

## Practical News - Savings Incentive Program applications now open

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*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



### **Applications are now open for the Savings Incentive Program**

Get a boost in your farm business planning and savings with the Savings Incentive Program. SIP is a two-year program that supports beginning and aspiring farmers in creating successful farm businesses.

"I encourage any new or even somewhat experienced farmer to apply for a spot in SIP," says 2023 SIP graduate **Steve Strasheim**. "There's been a lot of great networking opportunities, as well as really helpful financial planning tools. I've also enjoyed getting to know the mentor farmers and touring their operations."

[Learn more and apply by Nov. 20.](#)

## NEWS

### Now seeking Labor4Learning trainers for 2024



We are looking for experienced farmers to participate as trainers in our Labor4Learning program.

Are you looking for a high-quality, motivated farm employee in 2024? Become a Labor4Learning trainer and get paid up to \$200 per month (maximum \$1,000 per year) to help a beginning farmer learn what it takes to run a farm business.

[Apply now to be a Labor4Learning trainer for the 2024 season.](#)

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### Video: "Suppressing Waterhemp with Cover Crops"



Waterhemp and other herbicide-resistant weeds in the pigweed family are a growing problem in soybean production.

PFI members **Jon Bakehouse, Ben Dwire and Will Cannon** explain how using cover crops has helped keep populations in check.

Learn how growing a cereal rye cover crop ahead of soybeans helps shade out waterhemp and increases the herbicide application window [in our latest video.](#)

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### Three ideas for crop-livestock integration





The more we learn about soil health and using agriculture to mimic natural ecosystems, the more we realize the benefits of including livestock in cropping systems.

[This article from our 2020 winter magazine](#) outlines three levels of crop-livestock integration on PFI member farms, from grazing the neighbors' cover crops to intercropping and grazing livestock in-field.

[Learn more about their unique approaches.](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Year in the Life a Poultry Producer: Preparing for Winter



**Saturday, Oct. 28 | 10 a.m.-Noon | Solon, IA**

Join us for the last in-person field day of the Year in the Life workshop series put on in partnership with the Center for Rural Affairs. During this Spanish-English bilingual event, we'll discuss what farmer **Carlos Williams** does to prepare his chickens to send to the processor.

We'll also discuss how he sets up his brooder and prepares his chicken tractors for winter. [Registration is encouraged but not required.](#)

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### Central Nebraska Regenerative Ag Conference



**Tuesday, Nov. 14 | 8-4:30 p.m. |  
Holdrege, NE**

Join us at the Central Nebraska Regenerative Ag Conference, "Building Your Soil from the Ground Up," hosted by Central Community College-Holdrege.

**For discounted rates, please register by Nov. 6.**

PFI will be sponsoring events throughout the conference, with a specific focus on cover crops, and will host a social after the conference. We hope to see you there!

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## More upcoming events

**Oct. 17: Spanish Farminar – Virtual Tour of Regenerative Agriculture Alliance Processing Plant**

*Host: Regenerative Agriculture Alliance*  
10 a.m.-Noon | **Online**

**Oct. 31: Spanish Social – House of Compassion**

*Hosts: House of Compassion*  
5-7 p.m. | Marshalltown, IA

**Nov. 18: Field Day – Milling and Marketing Small Grains**

*Hosts: Jeff Hafner & Earl Hafner*  
2-4 p.m. | Panora, IAe

**View our events calendar**

## IN THE NEWS

### Members in the News

**Joe Lynch** of Ames, IA, was featured on the "Donna Lonna Kitchen Show" podcast: **074: Local Nuts, Cider Press**

**Tina Bakehouse** of Hastings, IA, was featured on **KMAland: Bakehouse pens best-selling e-book on communication strategies**

**Mark Schleisman** of Lake City, IA, was featured in [Iowa Farmer Today: Opportunity pops up to expand family operation](#)

**Seth Watkins** of Clarinda, IA, was featured as a guest columnist in the [Des Moines Register: To survive for future generations, farms like mine need to get smart on climate](#)

**Richard and Diana Sloan** of Rowley, IA, and **Martin Larsen** of Byron, MN, were featured in [Successful Farming: How farmers are combatting climate troubles](#)

**Kevin Novak** of Honey Creek, IA, **Jacqueline Venner Senske**, PFI's senior horticulture education coordinator, and **Vanya North**, PFI's habitat education coordinator, were featured in [The Daily Nonpareil: Honey Creek farmer finds success with mushrooms](#)

## PFI in the News

**Grace Yi**, PFI's senior habitat viability coordinator, was featured on the [Iowa State University Extension and Outreach webpage: Land Stewardship Leadership Academy Holds Graduation](#)

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**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](mailto:elizabeth.wilhelm@practicalfarmers.org)

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