

Practical News - Last chance to pre-register for the annual conference

Practical Farmers of Iowa <info@practicalfarmers.org>

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Pre-register now to save on the annual conference

Get in on the lowest pricing for our 2024 Annual Conference when you pre-register by this Thursday, Jan. 11.

We want our conference to be accessible to everyone, so we strive to keep our registration rates low and offer steep discounts for members. Farm and household

members of PFI enjoy discounted registration starting at \$55 per day, **which covers everyone under your membership with just one ticket.**

After that, pricing increases to our walk-in rate, which costs \$20 more per day of the conference. Don't miss out on our best prices – [register today!](#)

Pre-register by Jan. 11

ON THE BLOG

Creating a pollinator oasis at Barnswallow Farm



On her fresh-cut flower farm in Oskaloosa, Iowa, **Meredith Nunnikhoven** has planted 100 acres of pollinator mix, leading to a resurgence of wildlife and pollinators on her family farm.

"The whole idea of working with land and how we understand land has moved to a caretaking role and remembering we are owners on paper, but it's never really ours and we should leave it better than we found it as part of our legacy," Meredith says.

[Read her story on the blog.](#)

NEWS

Exploring profitability of oats in extended rotation



[In this video from our "Practical Cover Croppers" series](#), PFI member **Martin Larsen** of Byron, Minnesota, discusses why he added oats to his rotation and how it has impacted his overall profitability, especially when considering reduced inputs in the following corn and soybean years.

Plus, Martin explains how rural economies are impacted by farmers staying profitable with extended rotation.

MEMBERSHIP

Start the year with a gift to PFI



Begin the new year on a positive note when you give to PFI. Your contribution fosters local networking among farmers and promotes a sustainable agricultural landscape in Iowa and beyond.

Currently, we have raised over \$38,000 of our \$60,000 fundraising goal. Your dollars offer PFI the flexibility to support unique programming that gives farmers the resources they need most. [**Make an impact by giving today.**](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Join us for short courses before the conference



Jan. 18-19 | Des Moines, IA

Ahead of the official conference festivities, we are pleased to offer three "short courses" where we dive into a specific topic. This year's short courses include:

- Grazing Intensive With Greg Judy
- Getting Started With Organic Transition
- Soil Health and Fertility for Horticulture Production

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. [**View details and sign up.**](#)

Delve into commercial apple growing



Tuesday, Feb. 6 | 8 a.m.-4 p.m. | Ames, IA

Focused on commercial-scale apple production, this workshop will explore keys to successful and sustainable apple production in the Midwest.

Hear from regional experts and fellow growers on apple production, connect with other growers and take part in a pruning workshop. [Register today.](#)

More upcoming events

Jan. 12: Shared Learning Call – [Integrating Hog Manure and Cover Crop Grazing With Extended Rotation](#)
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Jan. 30: Spanish Webinar– [Cabras Lecheras para Principiantes](#)
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Feb. 10: Retreat – [Beginning Farmer Retreat](#)
9 a.m.-4 p.m. | Iowa City, IA

Feb. 15: Meet-Up – [Virtual Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up](#)
9-11 a.m. | [Online](#)

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

Feb. 15: Meet-Up – [Virtual Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up](#)
9-11 a.m. | [Online](#)

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Zack Smith of Leland, IA, was featured in [Tri-State Neighbor: \[Ag innovators reveal secrets of success\]\(#\)](#)

Wade Dooley of Albion, IA, was featured in [No-Till Farmer: \[Seeding a Cereal Rye Cover Crop Every Month of the Year\]\(#\)](#)

Dan Voss of Atkins, IA, and **J. Arbuckle** of Ames, IA, were featured in [The Gazette: Ripple Effects: Where does Iowa go next with water quality woes?](#)

Keith Berns of Bladen, NE, was featured on [Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network: Making "cents" of soil health practices](#)

Matt and Jocelyn Vermeersch of Council Bluffs, IA, and **Aaron Steele** of Ames, IA, were featured on the [Iowa Farm Bureau webpage: Not your typical herd](#)

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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