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PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

Practical
NEWS

October 2, 2023

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Drone-seeded cover crops at Bent Gate Farm

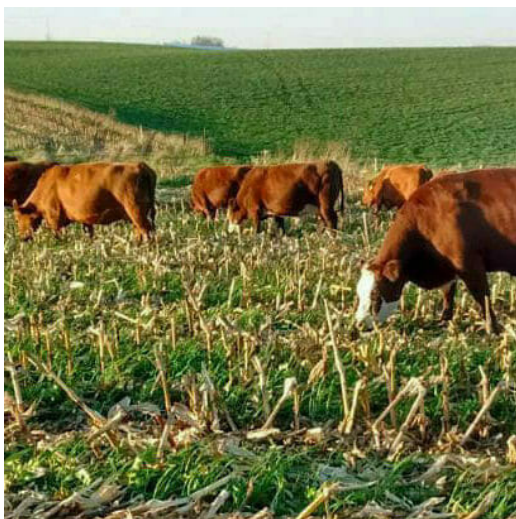
At a field day on Sept. 23, we joined PFI lifetime members **Mark and Melanie Peterson** and their son **Monroe Peterson** at Bent Gate Farm near Stanton, Iowa.

The group discussed farm transfer and seeding cover crops with a drone, which Mark had recently used to overseed his corn with rye. Attendees got a first-hand look at a drone seeding of winter camelina, a winter-hardy brassica species.

Learn more about camelina's ability to overwinter in Iowa corn and soybean fields in [this 2020 Cooperators' Program research report](#).

NEWS

Talk through your fall and winter grazing plans with an expert



Want to improve your fall and winter grazing systems? Sign up for a free grazing consultation call with **Margaret Chamas**, PFI's livestock viability manager. Talk through your plans for stockpile grazing, fall cover crop grazing, cornstalk grazing, bale grazing and more!

These consultations are perfect for both established and aspiring livestock farmers. [Reserve your time slot using our simple online booking system.](#)

Welcome Sophie McGovern to PFI staff!



Sophie McGovern joins PFI as the marketing project coordinator, supporting the communications department and program staff.

Sophie grew up in northern Minnesota, where she played hockey since she was able to walk. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in health science, biology and psychology at Norwich University in Vermont. Prior to PFI, Sophie worked in the sports industry assisting the marketing team. [Learn more about Sophie.](#)

New video: "Roller Crimping Cereal Rye Cover Crop for Earlier Soybean Planting"



Roller crimping a cereal rye cover crop for soybean production provides non-chemical weed control but can cause delayed soybean planting dates.

Looking for a way to plant soybeans earlier while reaping the benefits of a roller-crimped cereal rye cover crop, **Michael Vittetoe** of Washington, Iowa, began experimenting with in-row rolling. [Learn how this system works for him and how it benefits his soybean crop in our latest video.](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Stay connected to PFI's innovative network with your membership



With 84 new and renewed memberships, **we are now 75% of the way to our goal of 113 members during our fall membership drive!**

Is your membership up to date?

Stay connected to our network of innovative farmers, educated consumers, industry professionals and supportive landowners.

[Join or renew your membership today!](#) You'll receive our new bumper sticker in the mail as a bonus gift.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Field days



Oct. 6: Field Day – [Mushroom Cultivation, Marketing and Tasting](#)

Hosts: Kevin Novak
1-4 p.m. | Honey Creek, IA

At Flavor Country Farms, **Kevin Novak** produces 800 pounds of mushrooms each week and markets them to chefs in Omaha. Visit his lab and production facility to learn from a chef-turned-farmer about his unique operation and marketing approach. [RSVP](#)



Nov. 18: Field Day – [Milling and Marketing Small Grains](#)

Hosts: Jeff Hafner & Earl Hafner

2-4 p.m. | Panora, IA

Early Morning Harvest is a unique aquaponic, produce and grain farm run by father-son team, **Earl and Jeff Hafner**. They grow various grains like corn, soybeans, wheat, rye, and buckwheat, which they stone-grind into flours, meals and cereals. Join us to learn about their small-grain cultivation and milling. [RSVP](#)

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Hannah Breckbill, Emily Fagan, Perry-O Sliwa, David Sliwa and Paul Johnson of Decorah, IA, **Chris Henning** of Cooper, IA, and **Rose and Mike Roelf** of Iowa City, IA, were featured in Progressive Farmer: [Iowa Group Earns Farmland Legacy Award](#)

Beth Hoffman of Lovilia, IA, was featured on Raccoon Valley Radio: [Stuart Pals Bringing Author for Event](#)

Tom Pyfferoen of Pine Island, MN, was featured in Star Tribune: [In the Land of 10,000 Lakes, corn harvest will be diminished by drought, hot summer](#)

Hannah Breckbill of Decorah, IA, was featured in Public News Service: [IA small farm advocates call for less corporate land control](#)

Noah Wendt of Huxley, IA, was featured on We Are Iowa: [Altoona celebrates agricultural history with Fall Family Festival](#)

John Gilbert of Iowa Falls, IA, was featured in Iowa Capital Dispatch: [The National Pork Board gives more grant money than any other checkoff. Critics say it favors Big Pork](#)

Dave Lubben of Monticello, IA, and **Chad Ingels** of Randalia, IA, were featured in The Gazette: [Eastern Iowa crops and livestock suffer through one of the driest summers on record](#)

Levi Lyle of Keota, IA, was featured on Iowa Public Radio: [Cover crops and no-till aren't just good for soil — they also make farmers more money, study says](#)

Hannah Breckbill, Emily Fagan, Perry-O Sliwa, David Sliwa and Paul Johnson of Decorah, IA, were featured on Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network: [Founders of Hidden Falls LLC receive PFI's 2023 Farmland Owner Legacy 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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