

SHARE:



[Join Our Email List](#)



## The MONTHLY FEEDSTUFF

January 2022

**Welcome to the first edition of "The Monthly Feedstuff!"** Our aim is to provide you with up-to-date information about all things livestock. We've had so much fun brainstorming how this newsletter can keep you informed and provide another space for communication.

We hope you enjoy the first edition and look forward to being back in your inbox next month!

-The Livestock Team

---

### Winterizing your grazing system

'Tis the season - for colder weather! Are you prepared?

Now that cold weather has arrived, it's important to make sure your grazing system is winterized. Here are some things to consider:

- ❄ Store fencing material & other important equipment inside or undercover
- ❄ Shut off water and drain pipes where necessary
- ❄ Assess forage inventory. Is there enough stockpiled? Is hay needed?
- ❄ If bale grazing, set out bales
- ❄ Prepare your winter feeding area. Should a windbreak be added? Is there proper drainage to avoid mud and protect water sources?



With proper winter prep and management, the grazing season can be extended, herd health can be maintained and equipment quality can be

preserved.

[Click here for winter watering ideas](#)

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Attention direct-to-consumer meat producers



We're partnering with the [Good Meat Breakdown](#), a resource that builds resources and tools to support producers like you AND help you tackle your marketing challenges.

The Good Meat Breakdown will be offering free marketing assistance for direct-to-consumer meat producers. How? Good Meat Breakdown will bring your farm's specific marketing needs to professional designers, photographers, chefs, and other experts, and will come back with tangible materials and technical guidance that you can use to grow your business.

We want to ensure our members benefit from this important and necessary initiative. [Get started by taking this survey by Feb. 7!](#)

---

### PFI annual conference

The [2022 annual conference](#) will take place on Jan. 21 and 22 in Ames, IA. A variety of livestock-focused sessions will be available. [Check out the complete session offering to learn more about each session and its' presenters.](#)



[Grazier's Gear](#)



[Bolstering Pig Rations with Small Grains](#)



[New Poultry Processing Ventures in Iowa](#)

---

### Multiple Iowa lockers receive grants through USDA

Meat and poultry processing facilities across the country collectively received over \$32 million in Meat and Poultry Inspection Readiness Grants - **18 Iowa recipients are among this group.** [You can read the full list of grant recipients and their planned projects here.](#)

This grant program is available to currently operational meat and poultry slaughter and processing facilities through the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. [Learn more about available funding.](#)

---

## Join us for the Beginning Farmer Summit



**Feb. 7 | Cedar Rapids, IA | 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Getting started in farming can be hard, but the right support and network can boost your chance of success.

Join us at the Beginning Farmer Summit to gain knowledge at your level and connect with other beginning farmers.

[Find out more and register.](#)

---

## Dairy margin coverage program expanded for supplemental production

USDA Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) now allows producers to enroll supplemental production. Eligible dairies with less than 5 million pounds of established production history may enroll. **The deadline to enroll is Feb. 18.**

[Learn more about DMC](#)

## BEYOND THE GATE

### Research report: "Feeding Whey to Pastured Broiler Chickens"

Whey is a common byproduct of making dairy products from goats. It's also an excellent source of protein.

**Carmen and Maja Black, Helaina Thompson and Carlos Williams** of Sundog Farm & Local Harvest CSA, in Solon, Iowa, wondered if the whey produced on the farm could improve broiler chicken growth when offered as a supplement to the chickens' feed.





[Read the full research report.](#)

---

## How virtual fence helps the transition to regenerative agriculture

Read this [blog post from Nofence](#) on how virtual fencing has the potential to ease the transition between conventional and regenerative livestock production.

**Christer Baltzersen** and **Monte Bottens** will be presenting on this virtual fence technology at PFI's annual conference in the session [Virtual Fence: A Solution for Graziers, Animals and Soil?](#)

---

## Research report: "Winter Feed Monitoring on a Grass-Fed Cattle Farm"



**Dave and Meg Schmidt**, owners and operators of Troublesome Creek Cattle Co. in Exira, IA, worked with PFI's Cooperator's Program to research how to extend their grazing season into winter.

Over four years of tracking feed intake showed the importance of stockpiled pasture and multiple forage sources. [Read the full research report here.](#)

---

## From Laos to Iowa: Air Philavanh, livestock and community

**Phrakhounmany "Air" Philavanh**  
farms on 11-acres near Milo, IA

From Laos to Iowa: Air Phi...



raising a diversity of livestock and crops. His goal is to re-create a simple Laotian farm, applying lessons from his grandfather, in order to showcase history and farmer ingenuity alongside the American practices he's learned.

[Click here to learn more about our livestock farmers](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### [Webinar: Farrowing on Pasture](#)

*Hosted by:* FACT

**January 19 | 1 p.m. | Online**

### [2022 PFI Annual Conference: Facing the Horizon](#)

*Hosted by:* Practical Farmers

**January 21-22 | Ames, IA**

### [Webinar: Grazing for Resilience - Bouncing Forward from Catastrophic Events](#)

*Hosted by:* FACT

**January 26 | 4 p.m. | Online**

### [Risk Management and Cattle Market Outlook](#)

*Hosted by:* Iowa Cattlemen's Association, CattleFax & ISU Extension

**January 26 | 5 p.m. | Carroll, IA**

### [Dairy Business Innovation Alliance Grant Webinar](#)

*Hosted by:* DBIA

**January 27 | 12:30 - 2 p.m. | Online**

### [Risk Management and Cattle Market Outlook](#)

*Hosted by:* Iowa Cattlemen's Association, CattleFax & ISU Extension

**January 27 | 5 p.m. | Graettinger, IA**

### [Driftless Region Beef Conference](#)

*Hosted by:* ISU Extension

**January 27-28 | Dubuque, IA**

### [Webinar: Assessing a Woods for Silvopasture](#)

*Hosted by:* FACT

**January 31 | 3 p.m. | Online**

### [2022 Winter Farminar Series: On-Farm Research Explores Cover Crops, Manure, Nitrogen & Returns](#)

*Hosted by:* Practical Farmers

**February 1 | 7 p.m. | Online**

### [Beginning Farmer Summit](#)

*Hosted by:* Practical Farmers

February 7 | 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Cedar Rapids, IA

**Webinar: Thinning, Clearing, and Establishing Forage and Fodder**

Hosted by: FACT

February 7 | 3 p.m. | Online

**Small Ruminant Webinar - Strategic and cost-effective mineral nutrition in sheep**

Hosted by: University of Wisconsin - Madison Extension

February 8 | 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. | Online

## POLL

When do you start prepping your livestock operations for winter?

Early summer

Select

Late summer

Select

Early fall

Select

Late fall

Select

None of the above

Select

Are you planning or hosting a livestock event? Do you want to host a livestock event? Send the details to [brynnen@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:brynnen@practicalfarmers.org)

STAY CONNECTED



## Looking for more? Contact us today!

**Meghan Filbert**

Livestock Program Manager

[meghan@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:meghan@practicalfarmers.org)

**Brynnen Gardner**

Livestock Coordinator

[brynnen@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:brynnen@practicalfarmers.org)