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PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

Practical
NEWS

September 11, 2023

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Hidden Falls LLC receives Farmland Owner Legacy Award

Members of Hidden Falls LLC were honored with PFI's 2023 Farmland Owner Legacy Award at a ceremony in Decorah, Iowa, yesterday.

In 2014, over a dozen families joined together to purchase 22 acres of land outside of Decorah and preserve it for sustainable farming. Over the next several years, the members gradually transferred their acres to Humble Hands Harvest, which produces diversified vegetables, sheep and orchard fruit.

"As a beginning farmer, I did not ever expect to own land," says **Hannah Breckbill**, co-farmer at Humble Hands. "It was a really lucky thing that there

were these people who had made the choice independent of me to put money into this. They were in a position to take that risk that a bank wouldn't take or that I wasn't able to take on my own."

NEWS

Watch the "Practical Cover Croppers" video series on our YouTube channel

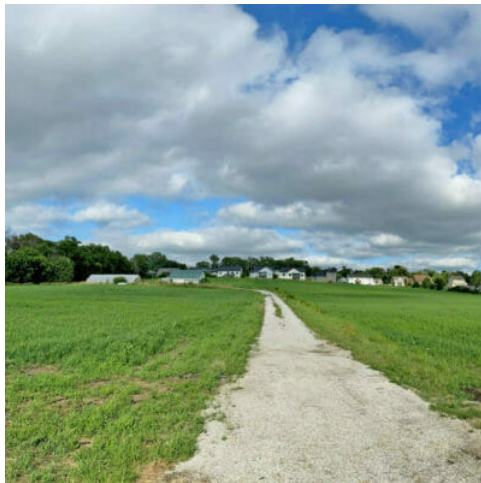


Our new "Practical Cover Croppers" video series provides cover cropping insights - wherever, whenever!

We're featuring producers raising row crops, livestock and horticultural crops and the many ways they are integrating cover crops into their production: **roller crimping, planting green, airseeding, grazing and more.**

[Follow along on our YouTube channel, where we publish new videos every week.](#)

Last call for Tedesco Farm applications!



Apply to farm at the Tedesco Farm, a **13-acre farm within the Des Moines metropolitan area** in Granger, Iowa. The deadline is this Friday, Sept. 15.

We're looking for a tenant for the 2024 season, with our goal being to create long-term tenure for a beginning farmer. Submit your answers to a series of questions – a business plan is not required but can be included.

[Apply today!](#)

Grazing infrastructure cost-share available again for 2023



A new round of our popular grazing infrastructure cost-share is available now.

Applications are open until Oct. 1 or until filled.

Don't miss your chance to receive up to \$5,000 in funding for portable fences, water transport supplies and shelters. [Submit your application ASAP.](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Finding a family through PFI



PFI member **Rebekah Ahrens** and her family were still learning how to run the family farm when they lost Rebekah's father. Suddenly, they were on their own.

They started identifying what was on the to-do list that her family didn't know how to do. Rebekah was thankful she could turn to the network she had built at PFI to fill in the gaps and provide support.

"Overwhelmingly, I felt I had found a family – one that holds your hand and reminds you that you can do this," Rebekah says. ([Read her story on our blog](#)).

"Wherever you are in your farming journey, I encourage you to tap into this resource and join Practical Farmers of Iowa," she says.

[Join or renew your membership](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Shared Learning Call: Technical Tips and Assistance Programs for Organic Small Grains Farmers



Sept. 15 | Noon-1 p.m. | Online

In the first part of this call, you'll learn from **Daniel Sheetz**, who farms in Toledo, Iowa. Daniel will share why he added winter wheat to his rotation and tips he's learned.

Then, you'll hear from **Rosalyn Lehmann**, executive director of Iowa Organic Association, who will provide an overview of organic assistance programs including the interim program OMS 823 introduced earlier this year.

[RSVP to join the call.](#)



Field days



Sept. 16: Field Day – [Pastured Eggs 101](#)

Host: Mariel Barreras

10 a.m.-Noon | Blair, NE

[Beginning Farmer Social](#) to follow

Mariel Barreras operates Barreras Family Farm, raising cattle, pigs, chickens, turkeys and pastured eggs, along with seasonal fruit and vegetables marketed through a CSA and their farm-to-table market in Omaha, The Barreras Farm Market. [RSVP](#)



Sept. 18: Field Day – [Cooperators' Trial With Soybeans Planted Green](#)

Hosts: Tracy & Sue Skaar and Mic Skaar

10 a.m.-Noon | Hayward, MN

Tracy Skaar grows corn, soybeans, oats and hay with his son, **Mic**, on a combined 850 acres. This year, Tracy is involved in a PFI Cooperators' Program trial testing termination dates after planting soybeans into green rye cover crops. [RSVP](#)



Sept. 19: Field Day – [Grazing Cover Crops for Soil Health](#)

Hosts: Aaron Alons & Andy Getting

10 a.m.-Noon | Ashton, IA

Aaron Alons raises grass-fed and -finished beef, selling directly to consumers. Along with grazing his own perennial pastures, Aaron is also partnering to

graze 114 acres farmed by **Andy Getting**, who raises organic row crops including corn, soybeans, oats and hay. Learn about their collaboration. [RSVP](#)

[View the full field day schedule](#)

More upcoming events

Sept. 13: Field Day – [Visual Soil Assessments and Johnson-Su Compost](#)

Hosts: Rory & Lynette Van Wyk
2-5 p.m. | Winterset, IA

Sept. 21: Field Day – [Cover Crops Following Small Grains](#)

Hosts: Scott & Nancy Schultz
10 a.m.-Noon | Watertown, WI

Sept. 23: Field Day – [Aerially Seeding Cover Crops](#)

Hosts: Mark & Melanie Peterson and Monroe Peterson
10 a.m.-Noon | Stanton, IA

***Due to dry conditions we will view a drone seeder demonstration instead of aerial seeding**

Sept. 30: Spanish Workshop – [Year in the Life of a Poultry Producer: Egg Production](#)

Hosts: Carlos Williams & Carmen Black
10 a.m.-Noon | Solon, IA

Oct. 6: Field Day – [Mushroom Cultivation, Marketing and Tasting](#)

Host: Kevin Novak
1-4 p.m. | Honey Creek, IA

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Wendy Johnson of Charles City, IA, was featured on the "Donna Lonna Kitchen Show" podcast: [Wendy Johnson, Kernza, Joia Farm](#)

Caite Palmer of Castalia, IA, was featured in [Farmtario](#): [Podcast takes on parenting through agricultural lens](#)

John Hogeland and Beth Hoffman of Lovilia, IA, were featured in [The Chariton Newspapers](#): [Field day held at local farm](#)

Zack Smith of Buffalo Center, IA, was featured in [Storm Lake Times Pilot](#): [Farming weird](#)

Charlie Costello of Rockport, ME, was featured in [Penobscot Bay Pilot](#): [Charlie Costello to speak on seed-saving and community resilience](#)

Keith Gorham of Illinois City, IL, and Rebecca Clay, PFI's senior field crops viability coordinator, were featured in [Iowa Farmer Today](#): [Small grains satisfy](#)

[need for livestock feed](#)

Fred Abels of Holland, IA, was featured on [Brownfield Ag News: Farmer encourages others to try Practical Farmers of Iowa cover crop cost-share](#)

Kristine Lang of Brookings, SD, was mentioned in [Morning Ag Clips: Flower Producer Workshop Schedule for Sturgis](#)

Josh Nelson of Belmond, IA, was featured in [The Belmond Independent: Field day near Belmond on Friday](#)

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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