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The
**MONTHLY
FEEDSTUFF**

February 2023

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

Fencing Techniques for Difficult Terrain



The PFI annual conference was a rousing success! A record number of attendees learned about topics ranging from pastured pigs, to grazing native perennials, to small ruminant parasites. Not to mention the chance to connect with friends old and new!

In case you missed it, or would just like to revisit the great session, [here is the recording](#) of **Tom Beard** and **Margaret Chamas** talking about fencing techniques on difficult terrain. Tom covers cows and sheep, while Margaret explains why "goats are jerks!"

PROGRAM UPDATES

PFI Grazing Consultation Program



PFI is offering one-on-one grazing consultations in 2023. Trying to get out of a grazing “rut” or want some insight to plan a new grazing project?

Not sure what your land might be most suited for, or want a second set of eyes to check your plans?

Contact Margaret Chamas at margaret.chamas@practicalfarmers.org for more information.

Grazing Kernza® with Small Ruminants



Kernza® is a perennial grain that has the unique ability to be grazed twice in a season without affecting grain yield.

[Check out this blog](#) about how **Ben Penner** and **Matt Goettl** work together for the mutual benefit of soil and sheep.

If you a grazier looking for a landowner, or vice versa, check out the [Midwest Grazing Exchange](#) to see who’s in your area to connect with.

BEYOND THE GATE

Heroes to Hives

[Heroes to Hives](#) is a unique program that seeks to address financial and personal wellness of veterans through free professional training and community development centered around beekeeping.

Students participate in a nine-month comprehensive education program that couples online lectures with hands-on learning.



Open to veterans anywhere. Workshops offered in Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska.

Applications open through February

Match Made in Heaven Survey



**Match Made in Heaven
Livestock + Crops**

Integration of crops and livestock brings both benefits and challenges. **The “Match Made In Heaven” survey** needs your help to understand what’s working and what isn’t in integrating crops and livestock. They want to hear where you’re at and learn about your interests, experiences and barriers around integration.

“Match Made In Heaven: Livestock + Crops” is a partnership between crop and livestock associations, universities, public agencies and soil/water groups.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PFI Events

All events below are listed in central daylight time.

Farminar: Pricing Pastured Poultry



Feb. 21 | Online

In between producing a top-quality poultry product and marketing it to customers, farmers must complete a crucial step: setting the price. This number represents all the time, work and money you put into raising your bird. Deciding on an equitable value while remaining accessible to customers can be daunting.

In this farminar, experienced farmer Ben Grimes discusses the practicalities and considerations of pricing with beginning farmers Anna Hankins and Shae Pesek.

Bison, Beef and Tribal Food Sovereignty



Feb. 28 | Online

The history and culture of the Lakota people are intrinsically intertwined with bison. [In this farminar](#), **Jayme Murray** will discuss the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe's work to develop food security on the Cheyenne River Reservation by purchasing a state-inspected facility to process the Tribe's beef and bison.

He'll discuss the challenges of getting the meat into local grocery stores and schools, as well as successes, community reception and the importance of food sovereignty.

Friends of PFI Events

Feb. 20: Webinar- [Katahdin Sheep: A Versatile Breed for Pasture and Silvopasture](#)

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

Feb. 23-25: Conference - [The Marbleseed \(formerly MOSES\) Organic Farming Conference](#)

Hosted by: Marbleseed
La Crosse, WI

Visit PFI staff at this event!

Feb. 28: Conference - [Iowa Forage and Grassland Council Conference](#)

Hosted by: The Iowa Forage and Grassland Council
9:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. | Ames, IA

Mar. 2: Conference - [Midwest Covers and Grains Conference](#)

Hosted by: Practical Farmers of Iowa
9 a.m.- 4:30 p.m. | Cedar Rapids, IA

Mar. 15: Webinar- [Selling Direct-to-Customer Whole and Half Pastured Hogs](#)

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

Mar. 23: Workshop - [Ranching for Profit Workshop: 3 Secrets for Increasing Your Profit](#)

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

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

POLL

What field day topics are you most interested in?

Grazing cover crops

Select

Grazing native perennials

Select

Fiber production

Select

Pastured or deep-bedded pigs

Select

Pastured poultry

Select

I want to learn about it all!

Select

I have another idea that I'm going to tell Amos!

Select

Previous poll results:

Which farminar are you most excited to attend?

- Noon on Tuesdays isn't a good time for me - 26.3%
- Pricing Pastured Poultry - 21.1%
- Integrated Crop-Livestock Grazing - 21.1%
- More than one! - 21.1%
- Another one, not listed - 5.3%
- Bison, Beef and Tribal Food Sovereignty - 5.3%

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!

Margaret Chamas

Livestock Viability Manager

margaret.chamas@practicalfarmers.org

Amos Johnson

Livestock Education Coordinator

amos.johnson@practicalfarmers.org

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