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PRACTICAL FARMERS  
*of Iowa*

The  
MONTHLY  
FEEDSTUFF

May 2023

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



## Field day season has arrived!

Get ready for a fantastic [line-up of 40-plus farmer-led field days](#).

This year's livestock field days range the gamut from cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep and goats.

You'll learn about grazing permanent pasture and cover crops, hands-on sheep shearing, generational transition, integrating animals in the midst of row crops and so much more!

PFI field days are free and open to everyone.

**Members:** Watch the mailbox for the PFI printed field day guide coming soon!

[View the full lineup and RSVP today](#)

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### What to think about when you're thinking about chicks



The grass is green, tulips are blooming and the local farm supply store is filled with peeps from hundreds of tiny beaks.

**Amber Mohr**, of Fork Tail Farm, shared her wisdom and insight [in this latest entry on the PFI blog](#).

"Every year is different, every season is different and every breed is a little different," Amber says. "It's about watching the animal, not a clock or a schedule."

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### New magazine article: "Finding Clarity"



For years, **Dayna Burtness** worked full-time on vegetable farms, grinding herself into burnout. Until a Holistic Management class made her pause.

Originally developed by **Allan Savory**, Holistic Management, is a multi-step process that provides a framework for making decisions.

[Read about how farmers are using this tool to find clarity in their lives and solve problems at their source on their farms.](#)

**Book a grazing consultation today**



Want to talk through your grazing plans for 2023 and beyond?

[Book a call to talk to Margaret Chamas, PFI's livestock viability manager, online today!](#)

Margaret will work with you to identify some goals and outcomes to achieve. Her specialty is ruminants, but she will also take calls (or find an expert) for monogastric animals and poultry.



## BEYOND THE GATE

### Article: "Managing Livestock Heat Stress"



As the weather warms, it's hard to say exactly what kind of summer we'll have. Needless to say, it will be hot. If current climate trends continue, summer temperatures will keep rising, creating additional stress for livestock.

**Kathy Voth** of On Pasture gives an [overview of how to manage livestock heat stress](#). She explains some of the issues facing different species as the temperatures rise and how to address their needs.

### Podcast: "She's Raising Sheep"

What are the secrets to success in raising sheep?

For Wyoming rancher, shepherd and world champion stockdog trainer **Wendy Auzqui**, the answers lie in our attitudes, our powers of observation and our willingness to cooperate with, rather than battle against, nature.

[In this episode of "Voices from the Field,"](#) Wendy has a conversation with **Linda Poole**, focusing on raising Rambouillets on an integrated cattle, sheep and hay ranch.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PFI Events

All events below are listed in Central Time.

## Field day: Creating a Soil Health System With No-Till, Cover Crops and Livestock



**June 17 | 4:30-6:30 p.m.**

Kurash Family Farm is located near Fort Atkinson, Iowa, where the family raises corn, soybeans, rye, hay and beef cattle.

They no-till and plant green for both corn and soybeans, drill hybrid rye in the fall and drill a cover crop mix following rye in the summer. At **this field day**, **Ross Kurash** will discuss how he has made cover crops and no-till work on his farm and is working towards his soil health goals.

### Friends of PFI Events

**May 17: Webinar - [Webinar Part 1: Transitioning to Certified Organic Beef Cattle and Broilers](#)**

Hosted by: Rodale Institute  
3-4 p.m. | Online

**May 31: Field Day - [Sauk County Pasture Walk: Multi-species Grazing](#)**

Hosted by: Sauk County  
6 p.m. | Baraboo, WI

**May 27: Field Day - [Golden Sands RC&D Pasture Walk](#)**

Hosted by: Golden Sands RC&D  
1:30-3 p.m. | Larsen, WI

**Jun. 6: Webinar - [Preventative Healthcare in Organic Dairy Production](#)**

Hosted by: USDA NRCS  
4 p.m. | Online

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

## POLL

What makes you want to attend a PFI field day?

Answer the poll question below:

**The topics**

Select

**The speakers**

Select

**The time and location**

Select

**Knowing other people who are attending**

Select

**A free meal!**

Select

**A mixture of all of the above**

Select

**Previous poll results:**

### How's the grazing season looking?

- **I'd like some more rain, but I'm not grazing yet. - 42.1%**
- Everything's greening up nicely, but I'm not grazing yet - **31.6%**
- Everything's greening up nicely, so I've already started grazing. - **10.5%**
- I'd like some more rain, but I've already started grazing - **10.5%**
- I graze year-round, so I never stopped! - **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](mailto:amos.johnson@practicalfarmers.org)

STAY CONNECTED



**Looking for more? Contact us today!**

**Margaret Chamas**

*Livestock Viability Manager*

[margaret.chamas@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:margaret.chamas@practicalfarmers.org)

**Amos Johnson**

*Livestock Education Coordinator*

[amos.johnson@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:amos.johnson@practicalfarmers.org)

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