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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Learning about the cultural significance of Iowa's prairie

On Wednesday, nearly 80 people came to Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge near Prairie City, Iowa, to learn from **Shelley Buffalo**, of the Meskwaki Tribe.

Guests learned about the significance of bison to Meskwaki People, their use of gentle fire throughout history to shape and care for the prairie and its inhabitants, and how restoring sacred relationships with the Earth – one facet of the concept and practice of rematriation – can transform our collective future.

After a lunch featuring traditional Indigenous foods, including wild rice, beans, squash and corn cultivated by different Native American Tribes, guests had a chance to go on a prairie walk and learn about some of the incredible biodiversity of Iowa's prairie ecosystem.

If you're looking for other habitat-focused field days, be sure to RSVP for Kathy and David Law's July 12 field day, "[Purgatory Creek: A Tale of Oxbow Restoration on a Legacy Farm.](#)"

NEWS

Launch your cover crop business with the accelerator program



Want to start or grow your cover crop seed or application business? Enroll in the Cover Crop Business Accelerator Program.

With this one-year program, you'll receive personalized consulting on business growth; a capital investment payment up to \$5,000; and incentive payments.

There are 15 spots available on a first-come, first-served basis. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Corn farmers, enroll in our next on-farm research trial



Put your soil's health to the test with a nitrogen rate trial!

PFI is seeking **corn farmers in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska or Wisconsin** with at least a five-year history of soil health practices to participate in a trial to compare nitrogen fertilizer rates.

[Check out this PDF to learn more.](#)

Welcome Natasha Hegmann to PFI staff!



Natasha Hegmann joins PFI as the senior horticulture and local foods coordinator.

In this role, she develops partnerships and supports farmers to grow PFI's local foods viability programs.

Natasha also runs Turkey River Farm near her hometown of Elkader, Iowa, where she and her husband grow vegetables for their 100-member CSA.

[Learn more about Natasha.](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Help assure PFI has flexible funding to continue important, innovative programming



Donations from individuals constitute our most important funding because **they allow us to respond quickly to our network's needs** and help us fill gaps between grant funding.

You've helped us raise 75% of our \$55,000 goal! Thank you so much to those who have already donated. If you haven't yet, [please contribute what you can today.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Field days



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

Hosted by: Greg Padget, Plaid Perch

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

****Please note this event is at capacity.** You may still [RSVP to be added to the waitlist.](#)



July 8: Field Day – Closing the Loop With Complementary Enterprises

Hosted by: Brice & Melanie Hundling
3-5 p.m. | Breda, IA

Visit the Hundlings' diversified farm where they raise sheep, goats, pigs, cattle and grain while exploring new production methods and technology.



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

Learn how Kathy and David have worked with organizations to find funding to create wildlife habitat on Kathy's family farm.



July 14: Field Day – Shifting to Regenerative While Transitioning Generations

Hosted by: Natasha Wilson, Brian & Nancy Wilson
10 a.m.-Noon | West Chester, IA

Discover how the Wilsons' multi-generational farm is building a pasture-based rotational grazing system that prioritizes their livestock, land and community.



July 14: Field Day – Agritourism and Orchardring With an Ecological Focus

Hosted by: Maury & Mary Wills
10 a.m.-Noon | Adel, IA

Learn how the Wills family manages diverse enterprises including fruit, pumpkins and agritourism opportunities visited by 7,000 visitors each year.

[View the full field day schedule](#)

Shared learning call: Soil Health Institute's Soil Health Assessment and Targets Project in Iowa



July 14 | Noon-1 p.m. | [Zoom](#)

In our July shared learning call, hear from soil health educator, Shannon Moeller, CCA, about ongoing work from the Soil Health Institute.

Shannon will give an overview of the work they are doing in Iowa, how to collect data on soil health and how to make sense of soil health indicators. [Register to receive the Zoom link.](#)

More upcoming events

July 16: Field Day – [Elevating Prairie Plants on a No-Till Flower Farm](#)

Hosted by: Hannah Scates Kettler & Kurtis Kettler
2-4 p.m. | State Center, IA

July 17: PFI Spanish Social – [Valentina's Meat Market](#)

Hosted by: Silvino Morelos
5:30-7:30 p.m. | Storm Lake, IA

July 19: Field Day – [Pollinators of the Iowa Prairie](#)

Hosted by: Carl Kurtz
9:30 a.m.-Noon | St. Anthony, IA

July 19: Field Day – [Relay Cropping, Permanent Clover and Irrigation Systems in Northwest Iowa](#)

Hosted by: Patrick & Chuck White
10 a.m.-Noon | Spencer, IA

July 23: Field day – [Trying Out Tools and Talking About Farm Transition](#)

Hosted by: Denise O'Brien
2-5 p.m. | Atlantic, IA

July 24: Field day – [Playing the GAP Game: On-Farm Food Safety](#)

Hosted by: Donna Warhover
10 a.m.-Noon | Mt. Vernon, IA

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Ruth McCabe of West Des Moines, IA, **Cheryl Tevis** of Pilot Mound, IA, **Madeline Schultz** of Ames, IA, and **Naomi and Andrew Friend** of Story City, IA, were mentioned in [Farm Progress: **Iowa Women in Agriculture Conference set for Aug. 3**](#)

Jean Eells of Webster City, IA, **Theresa Eberhardt** of Elkader, IA, **Tanya Meyer-Dideriksen** of Williamsburg, IA, and **Ruth Rabinowitz** of Santa Cruz, CA, were featured in [The Gazette: **Breaking barriers: Women-led organizations empower Iowa's female farmland owners**](#)

Neil and Elizabeth Peterson of Fonda, IA, were featured in the [Storm Lake Times Pilot](#): [Field day at Peterson farm near Fonda](#)

Rachael Munn of Decorah, IA, wrote a column featured in the [Driftless Journal](#): [The broccoli breakthrough](#)

Hannah Breckbill of Decorah, IA, was featured in a blog by [The Chicago Council on Global Affairs](#): [Queering Farming: How LGBTQIA+ Farmers are Reimagining Agriculture](#)

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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