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Practical
NEWS

July 17, 2023

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Results and recreation at PFI's summer staff party

On Tuesday, staff gathered at Seven Oaks Recreation in Boone, Iowa, for our July in-person meeting and annual summer staff party. While there, we heard initial findings from the member survey many of you filled out earlier this year.

In addition to seeing a snapshot of who you are, what you farm and what PFI resources you value, we learned about your priorities and discussed how we can meet those interests over the next few years.

Afterward, the group enjoyed lunch featuring ingredients from PFI member farms prepared by Donna Prizgintas. Staff also had the chance to paddle 7 miles down the Des Moines River while others opted to play games and catch up with one another at the lodge.

(Pictured above, left: Sarah Carlson (left), Morgan Jennings and Amos Johnson pause in the lunch line to pose for the camera. Right: Staff who opted to canoe gather before boarding the bus to the canoe launch).

Summer 2023 magazine: "Nurturing Rural Communities"



Stephanie and Austin Meyers of Sonshine Farms near Hubbard, Iowa, raise thousands of pounds of produce marketed to multiple rural communities in their area.

"It's not easy. There are many late nights and early mornings," Stephanie says. "Yet at the end of the season, it's amazing to see the amount of food we raise. Our choice is to serve these communities that don't have access to [local produce] otherwise."

[Read their story.](#)

Looking for land? We're here to help!



Martha McFarland, PFI farmland viability coordinator, works with landowners who are seeking interns, new tenants and farmers ready to purchase land.

If you'd like Martha's help, please email a resume and cover letter that includes desired enterprises and the location where you hope to "land" to martha.mcfarland@practicalfarmers.org. She will forward your information to any landowners who may be the right match.

Register for our Spanish-language Exploring Agriculture Workshop Series



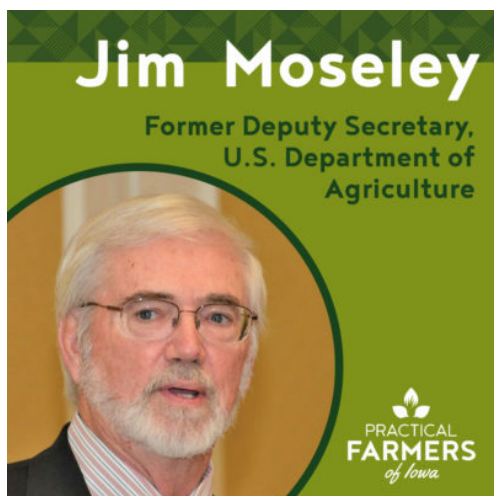
Our new Spanish-language Exploring Agriculture workshop series starts soon on July 24.

Join us for an exploration of purpose, people, planning and producer enterprises over four virtual workshop sessions.

You'll learn how to kick-start your farming goals from agricultural and natural resources professionals.

MEMBERSHIP

Giving as an act of trust



Why does PFI member **Jim Moseley**, who served as former deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, donate?

"PFI is the leading organization in putting regenerative ag on the ground in the U.S.," he says.

Your donation is a vote of confidence in PFI's work and that you trust us to put your money to good use. Please give to support programming that helps farmers build resilient farms and communities.

[Please give today](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Field days



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

Join us for an interactive vegetable farming tool workshop, from hand tools to two-wheeled tractors to implements. Participation in the workshop portion of this event is limited to 20 people so please [RSVP early!](#)



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

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

Get ready for a scavenger hunt where we will gamify a mock Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) audit. Learn what to expect during an audit and about the benefits of getting audited.



July 28: Field Day – Converting Row Crops to Perennial Pasture

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

Join us at Knutson Shorthorns where Zach has been converting row crop ground to perennial pastures one field at a time. He currently raises 30 cow-calf pairs and 14 ewes and their lambs, which he rotationally grazes.

[View the full field day schedule](#)

Beginning Farmer Social: Geyer Farm



July 21 | 2-4 p.m. | Oxford, IA

Join us for a beginning farmer social at Geyer Farm.

Learn more about Dave and Anna Geyer's new agroforestry enterprise and network with other beginning farmers near you.

RSVP by sending an email to **Rachel Burke**, beginning farmer engagement coordinator at rachel.burke@practicalfarmers.org.

More upcoming events

July 17: PFI Spanish Social – Valentina's Meat Market

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

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

Aug. 7: Field Day – Improving Water Quality and Soil Health With Cover Crops

Hosted by: Mark & Jodi Peterson and Lane Peterson
10 a.m.-Noon | Craig, NE

Aug. 10: Field Day – Grazing a Perennial Forage Chain

Hosted by: Beth Hoffman & John Hogeland
10 a.m.-Noon | Lovilia, IA

Aug. 10: Field Day – Creating a Legacy of Conservation in Traditional Row Cropping

Hosted by: Joe Merten
10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. | Austin, MN

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Natasha Wilson of West Chester, IA, was featured on [KCII Radio](#): [JJ Nichting Company in Touch With Southeast Iowa With Natasha Wilson](#)

Kate Edwards of Solon, IA, was featured on the [Iowa Farm Bureau Website](#): [Pleased to feed you](#)

Mark Schleisman of Lake City, IA, was featured in [Progressive Farmer](#): [Farm Family Gathers for Award](#)

Matt Russell of Lacona, IA, was mentioned on [KLOW Radio](#): [USDA Reminds Agricultural Producers of July 14 Deadline to Apply for Pandemic and Natural Disaster Revenue Loss Programs](#)

Hannah Scates Kettler was featured in [Mid Iowa Enterprise](#): [Elevating Prairie Plants on a No-Till Flower Farm](#)

PFI in the News

Morgan Jennings, Practical Farmers' field crops viability coordinator, was featured in [Iowa Farmer Today](#): [Right mix, mistakes guide farmers starting cover crops](#)

PFI was featured in [The Bloomfield Democrat](#): [Practical Farmers of Iowa launches conservation cost-share](#)

PFI was mentioned on the [ADM Website](#): [Advance Your Climate Goals: An Interview with Paul Sheetz](#)

PFI is mentioned in an article by the [Globe Gazette](#): [Harvest of North Iowa field day at Red Shed Gardens in Forest City is July 23](#)

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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