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Practical
NEWS

September 4, 2023

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Tap into a community of knowledge-sharing with a PFI membership

"Wherever you are in your farming journey, I encourage you to tap into this resource and join Practical Farmers of Iowa," says **Rebekah Ahrens** of Milan,

Illinois.

Join over 6,000 farmers, landowners and supporters in PFI's network who can provide practical advice on production, conservation and business management practices.

In addition to connecting with this network, membership benefits include a subscription to our [quarterly magazine](#), [invitations to 100-plus events annually](#), eligibility to participate in our [members-only email discussion groups](#) and more.

[Join or renew today](#)

NEWS

Grazing infrastructure cost-share is back! Apply today



PFI has funding for new grazing infrastructure cost-share programs in 2023.

If you're an aspiring or existing grazier who wishes to adopt regenerative practices, you could receive up to \$5,000 to purchase **portable fencing supplies, water transport supplies and portable housing for grazing livestock.**

[Submit your application.](#)

Applications are open for PFI's Tedesco Farm



Apply to farm at the beautiful and centrally located Tedesco Farm in Granger, Iowa.

This property includes **11 acres of land for production**, well water, outbuildings, a heated soft-sided greenhouse and a working cooler.

We are seeking a tenant for the 2024 growing season with the potential for a longer-term lease in 2025.

Angela Tedesco donated this land to PFI in 2016. [Read her Farm Legacy Letter.](#)

Applications are due on Sept. 15 and our selection will be announced in November.

Getting started with cover crops on a vegetable farm



How can cover crops be incorporated into vegetable production systems?

Kate Edwards of Solon, Iowa, started using rye as a cover crop several years ago and, over time, has found many ways to fit various types of cover crops into her rotations to help build her soil. [Learn how in our latest "Practical Cover Croppers" video.](#)

Last chance to nominate a deserving farmer for our Sustainable Agriculture Achievement Award



2021 award winners Paul and Nancy Ackley. [Read their story.](#)

Sept. 10 is the last day to nominate someone for our 2024 Sustainable Agriculture Achievement Award.

Don't miss your chance to suggest a deserving recipient!

Every year, we give this award to the individual or couple who has shown exemplary commitment to sustainable agriculture, generously shared their knowledge with others and been influential in efforts to foster vibrant communities, diverse farms and healthy food.

[Nominate someone you know.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Field days



Sept. 9: Field Day – Pastured Pigs in a Wagon Wheel Pasture at Nettle Valley Farm

Hosts: Dayna Burtness & Nick Nguyen

10 a.m.-Noon | Spring Grove, MN

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



Sept. 10: Field Day – Transitioning to No-Till, Tarping and More

Hosts: Hannah Breckbill & Emily Fagan

3-5 p.m. | Decorah, IA

Humble Hands Harvest is a worker-owned cooperative farm with 2-plus acres of organic vegetables, grass-finished lamb, pastured pork and perennial crops. Co-farmers **Hannah Breckbill and Emily Fagan** have moved to no-till vegetable production over the last several years. Come learn from their experiences. [**RSVP**](#)

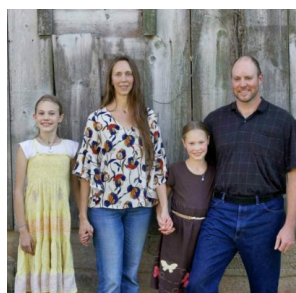


Sept. 10: Award Ceremony – Farmland Owner Legacy Award Celebration

Hosts: PFI, Humble Hands Harvest & Hidden Falls, LLC

5-8 p.m. | Decorah, IA

Join us to celebrate the founders of Hidden Falls, LLC, who banded together in 2014 to purchase an environmentally sensitive piece of farmland and eventually transfer it to Humble Hands Harvest. [**RSVP**](#)



Sept. 13: Field Day – Visual Soil Assessments and Johnson-Su Compost

Hosts: Rory & Lynette Van Wyk

2-5 p.m. | Winterset, IA

Rory and Lynette Van Wyk 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. Learn more at this soil health-focused event. [**RSVP**](#)

[View the full field day schedule](#)

More upcoming events

Sept. 6: Field Day – [Microgreens and Marketing to Build a Food System in Northwest Iowa](#)

Hosts: Calvin & Krissy Thiessen
10 a.m.-1 p.m. | Spirit Lake, IA

Sept. 8: Field Day – [Creating Space for Conservation and Regenerative Practices With Supportive Landowners](#)

Hosts: Josh Nelson & Family
12:30-2:30 p.m. | Belmond, IA

Sept. 8: Field Day – [Going With the Flow: Saturated Buffers to Improve Water Quality](#)

Hosts: Jerry Vander Wert
1-3 p.m. | Pella, IA

Sept. 8: Spanish Workshop – [Hands-On Harvesting](#)

Hosts: Kate Mendenhall
9:30 a.m.-Noon | Okoboji, IA

Sept. 16: Field Day – [Pastured Eggs 101](#)

Host: Mariel Barreras
10 a.m.-Noon | Blair, NE

[Beginning Farmer Social](#) to follow

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Jim Fitkin of Cedar Falls, IA, was featured in [The Courier](#): [Cedar Falls popcorn grower gives visitors a glimpse of the business during field day.](#)

Brian Corkill of Galva, IL, was featured in [Our Quad Cities](#): [Learn about drone, robot planting with Illinois Extension](#)

Dayna Burtness and Nick Nguyen of Spring Grove, MN, were featured in [The Caledonia Argus](#): [Pastured Pigs in a Wagon Wheel Pasture at Nettle Valley Farm](#)

Corbin Scholz of Iowa City, IA, and **Hannah Breckbill** of Decorah, IA, were featured in [Ag Daily](#): [Despite obstacles, LGBTQ farmers find fertile ground in Midwest](#)

Jerry and Marie Vander Wert of Pella, IA, and **Don Willemssen** of Pella, IA, were featured in [The Oskaloosa Herald](#): [Practical Farmers of Iowa to host water quality field day near Pella](#)

Nick Wallace of Keystone, IA, **Doug Stonebreaker** of Dubuque, IA, and **Christa Hartsook** of Ames, IA, were featured in [The Gazette: Benton County farmer aims to drive big agriculture changes through small-scale farming](#)

Wade Dooley of Albion, IA, was featured in [Times-Republican: Albion farmer hosts Field Day, showcases CRP land](#)

PFI in the News

Morgan Jennings, PFI's field crops viability coordinator, was featured on [KCII Radio: JJ Nitching Company in Touch with Southeast Iowa with Morgan Jennings](#)

PFI was mentioned in a news release by [Sand County Foundation: Loran Steinlage Receives Iowa Leopold Conservation Award](#)

Have you been featured in the media? If you're a PFI member, tell us when and where to find a link to the article, and we'll feature you in a future issue of Practical News.

Contact: elizabeth.wilhelm@practicalfarmers.org

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