

Practical News - Supporting change on the Midwestern landscape

Practical Farmers of Iowa <info@practicalfarmers.org>

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To:Carly Zierke <carly.zierke@practicalfarmers.org>



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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Support positive change on the Midwestern landscape

PFI is heading into the new year with incredible momentum, and we need your support to help sustain our growth and effectiveness.

This past year, we reached more than 2,000 attendees at our field days, facilitated over 200 farmers to share their stories with news media and coordinated nearly 50 farmers to conduct on-farm research projects.

We need your help to continue making positive change on the Midwestern landscape. We currently have \$21,000 of our \$60,000 year-end goal.

Please consider making your year-end donation today.

NEWS

Video: "Planting Cereal Rye Strategically Ahead of Corn"



Are you leery of planting cover crops before corn? Some PFI farmers are finding ways to make it work.

In the latest "Practical Cover Croppers" video, Nick Smith, Nathan Anderson, Will Cannon and Michael Vittetoe share their insights on how to strategically plant cereal rye before corn. They'll delve into factors like timing planting, and will share other practical ideas to reduce yield loss.

Subscribe to our YouTube channel to make sure you never miss an episode.

Last call for produce safety cost-share



Fund produce safety improvements on your farm with our produce safety cost-share. You'll spend \$2,200 or more and receive a reimbursement of \$2,000.

Priority will be given to those who did not receive the cost-share in 2023.

The application will close when all slots are full, or on Dec. 31. Submit yours today!

Two small grains cost-shares available for the 2024 season



Combine the benefits of our two small grains cost-share programs to earn more money across your extended rotations.

Receive \$20 per acre for harvesting a small-grain and following it with a legume cover crop.

Receive an additional \$20 per acre for reducing nitrogen on 2024 corn that follows the small grain-legume cover in rotation. [Check eligibility requirements and apply.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Talking soil health at the annual conference



Jan. 19-20 | Des Moines, IA

The [PFI 2024 Annual Conference](#) is less than one month away! Will you be joining us in Des Moines, Iowa?

This year's conference features over 60 sessions, including a keynote address from cover crop expert Keith Berns, who will share the impact cover crops can have on your bottom line, including their short- and long-range economic impact.

Register to attend

Join us at the Commercial Apple Growers Workshop



Tues., 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. Join us at the ISU Horticulture Research Station to hear from regional experts on apple production, connect with other growers and take part in a pruning workshop.

Lunch featuring local foods will be provided, with time for networking.

[Learn more and register.](#)

Midwest Covers & Grains Conference is back for 2024



March 4 | 8 a.m.-4 p.m. | Mankato, MN

Join us at the Midwest Covers & Grains Conference to learn from fellow farmers how you can integrate diversified rotations and cover crops into your farming practices.

This one-day event will explore topics including: adding value with cover crops; incorporating oats and rye in rotations; grazing summer cover crops after small grains; and more. [Register online.](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Julia McGuire of West Des Moines, IA, was featured on [Radio Iowa](#): [Free course in beekeeping offered for Iowa teens](#)

Martin Larsen of Byron, MN, was featured in [Driftless Journal](#): [Crop practices tied to nitrates and water quality](#)

The following members were featured in a [National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition blog post](#): [Farmer Conservation Stories: Why Inflation Reduction Act](#)

Funding Must Remain Focused on Climate Change

- **Hannah Bernhardt** of Finlayson, MN
- **Bruce and Connie Carney** of Maxwell, IA
- **Wendy Johnson** of Charles City, IA
- **Martin Larsen** of Byron, MN
- **Dick and Diana Sloan** of Rowley, IA

Dan Voss of Atkins, IA, was featured in [Iowa Farmer Today: Iowa farmer honored for lifetime of work in conservation](#)

Todd Western III of Maple Grove, MN, and **Ryan Madison** of Gladbrook, IA, were featured in [The Gazette: Iowa farmers of color gather for first time to form connections, find resources](#)

Kamyar Enshayan of Cedar Falls, IA, and **Kelly Wells Sittig** of North Liberty, IA, were featured on [WDC News 6: "We Can't Sit Back" – Amid Polluted Water and Climbing Cancer Rates, Iowa Eyes Farm Chemicals](#)

John and Sarah Gilbert of Iowa Falls, IA, and **Paul Willis** of Thornton, IA, were featured on [Swineweb.com: Autumn Dispatch from the Farm: A Season of Sustainable Practices](#)

Jack Smith of Epworth, IA, and **Tim Dotterer** of Bloomfield, IA, were featured in [Morning Ag Clips: Applications Open for PFI Programs that Help Farmers Extend their Crop Rotations](#)

Seth Watkins of Clarinda, IA, was featured on [KMTV: Part 1: Southwest Iowa first community in U.S. to pilot a Canadian conservation program](#)

PFI in the News

Liz Kolbe, PFI's farmer-led education director, was featured on [KWMT Radio: Practical Farmers of Iowa – 2024 Annual Meeting – Liz Kolbe](#)

PFI was mentioned in [Morningstar: Field to Market Enters Agreement With USDA To Begin Work on Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Grant](#)

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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