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The
**MONTHLY
FEEDSTUFF**

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



How livestock farmers are coping with drought

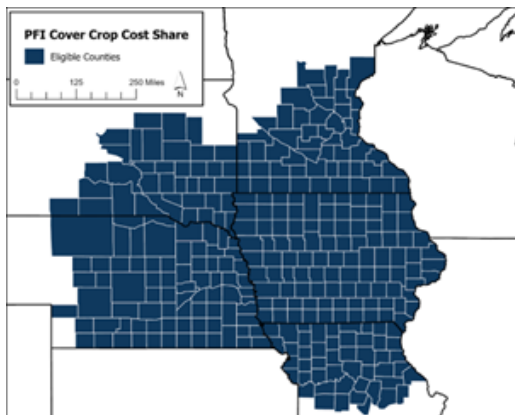
It starts to feel like it's the same news month after month, but as drought continues to grip the Midwest and pastures continue to brown, deepening the normal summer slump, it's a topic front of mind for many. The University of Wisconsin Extension has a [fact-sheet on reducing the impact of drought](#) and how to adapt when drought hits.

In this article, the University of Nebraska Extension shares factors to consider as farmers decide whether drought-stressed corn is worth more harvested as silage than grain.

For more on how PFI members are adapting to increasingly frequent and intensive droughts, check out **[this article from the Winter 2022 magazine](#)**, featuring **Stennie Nelson, Russ Wischover and Andy Welch**.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Apply for \$10 per acre cover crop cost-share ahead of harvest season



If you're planning to seed covers this fall for grazing and farm in one of these counties, you're likely eligible for our cover crop cost-share.

Payment rates are \$10 per acre on an unlimited number of acres. This program is stackable with any publicly funded cost-share program.

[View program details and eligibility requirements, and apply online](#), or call (515) 232-5661, and press 2 to chat with us about the program.

Stay tuned for future PFI funding opportunities



Many of you expressed interest in grazing cost-share opportunities. While we don't have any livestock-related cost-share at this moment, we expect to in the near future.

The best ways to make sure you hear about them first are by reading this monthly email and **[subscribing to our weekly email, Practical News](#)**. Thank you for your interest and patience!

BEYOND THE GATE

Farm Health Online



[Farm Health Online](#) is a free website for farmers, ranchers, advisors and veterinarians, offering practical advice to support animal health management in outdoor systems. It brings together material from a wide range of recent research and advisory sources making it accessible for farmers and ranchers.

[You can also read this summary of a PFI field day](#) focused on hands-on livestock care.

UPCOMING EVENTS

PFI Events

All events below are listed in Central Time.

Field day: The Secrets of Stock Cropping



Saturday, Aug. 26 | 10 a.m.-Noon | Buffalo Center, IA

Zack Smith's operation is centered on conservation practices like strip-till and planting cover crops on 100% of his acres – which he has done since 2014 – along with innovative cropping experimentation. In 2020, he started work on the Stock Cropper project, a system of integrating livestock and crop production in the same field at the same time.

[RSVP](#) and join Zack to learn about his unique system and how he's integrating conservation on his farm.

Field day: Pastured Pigs in a Wagon Wheel Pasture at Nettle Valley Farm



**Saturday, Sept. 9 | 10 a.m.-Noon |
Spring Grove, MN**

Dayna Burtness runs Nettle Valley Farm with help from her husband **Nick Nguyen**. Dayna finishes about 75-80 pigs each year on diverse, pollinator-oriented annual and perennial pastures using a barn-plus-pasture hybrid model. Nettle Valley Farm also has an incubator farm program, pastured egg layers and seasonal brush goats.

RSVP to attend and learn about how Dayna manages her pigs and goats!

Field day: Visual Soil Assessments and Johnson-Su Compost



**Wednesday, Sept. 13 | 2-5 p.m. |
Winterset, IA**

Rory and Lynette Van Wyk own and operate RoLyn Hills Farm. They raise grass-fed beef and lamb and pastured pork and poultry. Currently, they are experimenting with spreading Johnson-Su compost extract – a compost method that requires little manual labor, no turning and produces no odors – on pasture with a goal to improve the health of their land, livestock and community by restoring soil health.

RSVP and join the Van Wyk family to learn about this unique composting method, how to visually assess soil and more!

Field day: Pastured Eggs 101



Saturday, Sept. 16 | 10 a.m.-Noon | Blair, NE

Marief Barreras operates Barreras Family Farm, raising cattle, pigs, chickens, turkeys and pastured eggs, along with seasonal fruit and vegetables marketed through a CSA. She also runs a farm-to-table market in Omaha.

RSVP to learn about the fundamentals of pastured egg production, preventing predation, fencing, pricing, market viability and sales avenues.

Field day: Grazing Cover Crops for Soil Health



Tuesday, Sept. 19 | 10 a.m.-Noon | Ashton, IA

Aaron Alons raises grass-fed and -finished beef, selling directly to consumers. Working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, he has transitioned two row crop fields to perennial pastures in the last three years. Aaron is also partnering to graze his cattle on 114 acres farmed by Andy Getting, who raises organic row crops including corn, soybeans, oats and hay. Andy's farm is in year two of organic transition and is planted to oats with a cover crop that will be grazed by Aaron's cattle after oat harvest.

RSVP to learn about turning rowcrop to permanent pasture and grazing covers for soil health.

Upcoming Events

Aug. 19: Meet-up – Pasture Walk
Hosted by: Central Iowa Grazing Group
10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | Gilbralter, IA
RSVP: (515) 215-2914

Aug. 24: Field Day – Dung Beetle Pasture Walk
Hosted by: Sustainable Farming Association
2-5 p.m. | Pine Rover, MN

Aug. 19: Field Day – On-Farm

Discussion: Custom Grazing

Hosted by: Land Stewardship Project

10 a.m.-1 p.m. | Rushford, MN

**Aug. 21: Webinar – Non-traditional
Bee Hives**

Hosted by: Iowa Beekeeping Learning Circle

7 p.m. | Online

**Aug. 27: Field Day – Pasture
Renovation and Establishing**

Silvopasture with Multi-species

Rotational Grazing

Hosted by: Sustainable Farming Association

2-5 p.m. | Poplar, WI

**Sep. 19: Webinar – Conservation
Stewardship Program Practices for
Grazing Lands**

Hosted by: Food Animal Concerns Trust

1 p.m. | Online

View more upcoming events on our website

POLL

What are you most interested in learning about at the PFI annual conference?

Answer the poll question below:

Anything grazing related.

Poultry stuff.

Pigs, pigs, pigs!

Small ruminant-specific.

Cattle, please.

Something else I'll email Amos about right now!

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!

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