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PRACTICAL FARMERS *of Iowa*

The MONTHLY FEEDSTUFF

March 2022

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



"The health benefits of fresh pasture to calves is worth more than the value of the forage. Rye fields keep calves clean and dry in the spring." - **Bill Frederick**

Cover crops, specifically cereal rye, provides livestock producers with a fresh and clean lambing area for calving, lambing and kidding. Calving on pasture can benefit your herd by keeping cows and calves cleaner and healthier, leading to reduced vet bills.



PROGRAM UPDATES

Announcing our new grazing cost-share program!



We are recruiting 18 graziers to receive \$5,000 each to help pay for mobile fence and water for grazing.

The goal of this pilot project is to increase the adoption of regenerative grazing in Iowa.

To see if you are eligible and to apply, [click here!](#)

PFI's new grazing cover crops toolkit webpage



Grazing cover crops? Check out our one stop shop! Our [Grazing Cover Crops Toolkit](#) curates resources from PFI and our partners covering all things grazing cover crops. You'll find videos, calculator tools, factsheets, how-to guides, on-farm research and more!

Find cover crop services near you with PFI's new app

The Find Cover Crops app lets users:

- Search by location for cover crop seed dealers, seed cleaning and custom spraying services located across Iowa and locations in surrounding states
- Request aerial application, custom drilling and high-clearance seeding services
- Access advice and management recommendations – including embedded how-to videos – for seeding, grazing and terminating cover crops
- Identify the boundaries of fields to be cover cropped using the app's "Find My Field" feature, which lets users



search for, mark and send images of a field to businesses or to PFI for cost-share purposes

The free app, **Find Cover Crops**, is available for download on the [Apple App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#) and a [desktop version](#) is also available.

BEYOND THE GATE

Linking the forage chain with Nathan Anderson and Meghan Filbert

Livestock Lessons 1.0 – Li...



Make sure your cows work for you (not the other way around)!

[Meghan and Nathan discuss setting up expectations for grazing cover crops.](#)

Need livestock or more crop ground? Meghan talks about an exciting new “matchmaking” option for grazing cover crops.

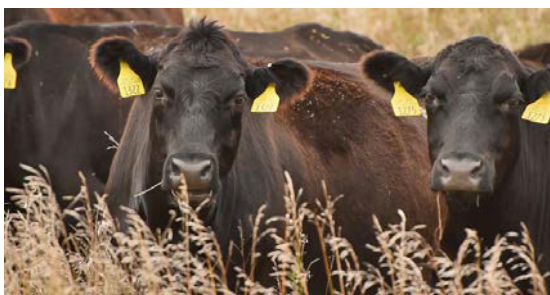
Research highlights economic advantage of grazing cover crops



Three PFI research reports - [summarized in this blog](#) - show cover crop grazing to be advantageous in multiple beef systems.

Cow-calf, feedlot and diverse cover crop mixes can all work together to increase profit per acre.

Farming for the future



“We can grow cow feed [cover crops] a heck of a lot cheaper than we can chop silage or buy hay. Now our winter feed is the cheapest point of feed in the year.” - **Seth Smith**

[Read more about the value of cover crops in Seth Smith's operation.](#)

Magazine Article: "The Best Beef You Can Bite"



Neal and **Lucie Sawyer** raise grass-fed beef in Princeton, IA on their fifth-generation family farm.

Neal learned of PFI in 2006 and began rotationally grazing cattle in 2008. Neals says this grazing system promotes "healthy soils, grasses and cows that go on to produce delicious, nutrient-rich beef."

[Read more about the Sawyers' grass-fed beef and PFI experience.](#)

More cover crop grazing resources:

- **Factsheet:** [Grazing Cover Crops to Avoid Soil Compaction](#)
- **Factsheet:** [Spring Grazing Cover Crops](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 22: Farminar - [Online Marketing for Pastured Products](#)

Hosted by: Practical Farmers
7 p.m. | Online

Mar. 29: Farminar - [Working Lands Conservation Programs: Resources & Strategies for Success](#)

Hosted by: Practical Farmers
7 p.m. | Online

Mar. 30: Webinar - [Animal Feed as Medicine](#)

Hosted by: FACT & Dr. Fred Provenza
Online

Mar. 30: Conference - [Iowa Forage and Grassland Annual Conference](#)

In Person, Chariton, Iowa

April 6: Webinar - [Plant Diversity & Health](#)

Hosted by: FACT & Dr. Fred Provenza
Online

April 13: Webinar - [Creating Locally Adapted Herbivores](#)

Hosted by: FACT & Dr. Fred Provenza
Online

May 18-20: Conference - [The Grassfed Exchange](#)

Fort Worth, Texas

POLL

How do you graze cover crops?

Let animals out in one big paddock

Select

Rotationally graze with daily moves

Select

Rotationally graze with moves every 2-6 days

Select

Rotationally graze with weekly moves

Select

Other

Select



Cows and calves graze cereal rye on **Alan Zellmer's** farm.

Previous poll results:

Who do you sell your animal products to?

- **Individual Consumers - 66.7%**
- Grocery stores - 16.7%
- Restaurants - 16.7%
- Other - 0%

Are you planning or hosting a livestock event? Do you want to host a livestock field day? Send the details to meghan@practicalfarmers.org

STAY CONNECTED



Looking for more? Contact us today!

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