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PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

Practical
NEWS

July 31, 2023

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Finding answers and strengthening community around farming in the 2022 PFI Cooperators' Program report

Since 1987, the **Cooperators' Program** has empowered curious farmers to conduct on-farm experiments that answer their questions and guide their decision-making. In 2022, **45 farmer researchers participated in 75 research PFI trials.**

Kate Edwards of Solon, Iowa, completed multiple trials this year to examine vegetable fertility and weed management on her farm. She views on-farm research as a vital endeavor that makes her farm better each season. Her trials, especially those focused on cover crops, have also strengthened her network.

"It took conversation with three PFI staff, and many farmers and my crew, to do this trial," she says. "I feel that the incorporation of cover crops on our farm leads to a greater sense of community."

[Read our most recent Cooperators' Program report, now available online.](#)

NEWS

New PFI land access opportunity at Tedesco Farm



We are excited to announce a land access opportunity at the Tedesco Farm, a 13-acre farm located near Granger, Iowa. In 2016, **Angela Tedesco** gifted these acres to PFI.

We are seeking a tenant for the 2024 growing season, with the potential for a longer-term lease in 2025.

Our ideal candidate is a PFI member with clear goals for their business and the vision and experience to carry them out. [Applications due Sept. 15.](#)

Now hiring a marketing project coordinator

We're Hiring!

Marketing Project Coordinator

practicalfarmers.org/employment

PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

If you're a **problem-solver** who enjoys checking tasks off your list and **collaborating with others** to move projects from start to finish, we have the job for you!

PFI is looking for a marketing project coordinator to join our team. In this role, you'll support the marketing department by managing projects and providing administrative and logistics support.

[View the position description and apply.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Field days



Aug. 10: Field Day – [Grazing a Perennial Forage Chain](#)

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

Whippoorwill Creek Farm produces grass-fed and grass-finished beef and goat, vegetables and foraged wild mushrooms. The farm is a work in progress to make the ecosystem and the community around it more sustainable and vibrant.



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

The Merten family farm is a 2,200-acre corn and soybean farm. Learn about their past experiences, current projects and decision-making process to improve profitability through a lens of precision conservation on a row crop farm.

[View the full field day schedule](#)

Small grains shared learning call: "Kernza Management and Market Opportunities"

August 4 | Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Ben Penner farms in southeastern Minnesota, where he grows Kernza, heritage wheat and hybrid rye. He also works with neighboring farmers to graze sheep on his Kernza crop.



Learn about how to get started with Kernza, tips for growth and management, how to harvest Kernza for grain, how it improves farm climate resiliency and available market opportunities in our next shared learning call. [Register today.](#)

Online workshop: "When Pesticide Drift Happens to You"



Aug. 18 | 1-4:30 p.m. | [Online](#)

You just had a pesticide drift incident. Now what?

In this free online workshop, we'll discuss the process of pesticide drift investigation, litigation and compensation following a misapplication event. Hear from **Rob Faux and Emily Marquez** from the Pesticide Action Network; **Karen Varley**, environmental lawyer; and **Mark Smith** from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

More upcoming events

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. 19: Field Day – [Community Farm Tour at Matthew 25](#)

Hosted by: Matthew Arndt
1-3 p.m. | Cedar Rapids, IA

Aug. 20: Field Day – [Hands-On: Trying Out Tools](#)

Hosted by: Carmen Black, Maja Black, Helaina Thompson & Carlos Williams
9 a.m.-Noon | Solon, IA

Aug. 20: Field Day – [Collaborating to Scale Up Local Food Production](#)

Carmen Black, Maja Black, Helaina Thompson & Carlos Williams
1-3 p.m. | Solon, IA

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Kay Vifian of Garnavillo, IA, and **Natasha Hegmann** of Elkport, IA, who also serves at PFI's senior horticulture and local foods coordinator, were mentioned in [Courier Press: **Sunset Harvest Farm of Guttenberg part of RX FARM-ACY program**](#)

James Hepp of Rockwell City, IA, and **Luke Schultes** of Audubon, IA, were featured in [No-Till Farmer: Big Announcements at CTIC Conservation in Action Tour](#)

Molly Schintler of Mechanicsville, IA, and **Jeff Olson** of Winfield, IA, were featured in [Little Village: Small farmers are being the change they want to see in Iowa agriculture](#)

Matt Liebman of Ames, IA, and **Larry Neppi** of Marion, IA, were featured in [Naked Capitalism: How "Big Ag" Pollutes America's Water, and Makes Money Doing It](#)

PFI in the News

PFI was mentioned in [Morning Ag Clips: Fruit and Vegetable Field Day is Aug. 8th](#)

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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