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**

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

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 Neppl 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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