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PRACTICAL FARMERS  
*of Iowa*

Practical  
**NEWS**

June 26, 2023

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



### **Field day explores opportunities in a small town**

About 75 people attended the field day hosted by Steve Strasheim on June 18 in Mitchell, Iowa. There, they got a firsthand look at how he is making the most out of market opportunities, land access and meaningful connections in this small northern Iowa town to build his farm business.

Guests also visited his newly finished pack room, completed with PFI's produce safety cost-share, and his geothermal-heated hoop house.

There are many more opportunities to connect with and learn from farmers in Iowa and beyond this season. [View our upcoming events and RSVP online.](#)

## NEWS

### Announcing PFI's new conservation cost-share



Are you interested in conservation practices that improve water quality, build soil health, address climate change and provide critical native habitat for wildlife?

We are excited to announce that **PFI is now offering a new conservation cost-share!**

Those who enroll can get technical and financial support for precision conservation, prairie strips, oxbow wetlands and pollinator habitat. [Learn more and apply.](#)

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### Last call for small grains cost-share – apply by July 1



Don't miss your chance to apply for our small grains cost-share. Farmers in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and Wisconsin may be eligible for cost-share of **\$20 per acre when they follow their small-grain crop with a legume cover crop.**

This cost-share program applies to conventional or transition-to-organic acres.

**Apply by July 1**

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### Research report: Selecting Garlic and Potato Onion Seed Stock to Optimize Yield





Saving bigger seed means bigger garlic and potato onions in the future, right?

PFI cooperators **Roxane Mitten, Jon Yagla and Jordan Scheibel** performed trials in 2022 to see if the conventional wisdom held up to the research.

Roxanne reflected that this trial was important because “some other generally understood growing ‘facts’ are not true for Iowa. Therefore, this was helpful to verify for seed selection.” [Read their results.](#)

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## Welcome Josh McCunn to PFI staff!



**Joshua McCunn** joins PFI as a graphic design and photography intern.

In this role, Joshua assists with graphic design duties and photographing various events.

Joshua is a senior at Iowa State University. In fall 2023, he'll graduate with a bachelor's degree in fine arts in graphic design with two minors in advertisement and illustration. [Learn more about Josh.](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Field day: Rematriating Iowa's Historical Prairie**



**Wednesday, June 28 | 10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Prairie City, IA**

Join us for an indoor nature center tour, an outdoor prairie walk, and a lunch featuring Meskwaki traditional food with **Shelly Buffalo** at the Neal Smith Wildlife Refuge.

Shelley will discuss how to manage prairie landscapes to support biodiversity holistically. She will also discuss the cultural relevance Iowa's prairie had, and still has, to the Meskwaki and other local Tribes.

**Please RSVP if you plan to attend.**

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## **Field day: Drilling Down on Oat Varieties**



**Friday, July 7 | 10 a.m.-Noon | Fonda, IA**

**Neil Peterson** raises corn, soybeans, small grains and cattle at Clover Lane Farm with his wife, Elizabeth, and sons Paul and Timothy.

Neil plants no-till oats with red clover and, at harvest, he uses both a combine and a swather.

He also rotationally grazes 50 cows on 20 acres of former row crop ground converted to pasture. **Please RSVP online.**

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**Exploring Agriculture series now available in Spanish**



We are excited to announce our Spanish-language Exploring Agriculture workshop series starting on July 24.

Learn from agricultural and natural resource professionals during this virtual workshop.

Over four sessions, you will explore the purpose, people, planning and producer enterprises that will help you achieve your farming goals.

[Register for the series.](#)

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## More upcoming events

### **July 8: Field Day – [Sheep Shearing](#)**

*Hosted by: Greg Padget*

11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. | Newton, IA

### **July 8: Field Day – [Closing the Loop With Complementary Enterprises](#)**

*Hosted by: Brice & Melanie Hundling*

3-5 p.m. | Breda, IA

### **July 12: Field Day – [Purgatory Creek: A Tale of Oxbow Restoration on a Legacy Farm](#)**

*Hosted by: Kathy & David Law*

Noon-2 p.m. | Lohrville, IA

[View our events calendar](#)

## IN THE NEWS

### Members in the News

**Steve and Marcy Strasheim** of Mitchell, IA, and **Elizabeth Wilhelm**, PFI's media relations coordinator, were featured in the [Mason City Globe Gazette](#): [Mitchell's Steve Strasheim: changing the world one tomato at a time](#)

**Shelley Buffalo** of Tama, IA, was featured in [The Newton Daily News](#): [Rematriating Iowa's Historical Prairie](#)

**Matt Russell** of Lacona, IA, was featured in a [USDA news release](#): [USDA accept more than 1 million acres for CRP program](#)

**Hannah Breckbill and Emily Fagan** of Decorah, IA, were featured on [Farmers.gov](#): [Iowa Organic Farm Grows Non-Traditional Opportunities for New Farmers](#)

**Monika Owczarski** of Des Moines, IA, was featured in the [Des Moines Register](#): [A new community garden is growing in the River Bend](#)

[neighborhood, thanks to Tito's Vodka](#)

**Aaron Lehman** of Polk City, IA, and **Carmen Black** of Solon, IA, were featured in the [Muscatine Journal](#): [Iowa City family among thousands bracing to lose food benefits](#)

**Jeremy Gustafson** of Boone, IA, and **Doug Adams** of Humboldt, IA, were featured on "The Spokesman Speaks Podcast": [Prop 12, African Swine Fever, Great Britain trade, conservation and soil health insights](#)

**James Hepp** of Rockwell City, IA, was featured in the [Calhoun County Phoenix](#): [More than just covering costs](#)

**Shelly Buffalo** of Tama, IA, was featured on the "DonnaLonna Kitchen Show" podcast: [061: Restoring the Prairie with Shelley Buffalo](#)

**Ryan Gibbs** of Hopkinton, IA, was featured on the [Iowa Farm Bureau's website](#): [Young farmers win Iowa Farm Bureau leadership award for commitment to community and conservation](#)

**Ryan Gibbs** of Hopkinton, IA, was featured on [No-Till Farmer's Conservation Ag Update](#): [No-Till & Cover Crops Paying Off in Drought Conditions](#)

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**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](mailto:elizabeth.wilhelm@practicalfarmers.org)

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