

Practical News - Small grains success stories from PFI members

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Joel Gruver will receive PFI's 2024 Sustainable Agriculture Achievement Award

Joel Gruver, a soil science and sustainable agriculture professor at Western Illinois University, will receive the Sustainable Agriculture Achievement Award at PFI's 2024 Annual Conference.

"When a row crop farmer experimenting with cover crops asks, 'Have we tried this?' the answer is that Joel is currently doing so or is willing to start," says PFI

board member **Mark Quee** of West Branch, Iowa, who nominated Joel for the award.

Joel, who manages the Allison Organic Research & Demonstration Farm, is a committed educator who shares insights at farmer events nationwide, emphasizing outreach and innovation.

[Meet Joel and learn more about the award.](#)

NEWS

Small grains success stories from member farmers



In our newest "Practical Cover Croppers" video, farmers **Martin Larsen and Alec Amundson** share how PFI provided the funding and networking they needed to start raising small grains.

You'll learn how PFI helps farmers in the Upper Midwest who want to grow and market small grains through initiatives like its small grains cost-share program and a range of online and in-person events that help farmers connect to and learn from their peers.

[Watch the video to hear Martin's and Alec's stories.](#)

Join us in on-farm research trials this season



We're inviting members to be part of two impactful on-farm research trials to answer the following questions:

- Can We Reduce N Rates to Corn and Improve ROI?
- Do Cover Crops Increase the Number of Days Suitable for Field Work?

[View details about the trials and fill out an application today.](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Reflecting on 2023 and fueling our future, together



As we close out 2023, we extend heartfelt thanks to our community, including members, advocates and donors like you. Your support strengthens our network, drives impact and fosters resilient farms and communities.

We're excited to grow with you in 2024! **Please consider donating to help us reach our fundraising goal.** Your support ensures PFI can continue addressing barriers for sustainable farm businesses. Thank you for your ongoing and future support.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pre-register for the annual conference by Jan. 11



Jan. 19-20 | Des Moines, IA

Since 1985, PFI's annual conference has been a keystone event for knowledge-sharing and community-building among those involved in Iowa agriculture.

With over 1,000 attendees, our event now includes three pre-conference short courses, 60-plus farmer-led sessions, 80-plus exhibitors and locally sourced meals.

Don't wait – pre-registration is due by Jan. 11!

Beginning Farmer Retreat: Learn and build your network



Saturday, Feb. 10 | 9 a.m.-4 p.m. | Iowa City, IA

Whether you've been farming for several years or are in the beginning stages of your farming journey, we hope you'll join us at PFI's 2024 Beginning Farmers Retreat!

During this daylong intensive, you'll learn from experienced farmers and farm business coaches, reflect on your vision for your farm and build your network. [**RSVP for this free event.**](#)

Small Grains Shared Learning Call: "Integrating Hog Manure & Cover Crop Grazing With Extended Rotations"



Friday, Jan. 12 | Noon-1 p.m.

Join us to discuss hog manure, cover crop grazing and extended rotations with **Kevin Prevo**, who farms 1,400 acres with his family in Bloomfield, Iowa.

Each month, in a meeting held online via Zoom, our shared learning call speakers share experiences and production practices for 40 minutes before we open the floor for questions and discussion for the rest of the hour. [**RSVP to attend.**](#)

More upcoming events

Feb. 6: Workshop – [Commercial Apple Growers Workshop](#)
8 a.m.-4 p.m. | Ames, IA

March 4: Conference – [Midwest Covers and Grains Conference](#)
8 a.m.-4 p.m. | Mankato, MN

[**View our events calendar**](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Beth Hoffman and John Hogeland of Lovilia, IA, were featured on [Iowa PBS: Working on farming, writing and being a good neighbor - Beth Hoffman](#)

Seth Watkins of Clarinda, IA, was featured on [KMTV: PART 2: Conservation program pays farmers for regenerative ag practices](#)

Joel Gruver of Macomb, IL, and **Mark Quee** of West Branch, IA, were featured in [Morning Ag Clips: Gruver of Illinois to receive PFI's 2024 Sustainable Agriculture Achievement Award](#)

Patti Naylor of Churdan, IA, was featured on [Raccoon Valley Radio: Churdan Farmer Attends UN Food Security Committee Conference](#)

Wendy Johnson of Charles City, IA, was featured in [Civil Eats: Our Best Farming and Farm Bill Reporting of 2023](#)

Mitchell Hora of Brighton, IA, was featured on the [Ohio Farm Bureau Podcast: Ohio Farm Bureau Podcast: A Winter Leadership Preview with Mitchell Hora](#)

Ashley and Zachary Wenke of Montezuma, IA, and **Carly and Ethan Zierke** of Calmar, IA, were featured on the [Iowa Farm Bureau webpage: Grow your future 12-27-2023](#)

PFI in the News

PFI was mentioned in [Food Tank: 124 Food and Agriculture Organizations to Watch in 2024!](#)

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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