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PRACTICAL FARMERS  
*of Iowa*

Practical  
**NEWS**

September 18, 2023

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



**Become a PFI member starting at \$25**

**Farming can be hard, but you don't have to face it alone.**

When you connect with Practical Farmers of Iowa, you'll find **a supportive network** of more than 6,000 farmers, landowners and non-farmers who freely share their experience with a range of production, conservation and business management practices.

As a member, you'll enjoy perks like discounted rates to our annual conference, eligibility for certain PFI programs, priority access to our informative publications and more.

**Become a PFI member today and find the support you need to succeed.** Membership starts at just \$25 a year for beginning farmers and students! [Learn more about member benefits and join today.](#)

## NEWS

### Research report: "Overwintering Greens: Species and Seeding Dates"



Iowa farmers often overwinter spinach, but what other greens can survive the winter? Humble Hands Harvest did research to learn more. Though the plants weren't harvestable in April, their trial will inform how they plant in the future.

"The goal of the trial was to pay attention to more qualitative details about overwintering these various greens, and this trial gave us a great chance to do that," co-farmer **Emily Fagan** says. [Read the results.](#)

### Practical Cover Croppers: "Seeding Cover Crops With an Air Seeder and Rolling Harrow"



**Will Cannon** of Prairie City, Iowa, has improvised a method for seeding cover crops quickly and inexpensively. The setup: a Hiniker air seeder with Gandy seed meters mounted on a frame he made that pulls a pre-owned J&M double-rolling harrow.

Will explains how the system places the seed close to the soil under corn residue while breaking down corn residue without causing soil disturbance. [Watch the video for a close-up view of the system.](#)

**We have money to help you save on planting cover crops!**





Don't miss out on your opportunity to double up on cover crop cost-share with us.

PFI's cost-share is **stackable with publicly funded cover crop cost-share programs**, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program offered through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Last year, about 64% of participants in our cost-share program also received public cost-share.

**[Applications are open until Dec. 1.](#)**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Field days



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

*Hosts: Scott & Nancy Schultz*

10 a.m.-Noon | Watertown, WI

Join **Scott Schultz** and his family to learn how they're using diverse covers and integrating livestock and cover crops on their 200-acre farm. You'll also have a chance to see a drone demonstration led by neighbor, drone pilot and custom applicator **John Pernat**. **[RSVP](#)**



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

*Hosts: Mark & Melanie Peterson and Monroe Peterson*

10 a.m.-Noon | Stanton, IA

**Mark and Melanie Peterson**, lifetime PFI members, farm 500 acres of corn and soybeans. They're renting and transferring some of these acres to their son, **Monroe**, for his growing hay business. Join us to talk about cover crop experiences and the legacy we're building for the next generation. **[RSVP](#)**

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

**[View the full field day schedule](#)**

**[More upcoming events](#)**

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

*Hosts: Tracy & Sue Skaar and Mic Skaar*

10 a.m.-Noon | Hayward, MN

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

*Hosts: Aaron Alons & Andy Getting*

10 a.m.-Noon | Ashton, IA

**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](#)**

*Hosts: Kevin Novak*

1-4 p.m. | Honey Creek, IA

[View our events calendar](#)

## IN THE NEWS

### Members in the News

**John Van Horn** of Glidden, IA, was featured in [The Messenger: \*\*US Food Supply Threatened by Extreme Drought ... And Extreme Rain\*\*](#)

**Tracy Skaar** of Hayward, MN, was featured in [Albert Lea Tribune: \*\*Cooperators' trial with soybeans planted green, legume covers and strip-till corn in Hayward\*\*](#)

**Brian Corkill** of Galva, IL, was featured on [Farms.com: \*\*Digital Agriculture and Cutting-Edge Technology: Transforming Farming Practices\*\*](#)

**Dayna Burtness and Nick Nguyen** of Spring Grove, MN, were featured in [The Caledonia Argus: \*\*60+ people attend a field day at Nettle Valley Farm\*\*](#)

**Jerry Vander Wert** of Pella, IA, was featured on [Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network: \*\*Benefits of saturated buffers for farmers\*\*](#)

### PFI in the News

PFI was mentioned in [North Tama Telegraph: \*\*Dengler Domain: Thoughts from the Field\*\*](#)

**Sarah Carlson**, PFI's senior programs and member engagement director, was featured in [North Platte Post: \*\*Nebraska Extension Center preps ag producers for climate-smart practices\*\*](#)

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**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](mailto:elizabeth.wilhelm@practicalfarmers.org)

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