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PRACTICAL FARMERS  
*of Iowa*

The  
MONTHLY  
FEEDSTUFF

October 2022

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



As perennial pasture grazing winds down for the year, it's important to finish with the next year in mind. Fall can either be seen as the finale, or the prelude to a pasture's song. The University of Minnesota has [a checklist](#) to go through for wrapping up your pasture in a way that sets spring up for success.

One way to give your pasture a rest while extending the grazing season is to move to grazing cover crops. [This blog](#) from PFI assesses the costs and added value of grazing cover crops. If you'd like to try grazing cover crops but don't have any of your own, you can use [The Midwest Grazing Exchange](#) to find a farmer looking for livestock to graze their land.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### PFI welcomes Margaret Chamas' return to staff



**Margaret Chamas** has (re)joined the PFI staff as the livestock viability manager. She will oversee cost-share and business development projects that empower farmers to raise and market livestock in environmentally and economically sustainable and viable ways.

[Read more about Margaret, including her past position with PFI and what she's been up to in the meantime.](#)

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



In one of last year's cooperators' research trials, **Carmen and Maja Black, Helaina Thompson and Carlos Williams** investigated feeding whey, a source of protein, to their pastured broiler chickens. See the results of their experiment [here!](#)

Interested in conducting your own [on-farm research trials](#) with PFI? The annual cooperators meeting is coming up in December. Email [stefan.gailans@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:stefan.gailans@practicalfarmers.org) to learn about upcoming opportunities to get involved.

## BEYOND THE GATE

### Grazing with Wildlife in Mind, Part 1

One benefit of rotational grazing is the potential for increased plant diversity. With plant diversity can come wildlife diversity. But what if increased wildlife diversity was part of the plan from the beginning?

**This episode** of the *Voices from the Field* podcast is the first of a multi-part conversation between **Dr. Sam Fuhlendorf** of Oklahoma State University and NCAT Grazing Specialist **Linda Poole** about using grazing to bolster, rather than unintentionally harm, desirable wildlife on farms and ranches.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Sign up for PFI's Explore Farming Series

**Thursdays | 6:30-8 p.m.**  
**Oct. 20-Nov. 3**

Do you dream of running your own farm but don't know how to get started?

PFI's Explore Farming Series can help. In this three-part online workshop series, you'll have the chance to:

- learn from local farmers
- create a plan to guide you into farming
- assess your skills and resources
- network with other aspiring farmers



**Sign up today and start making your farming dreams a reality!**

### Coming up in the next month

*All events below are listed in central daylight time.*

**Oct. 18: Webinar - Introduction to Pastured Pigs for Profit**

*Hosted by: Food Animal Concerns Trust*  
2 p.m. | Online

**Nov. 9: Webinar - Enticing Animals to Eat "Unpalatable" Plants**

*Hosted by: Food Animal Concerns Trust*  
2 p.m. | Online

**Nov. 3: Webinar - Bison 101**

*Hosted by: Food Animal Concerns Trust*  
5 p.m. | Online

**Nov. 9: Webinar - Organic Control Strategies for Swine Parasites in Organic Pastured Pork Systems**

**Nov. 4-5: Festival - [Ozark Fiber Fling](#)**

Hosted by: Ozark Fiber Fling Inc.  
Steelville, MO

Hosted by: Rodale Institute  
3 p.m. | Online

[View more upcoming events on our website](#)

## POLL

How many PFI field days did you attend this year?

**Zero**

Select

**One**

Select

**Two or three**

Select

**Four or five**

Select

**More than five!**

Select

### Previous poll results:

What's your best way to communicate with customers?

- **Social media - 54.5%**
- Text / phone call - 18.2%
- Face to face - 9.1%
- My website & email - 9.1%
- I don't sell direct to customers - 9.1%

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

STAY CONNECTED



**Looking for more? Contact us today!**

**Margaret Chamas**  
Livestock Viability Manager

**Amos Johnson**  
Livestock Education Coordinator

