Determining profitable pricing for your meat can be a difficult and complicated process, especially at a time when both farmers and consumers face increasing costs.

Cornell University has created a convenient and easy-to-use program to account for production, processing, and marketing costs and then set prices to reach a profit goal.
PROGRAM UPDATES

PFI hires a new livestock education coordinator

Amos Johnson joined Practical Farmers of Iowa as the livestock education coordinator in May 2022.

He engages with farmers to create livestock-focused farmer-led events, writes for PFI’s various publications and works to connect livestock producers with the educational resources they need.

Check out his bio to learn more!

Field day sneak peak

Check out the 2022 field day guide online starting May 20, and arriving in mailboxes starting May 31. In the meantime, here’s a sneak peak at just some of the livestock offerings this year:

Pastured Pigs and Poultry at Okoboji Organics

June 17 | Okoboji, IA

Join Kate Mendenhall for a tour of Okoboji Organics, a small certified organic family farm raising healthy food for local families.

We’ll walk through the pastures to visit pigs, chickens, and turkeys, look at how they process poultry on-farm for direct sales.

On-farm Poultry Processing & Licensing

June 24 | North English, IA

Come learn from Jason and the crew at Grimm Family Farm as they demonstrate step by step their new on-farm poultry processing setup.
This field day will consist of a hands-on live demonstration of processing chickens. Jason will also discuss processing equipment and share how to navigate licensing for processing on-farm.

Bus Trip to Northfield, Minnesota Raising Regenerative Tree-Range Poultry

Aug. 27 | Northfield, MN

Hop on the bus with other poultry enthusiasts to tour and learn from Reginaldo "Regi" Haslett-Marroquín and Wil Crombie of the Regenerative Agriculture Alliance in Northfield, Minnesota. Both Regi and Wil will share how Tree-Range Chickens are raised in a coop and paddock system that integrates trees and perennial crops like hazelnuts and elderberries.

Regenerative Grazing with Mobile Infrastructure and Livestock Guardian Dogs

Oct. 5 | Wilton, IA

Join JR Jenkins of Pleasant Prairie Stock Farm, to learn about rotationally grazing cattle and sheep on pasture and cover crops.

JR solely grazes on leased land, breeds and trains livestock guardian dogs, direct markets 100% grass-fed beef and lamb, and owns a custom fence company.

Get the latest up dates regarding bird flu from IDALS
The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship has the latest updates and developments on the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza. The latest outbreak was on May 3 in a backyard flock in Bremer County, IA.

BEYOND THE GATE

Check out this free grazing chart

Having an organized plan for your livestock and your land can be a key to success.

With the grazing season starting, this chart can be used to plan out your grazing schedule.

UPCOMING EVENTS

"Livestock on the Land" screening coming to Harlan on Saturday

Join us for a screening of our feature-length film, "Livestock on the Land," on Saturday, May 21 from 7:30-10 p.m. in Harlan, Iowa.

The film goes beyond the science to show how livestock are central threads connecting people, diversifying farms, protecting soil and water and anchoring rural communities.

Learn more about the film and this screening!

May 19: Event - Oak Creek Pastures Pasture Walk
Hosted by: Land Stewardship Project
5-8 p.m. | Ossian, IA

May 21: Film Screening - Livestock on the Land Screening at Pin Oak Place
Hosted by: PFI
7:30-10 p.m. | Harlan, IA

June 1 & 2: Conference - Four-State Dairy Nutrition and Management Conference
Hosted by: ISU Extension
Dubuque, IA

June 9: Event - Advanced Grazing for Regenerating Soil and Enhancing Animal Nutrition
Hosted by: NCAT ATTRA
5-6:30 p.m. | Online
May 28: Event - Meat Goat Pasture Walk  
Hosted by: Uplands Watershed Group  
Noon-4 p.m. | Dodgeville, WI

May 26: Event - Advanced Grazing for Regenerating Soil and Enhancing Animal Nutrition  
Hosted by: NCAT ATTRA  
5-6:30 p.m. | Online

June 17: Field Day - Pastured Pigs and Poultry Field Day  
Hosted by: Okoboji Organics  
11 a.m. | Okoboji, IA

Field days will begin in June - stay tuned!

POLL

How do you keep track of your grazing plan?

A grazing management app  
Select

Pencil and paper works for me  
Select

Spreadsheets!  
Select

Another way  
Select

I need a better plan  
Select

Previous poll results:

What months do you calve, lamb, and kid?

- March-April (40%)
- April-May (30%)
- February-March (15%)
- May-June (15%)
- January-February (0%)

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

Looking for more? Contact us today!