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The  
**MONTHLY  
FEEDSTUFF**

June 2023

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



## Meeting livestock water needs in drought

According to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#), almost all of Iowa is experiencing some level of drought. In the best of times, making sure animals have access to water is important, but it's extra important when forage provides less moisture and dry heat causes stress.

[This blog post from A Greener World](#) highlights the importance of both access to water and the palatability of water. They found that while bad water can make an animal sick, the biggest negative to health and productivity comes from an animal simply not drinking enough water due to unpalatability and lack of access. Sometimes the old adage is true: you can bring a horse to water, but you can't make it drink.

For more on providing livestock with good access to quality water, [check out this PFI farminar on infrastructure for permanent or temporary pasture.](#)

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### On-farm research: Natural dewormer appears to be a viable option in year-one trial



**Dayna Burtness**, who raises pigs on pasture at Nettle Valley Farm in southeast Minnesota, started a PFI research trial in 2022 to find out how a natural dewormer (SwineX) compared with a chemical dewormer (levamisole).

“I honestly didn’t think the SwineX would work,” Dayna says. After seeing the results – no significant difference – she is becoming convinced that SwineX may be a viable option. [Check out her findings in our latest research report.](#)

### Match livestock with land on the Midwest Grazing Exchange



Find the livestock or land match that’s right for you on our [Midwest Grazing Exchange](#).

This site is a free matchmaking service that aims to **connect graziers and landowners** in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri and Wisconsin.

Graziers can search for forage for their animals, and landowners can search for livestock to graze their land. [Create an account to get started.](#)

## BEYOND THE GATE

### Make Social Media Work for Your Market: Why It’s So Important, and What to Focus on Right Now



Farmers market season is in full swing, and it's important that people know where and when they can buy from you!

**In this video from the National Center for Appropriate Technology, Shannon Loy**, also known as "The Social Ginger," talks about how social media can work for farmers markets and which social media platforms might be the best choices in 2023.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### PFI Events

*All events below are listed in Central Time.*

### Field day: "Closing the Loop With Complementary Enterprises"



**Saturday, July 8 | 3-5 p.m.**

Join Brice Hundling and his family on their farm in Breda, Iowa.

They raise sheep and goats for direct-to-consumer sales; pigs and cattle for Niman Ranch; and grain.

At this field day, you'll learn about Nofence's pilot program, grazing cover crops with small ruminants, planting an edible windbreak with NRCS funds and more! [RSVP here.](#)

### Field day: "Shifting to Regenerative While Transitioning Generations"

**Friday, July 14 | 10 a.m.-Noon**

**Natasha Wilson** runs West Fork Farmstead with her parents in West Chester, Iowa.

Together, the family is building a pasture-based rotational grazing system that prioritizes happy and healthy livestock while also caring for the land and their community.





West Fork Farmstead offers grass-fed beef, heritage pork, pastured chickens, chicken and duck eggs and raw honey. [RSVP online today.](#)

## Friends of PFI events

### **June 22: Field Day – [Organic Dairy & Swine Day](#)**

*Hosted by: University of Minnesota Extension*  
11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. | Morris, MN

### **June 26: Meet-Up – [Pasture Walk](#)**

*Hosted by: Iowa State University Extension*  
5:30-8:45 p.m. | Castana, IA

### **June 22: Field Day – [Pasture Tour: Island Lake Farm](#)**

*Hosted by: Sustainable Farming Association*  
2:30-4:30 p.m. | Deerwood, MN

### **July 12-15: Workshop – [Sheep for Profit School](#)**

*Hosted by: Minnesota West Community & Technical College*  
Pipestone, MN

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

## POLL

How many field days do you plan on attending?

Answer the poll question below:

**One**

Select

**Two to three**

Select

**Four to five**

Select

**More than five!**

Select

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**Previous poll results:**

**What makes you want to attend a PFI field day?**

- **A mixture of all of the above - 38.9%**
- The time and location - 33.3%
- The topics - 16.7%
- The speakers - 5.6%
- Knowing other people who are attending - 5.6%
- A free meal! - 0%

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**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)

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STAY CONNECTED



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

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