Grove, MN, was featured in [Mpls.St.Paul Magazine](#): [Best of the Twin Cities](#)

Aaron Lehman of Polk City, IA, was featured in [The Gazette](#): [Farm groups seek stronger safety net in upcoming farm bill](#)

Lee Tesdell of Slater, IA, was featured on [Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network: IAWA reflects on a decade of the NRS and looks forward to the next](#)

Anna Hankins of Coggon, IA, was featured in [Iowa City Press-Citizen: Iowa City Farmers Market kicked off its 51st season Saturday. Here are 5 vendors to try](#)

PFI in the News

Erin Carpenter, PFI's Green Iowa AmeriCorps member, was featured in the [Iowa Falls Times Citizen: A glimpse at the Iowa River Watershed Coalition](#)

PFI was mentioned in [Agri-Pulse: Lawmakers seek to bring back cover crop payments in next farm bill](#)

PFI was mentioned in [Land Improvement Contractors of America: More Farm Bill Movement](#)

PFI was mentioned in [Feed-Lot Magazine: Hands-On Opportunities Connect Learning with Real Life at Fencing and Grazing Clinic](#)

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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