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PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

Practical
NEWS

July 10, 2023

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Summer 2023 magazine: "Restoring Habitat on Farms"

Learn how first-generation farmer **Cait Caughey** is using prescribed burns to remove invasive species and a forestry plan to create wildlife habitat in [this story from the Summer 2023 magazine](#).

Cait has been farming since 2010 and says it's her love of nature and wildlife that brought her to farming.

"My dad was in parks and recreation, and we spent a lot of time outdoors," she says. "Those foundational childhood moments really impacted me and gave me

the mindset of coming back to the soil and working with the land."

If you're ready to take on a conservation project on your farm, [check out our new conservation cost-share](#). Eligible practices include prairie strips, precision conservation, oxbow wetlands and pollinator habitat.

ON THE BLOG

Examining soil health and climate resiliency in extended rotations

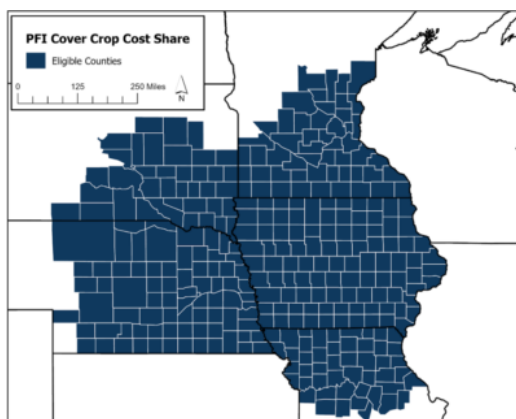


Catch up with **Marshall McDaniel**, associate professor in soil-plant interactions at Iowa State University, and **Matt Liebman**, ISU professor emeritus and PFI board member, in our most recent blog post about ongoing projects at Marsden Research Farm.

"Marsden Farm is a long-term investigation of how cropping system diversification and crop-livestock integration affects sustainability," Matt said. [Learn more.](#)

NEWS

Double up on cover crop cost-share



Even with the upfront expense of covers, about 72 percent of farmers in our 2022 cover crop cost-share program reported that **covers positively or very positively impacted their farm financial goals.**

PFI offers \$10 per acre cost-share on unlimited acres. **You can double-up with publicly funded cost-share** on the same acres (about 64 percent of PFI cost-share participants also received public cost-share last year). [Check your eligibility and enroll.](#)

Research report: Cover Crop Effect on Soil Water



Landon Brown, Will Cannon, Jeremy Gustafson, Aaron Lehman and Sam Ose participated in a multistate trial to examine the effect of cereal rye cover crops on corn and soybean yield as well as soil moisture.

"[This research] will validate that our current cover crop practices are working or if we need to make changes," Will Cannon said at the beginning of the project.

[Read their results.](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Can you help us reach our campaign goal?



To meet our budget for the year and bring you the programming we've planned, we have a goal to raise \$55,000. Thanks to your help, **we are more than three-quarters of the way there.**

Donations we receive from individuals are our most important funding. These dollars let us respond quickly to our network's needs and help us fill in funding gaps.

[Please donate today and help us reach our fundraising goal.](#)

New PFI swag now available



We just got new PFI-branded hats and shirts! Find them in our online store or at a field day near you.

Represent PFI on and off the farm. Treat yourself or your farm crew today.

[**Visit the online store**](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Field days



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

Visit Minerva's Meadow, a no-till flower farm with hundreds of cultivars as well as prairie plants that Hannah incorporates into bouquets to encourage discussion about their value to the landscape.



July 19: Field Day – Pollinators of the Iowa Prairie: Conservation 70 Years in the Making

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

Learn from Carl, who has transitioned 105 acres of his 180-acre farm to native prairie and wetlands, which he harvests for his prairie seed business.



July 19: Field Day – Relay Cropping, Permanent Clover and Irrigation Systems in Northwest Iowa

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

Discover how Patrick and his father, Chuck, have used incentives to implement conservation practices on their 1,200-acre farm and are helping others do the same through their farm management business.

[View the full field day schedule](#)

Join us for our upcoming Spanish social in Storm Lake



July 17 | 5:30-7:30 p.m. | Storm Lake, IA

Meet us for our next Spanish social at Valentina's Meat Market.

Connect with other local producers, learn about PFI's Spanish-language resources and enjoy a meal together.

Registration is encouraged but not required. [RSVP and view other upcoming Spanish socials near you.](#)

More upcoming events

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

July 14: Field Day – [Shifting to Regenerative While Transitioning Generations](#)

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

July 14: Field Day – [Agritourism and Orcharding With an Ecological Focus](#)

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

July 21: Social – [Beginning Farmer Social: Geyer Farm](#)

Hosted by: Dave & Anna Geyer
2-4 p.m. | Oxford, IA

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

Hosted by: Denise O'Brien, Larry Harris & Kent Morris
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

July 28: Field Day – [Converting Row Crops to Perennial Pasture](#)

Hosted by: Zach Knutson & Brooke Calaway
3-5 p.m. | Zumbrota, MN

Aug. 6: Field Day – [Diversity, Resilience and Beauty at Miss Effie's Country Flowers](#)

Hosted by: Cathy Linker Lafrenz
2-4 p.m. | Donahue, IA

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Paul Rasch of Solon, IA, was featured in [The Gazette: Iowa looks to harness natural strengths to grow agritourism operations](#)

Natasha, Brian and Nancy Wilson of West Chester, IA, were featured in [The News: PFI Field Day](#).

Maury and Mary Wills of Adel, IA, were featured in [Raccoon Valley Radio: Wills Family Orchard to Host Agritourism and Orchardring](#)

Kellie Blair of Dayton, IA, and **Ray Gaesser** of Corning, IA, wrote an opinion piece featured in [Agri-Pulse: Iowa Farmers think circular for the future](#)

Mark and Melissa Schleisman of Lake City, IA, were featured in a news release by the [Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship: Secretary Naig to Present the Schleisman Family with the Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award](#)

Maury and Mary Wills of Adel, IA, were featured in [Dallas County News: Around The County](#).

Ryan and Kristy Gibbs of Hopkinton, IA, were featured in [Telegraph Herald: Hopkinton farmer recognized for no-till, cover-crop advocacy](#).

PFI in the News

PFI was mentioned in the [Storm Lake Times Pilot: A little hope amid the haze](#)

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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