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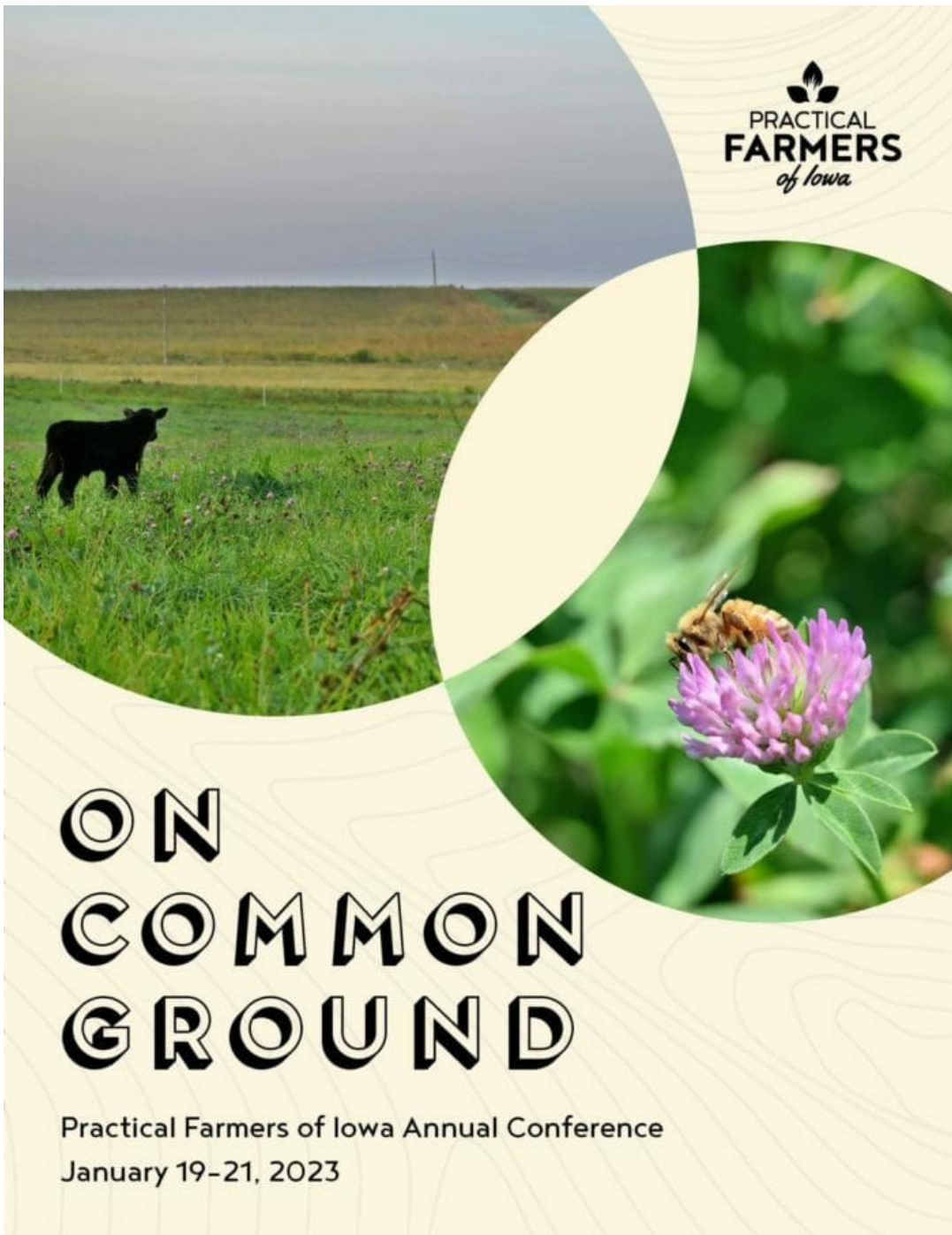
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The
**MONTHLY
FEEDSTUFF**

December 2022

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



ON COMMON GROUND

Practical Farmers of Iowa Annual Conference
January 19-21, 2023

Registration for our 2023 annual conference is now open! Since our founding, the annual conference has been a keystone event for sharing knowledge, building connections and celebrating agriculture in Iowa.

As we gather with friends and family this holiday season, we come together on common ground – in a spirit of gratitude for what the land bestows, and those around us who share their friendship, ideas and support.

We invite you to join us Jan. 19-21 in Ames, Iowa, where we'll explore what it means to be "On Common Ground" in our farming systems and ecosystems, our ideas and relationships.

Connect with old friends, meet new ones – and continue the PFI tradition of learning, sharing and connecting as we seek to build resilient farms and communities.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Livestock sessions at the annual conference



Getting Started with Pasture-Finished Pigs

Thinking of getting into pastured pigs? **Dayna Burtness** of Nettle Valley Farm, will introduce the basics of finishing pigs on pasture, including fencing, food/water/shelter infrastructure, finding feeder pigs and more.

This talk will be geared towards folks who currently don't have pigs or those who may raise small numbers but are looking to scale up a bit.



Pastured Turkeys - Keeping It Simple

Thanksgiving: A once a year opportunity for massive sales for those who can take advantage.

In this presentation, **Jordan Green** will share the steps he uses on his farm to keep this process simple and sane, from brooding to harvesting and selling these tasty birds.



Parasite Management for Sheep

Sheep are notoriously prone to parasites. There are any number of recommendations on how to deal with them. Somewhere between routine drenches and strictly holistic management, does a middle-ground, practical solution exist?



Join veterinarian **Dr. Alyona Michael**, and farmer **Maja Black**, as they talk about their diagnoses, recommendations and on the ground efforts to manage the parasite problem.



Grazing Native Perennials: Small Victories and Large Challenges

For millennia, huge herds grazed the native perennials of the Iowa prairie. Now, cool season perennials dominate pasture lands. But cool season grasses struggle with a summer slump when they are less productive, exactly when native warm season perennials thrive.

Join this roundtable to discuss efforts to establish and graze native perennials as a routine part of management practices. Hosted by **John Hogeland**.



Fencing Techniques for Difficult Terrain

Setting a good fence is crucial to successfully grazing livestock, but the landscape doesn't always make it easy.



Tom Beard and **Margaret Chamas** will talk about their successes and challenges of fencing a variety of challenging terrains, as well as tips and tricks that they've picked up along the way.

Plus many more!

[Farmer-to- Farmer: Women Raising Pigs - the Challenges and Joys](#) | [Kristten Buttermore](#) & [Kate Mendenhall](#)

[Farmer-to Farmer: Raising Sheep for Wool](#) | [Stacy Dresow](#) & [Stennie Nelson](#)

[Roundtable: Fiber Meet-Up](#) | [Wendy Johnson](#)

[Communicating Production Practices to Consumers](#) | [Laura Tidrick](#), [Amanda Severson](#) & [Jordan Green](#)

[Grass-Finishing Beef](#) | [Barney Bahrenfuse](#), [Jamie Hostetler](#) & [Knute Severson](#)

[Getting Started in Bison, from Range Management to Handling Facilities](#) | [Cody Howerton](#) & [Zanen Pitts](#)

[Farrow-to-Finish - Keys to a Profitable Pastured Pig Enterprise](#) | [Jordan Green](#)

[A Bright Future with Solar Grazing](#) | [Aaron Steele](#)

[The Journey to a Regenerative System at Organic Compound](#) | [Wil Crombie](#)

BEYOND THE GATE

Civil East TV: Women in Wool

Civil Eats TV: Women in W...



Take a few minutes to watch [this video](#) from Civil Eats to learn about women leading the fibershed movement in California.

Fibersheds are regional working groups that connect farmers, fiber producers, processors and consumers. Come to the [Roundtable: Fiber Meet-Up](#) to discuss the possibility of creating an Iowa fibershed, as well as meet other fiber producers from across the state!

UPCOMING EVENTS

PFI Events

All events below are listed in central daylight time.



PFI's Farminar season begins Jan. 10!

Farminars are Practical Farmers' version of a webinar – a farmer-led webinar! These 90-minute, online presentations are FREE for everyone, and we encourage attendees to come with questions for the chat box!

Farminars are held Tuesdays, 12-1:30 p.m. Central Time, from January to March.

Sneak Peak: Feb. 21: **"Pricing Pastured Poultry"** – In this farminar, experienced farmer **Ben Grimes** discusses the practicalities and considerations of pricing with beginning farmers **Anna Hankins** and **Shae Pesek**.

Friends of PFI Events

Jan. 5-6: Conference - Minnesota Organic Conference

Food Animal Concerns Trust
St. Cloud, MN

Jan. 17: Webinar - Federal Funding Opportunities for Livestock Farmers

Food Animal Concerns Trust
3 p.m. | Online

Jan. 9: Webinar - Building Soil Health With Animal Agriculture

Food Animal Concerns Trust
3:30 p.m. | Online

Jan. 19: Class - Planning Your Dairy Farm Future

University of Minnesota Extension
7:30-9:30 p.m. | Paynesville, MN

Jan. 9: Webinar - So, You Want to Raise Dairy Goats?

PennState Extension
5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Online

View more upcoming events on our website

Are you coming to the PFI's annual conference?

Yes, I'm looking forward to it!

Select

Yes, and I'm going to use a scholarship to attend.

Select

I would, but I'm too far away. Maybe I'll watch the free live-streamed sessions.

Select

No, not this year.

Select

Previous poll results:

Where do you get your Thanksgiving turkey?

- **My own farm - 30%**
- I don't eat turkey for Thanksgiving - 25%
- Local farmer - 15%
- Grocery store 15%
- Hunting - 15%

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

STAY CONNECTED



Looking for more? Contact us today!

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