

The Monthly Feedstuff - Grazing intensive short course is back!

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**November 2023**

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



**Register for the 2024 Annual Conference and grazing intensive short course**

**[Registration for PFI's 2024 Annual Conference](#)**, happening Jan. 19-20, is now open. Please note: We're excited to be hosting the conference at the **Iowa Events Center in Des Moines this year!**

This year's conference will cover livestock topics like managing grazing during drought, establishing a meat CSA and overwintering honeybees. [Register today!](#)

**BONUS:** Our pre-conference [grazing intensive short course](#) is back by popular demand! Discover how **Greg Judy**, over years of trial and error, built a profitable grazing enterprise. You'll learn which techniques have helped Greg create healthy soil, resilient adaptive grazing systems and financial security on his farm.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### New magazine article: "A Milky Way"



Facing a tough dairy market, three small-scale Iowa dairies have adapted their businesses to keep doing what they love.

[In this article from the fall issue of the PFI magazine](#), hear what the **Hansen family, Francis Thicke and Tom Weighner** are doing at their farms to capture more value from their milk.

### Last call to apply for PFI's Savings Incentive Program



The Savings Incentive Program offers targeted learning, mentorship from experienced farmers, goal-setting support and the opportunity to save up to \$2,400 matched by PFI.

To apply, you must be a PFI member, have seven or fewer years of farming experience and farm in Iowa or an adjoining county.

[Eligible candidates are encouraged to apply by Nov. 20.](#)

## BEYOND THE GATE

### New animal health and welfare resource



*Is this an issue that will clear itself up in a few days, or do I call a vet?*

**Farm Health Online** was created by Duchy College, Animal Welfare Approved and A Greener World to help answer questions like these.

Their website brings together appropriate material from recent research and advisory sources, making it accessible for farmers, veterinarians and advisors.

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## Does your pasture suffer from soil compaction?



- Has your pasture been plagued by poor plant growth?
- Do your plants begin to go dormant as soon as the rain or irrigation stops or when it gets hot?
- Does water pond on the surface of your pasture either during or right after a rain or irrigation event?
- Does water run off your pasture to the point that it leaves behind ugly scars of erosion or floods out other areas that are lower in the landscape?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then your pasture likely has soil compaction. Learn about its impact in [this article from the National Center for Appropriate Technology](#).

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## High fed cattle prices but narrow margins—a few strategies



Cattle inventories in the US have declined, but labor, fuel and feed costs have all risen leading to slim margins in the cattle market.

**[This article](#)** from the University of Nebraska Extension gives context for the current market and gives a few strategies to manage risk heading into winter.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Upcoming PFI events

*All events listed in Central Time.*

**Jan. 18-19: Short Course –**  
**[Grazing Intensive Short Course](#)**

All Day | Des Moines, IA

**Jan. 19-20: Conference – [PFI](#)**  
**[Annual Conference](#)**

All Day | Des Moines, IA

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### Friends of PFI events

**Nov. 20: Webinar – Fencing and grazing management strategies for sheep and goats**

Hosted by: University of Minnesota Extension  
7:30-9 p.m. | [Online](#)

**Nov. 29: Workshop – Beef Cow-Calf Production, Management, and Marketing**

Hosted by: Iowa State University Extension  
3:30-6 p.m. | Holstein, IA  
Contact: [gaydo@iastate.edu](mailto:gaydo@iastate.edu)

**Dec. 14: Webinar – Antibiotics, Antibiotic Resistance and Stewardship on the Farm**

Hosted by: Food Animal Concerns Trust  
2 p.m. | [Online](#)

**Nov. 21: Workshop – Winter Cow Feed Planning Workshop**

Hosted by: Iowa State University Extension  
12:30-2:30 p.m. | Postville, IA  
Contact: [dschwab@iastate.edu](mailto:dschwab@iastate.edu)

**Dec. 5: Webinar – Pricing your Products for Maximum Profit**

Hosted by: Food Animal Concerns Trust  
2 p.m. | [Online](#)

**Dec. 18-19: Conference – Inaugural Genetic Symposium**

Hosted by: Iowa State University Extension  
All Day | Ames, IA

[View our events calendar](#)

## Contact our team

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