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PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

The
MONTHLY
FEEDSTUFF

July 2022

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



As we enter the hottest part of the year, **heat mitigation strategies for livestock are important** to consider. Already this year **thousands of cattle have died** from heat stress in southwestern Kansas. Shade, water and an awareness of the weather forecast are critical to maintaining a healthy herd. In the most extreme conditions, adapting feed and handling strategies, and even mitigating levels of flies can help cool livestock.

The University of Missouri Extension produced a **chart** to factor heat and humidity to determine the temperature danger zone, as well as a **video** on managing heat stress.

The University of Nebraska Extension has a [guide](#) specifically for heat stress management in feedlot cattle, but the basic theories are universal across all production systems.

PROGRAM UPDATES

PFI is hiring a livestock viability manager!

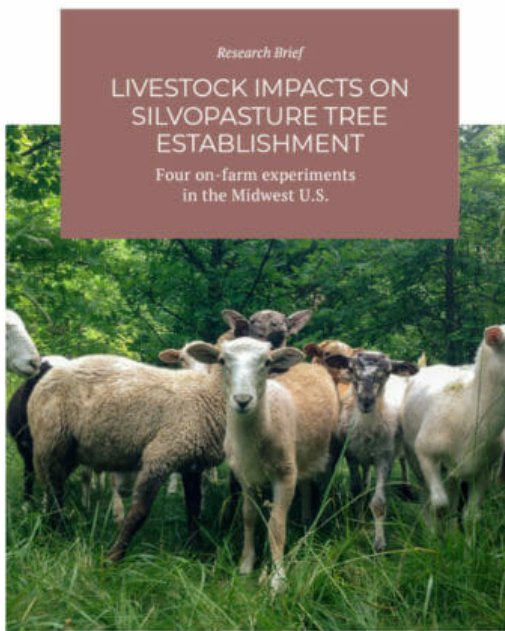


If you are passionate about bringing livestock back to the land, advancing the adoption of grazing systems and ensuring fair farm livelihoods for regenerative producers, this role is for you.

[The livestock viability manager](#) will play a pivotal role in shaping our livestock programming – building, testing and scaling creative solutions that respond to the needs of PFI farmers as they implement new practices and seek markets.

BEYOND THE GATE

Livestock impacts on silvopasture tree establishment



Focused on midwest ecosystems, this [project from the Savannah Institute](#) compared **three different tree protection methods for newly planted silvopasture**: wire cages, electric fences and tree tubes. These were put to the test by sheep, hogs and cattle.

The farms included in the experiment planted trees directly into already established pasture, as well as pasture being converted from row crop.

Check out [this video](#) on establishing silvopasture by Keefe Keeley from the 2019 PFI Annual Conference!

PFI summer magazine article: "Nourishing Community through Local Meat"



Directly marketing meat can be a way to capture more of the consumer dollar. By bypassing the middlemen – wholesalers, distributors and retailers – direct marketing allows meat producers to receive retail value for their product.

For the farmers behind **Crooked Gap Farm** and **Over the Moon Farm & Flowers**, **direct marketing and developing personal connections** with customers has been key to getting established in the marketplace.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PFI Events



(Newly arrived chicks avoiding the action at Grimm Family Farm during their "On-Farm Poultry Processing and Licensing" field day on June 24.)

Join us at an upcoming field day! **Read the PFI field day guide** to learn more about our 40+ summer events. All field days are FREE and open to everyone!

Field day: Cover Crops, Cattle and Conservation Projects Supporting Biodiversity



July 30 | 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. | Glidden, IA

John Van Horn will interseed annual ryegrass and cereal rye into his standing corn and soybeans. His aims are to grow fall forage for his 100-head of cattle and to help with weed control.

[Join us on a tour of his complex network](#) of farmland consisting of row crops with cover crops, pastures, butterfly habitat, quail buffers and a 140-acre wetland to discuss his current on-farm research trials.

Field day: Linking Cover Crops, Cattle and Neighbors



Aug. 4 | 10 a. m. - Noon | Mount Carroll, IL

Justin and Ellen Rahn invite you to learn how they are making the most of cover cropping on their 1,200-acre farm.

[Seeding cover crops after corn, soybean and small-grain harvests](#) allows the Rahns' cattle herds to graze on cover crops in the spring, summer and fall.

They also work with neighboring farmer, **Doug Linker**, to get their livestock on even more land.

Field day: Flipping the Table on Soil Health With Silvopasture at Yellow Table Farm

Aug. 9 | 2 - 4 p.m. | Tripoli, IA

After converting 15 acres of row crop ground to diverse annual vegetables and pasture five years ago, **Eric and Courtney Jensen** are now planting



chestnuts and other trees to create a silvopasture system on their farm.

We'll see how they have integrated livestock alongside their diverse vegetable enterprise and budding chestnut orchard. They will give a hands-on demonstration of establishing chestnut seedlings and fencing for pasture-raised sheep.

Land connection meet-up: Grazing Lease with Mary Damm



August 13 | 10 a.m. - Noon | McGregor, IA

Mary Damm is looking for a grazer who understands that a diversity of plant and animal species can co-exist alongside cattle.

This gathering includes a pasture walk to discuss grazing, bird habitat and the potential improvements that could be made by a renter, followed by a panel discussion about grazing leases.

Send questions and RSVP directly to **Martha McFarland** at martha@practicalfarmers.org

This event is FREE and open to everyone. Learn more about our land connection meet-ups [here!](#)

Coming up in the next month

July 20: Webinar - Integrating Livestock with Organic Crops

Hosted by: The Organic Center
1 p.m. | Online

July 26: Pasture Walk - Summer Pasture Walk

Hosted by: Great River Graziers/Kickapoo Grazing Initiative
10:30 a.m. | Viroqua, WI

Aug. 17: Field Day - Regenerative Farming and Grazing with Allen Williams

Hosted by: The Land Stewardship Project
9 a.m. - 4 p.m. | Dakota, MN

Aug. 18: Field Day - Regenerative Farming and Grazing with Allen Williams

Hosted by: The Land Stewardship Project

Aug. 16: Pasture Walk - Summer Pasture Walk

Hosted by: Great River Graziers/Kickapoo

Grazing Initiative

10:30 a.m. | Gays Mills, WI

View more upcoming events on our website

POLL

What is the main way you manage the 'summer slump'?

Rest perennial pastures

Select

Feed hay

Select

Graze annual forages

Select

Graze CRP/prairie

Select

Keep grazing as normal

Select

Previous poll results:

How many PFI field days do you plan on attending?

- **One - 50%**
- **Three to five - 25%**
- Zero - 25%
- Two to three - 0%
- More than five - 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

STAY CONNECTED



Looking for more? Contact us today!

Amos Johnson

Livestock Education Coordinator

