

The Monthly Feedstuff - Tips for livestock care in the cold

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The
**MONTHLY
FEEDSTUFF**

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

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Caring for livestock in the cold

The snow is finally here! Next, it seems, comes the cold. While snow is welcome moisture and an insulating layer on the soil, the cold has fewer upsides. It allows us to exercise our quiet midwestern fortitude as we're out doing chores and gives us something to complain about loudly when we gather together, [like at the PFI Annual Conference on Jan. 19-20!](#)

While braving the cold enables pride and bragging rights, outdoor livestock can't retreat to a warm house; they require extra attention as the temperature plunges. [In this article](#), the University of Nebraska Extension shares the importance of maintaining cattle body conditions in cold weather.

Cold animals use more energy to warm themselves up, so feed requirements go accordingly. It's also harder to make skinny animals gain weight, the energy loss can be a vicious cycle. [This fact sheet](#) from the University of Minnesota Extension can act as a checklist of things to keep an eye on in the cold; from water access to windbreaks to bedding.

BEYOND THE GATE

Grant funding opportunity



The Lakewinds Organic Field Fund is dedicated to making an impact on local farming and organic food by furthering the development and sustainability of farms in the region.

Grants are available for up to \$8,000 and cover a variety of projects. Preference is given to farmers located in Minnesota, western Wisconsin and northern Iowa.

[Learn more and apply by Jan. 31.](#)

Using waste wool as fertilizer



"Sheep farmers across the U.S. and Canada often end up burning, burying or stockpiling wool. Entrepreneurs, researchers and community groups are working to flip the script by transforming discarded wool into a different kind of fertilizer," says [this Modern Farmer article](#) which explores efforts to revitalize the wool industry, and thereby the sheep industry, as a whole.

To learn more about working with sheep and developing markets, sign up for our winter webinar ["Building a](#)

Farm for Shepherding” with **Wendy Johnson** of Joia Food & Fiber Farm on March 12.

UPCOMING EVENTS

See you at the annual conference this week!



Jan. 19-20 | Des Moines, IA

Pre-registration for the **2024 Annual Conference** is now closed but walk-in registrations will be available at the conference starting Friday, Jan. 19 at 11 a.m. and Saturday, Jan. 20 at 7:30 a.m.

This year's conference will cover livestock topics like managing grazing during drought, establishing a meat CSA and overwintering honeybees.

See you there!

Join us in Iowa City for the Beginning Farmer Retreat



Saturday, Feb. 10 | 10 a.m.-5 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 our **Beginning Farmer Retreat**.

During this daylong intensive you'll learn from experienced farmers and farm business coaches. Retreat topics will include business models and structures, business plans and Q&A with experienced farmers by enterprise. **Register for this free event.**

Winter webinar sneak peek



PFI's winter webinar series kicks off at the end of January. Topics range from finance, pollinator habitat, relay cropping and, of course, livestock. Here are a few livestock sessions you can look forward to:

- "Developing a Meat CSA" with **Peter Allen** of Mastadon Valley Farm
- "Building a Farm for Shepherding" with **Wendy Johnson** of Joia Food & Fiber Farm
- "Establishing and Grazing Native Perennials" with **Kevin Fulton**

Check out the full list of webinars and be sure to register!

Upcoming PFI events

Feb. 13: Webinar – Figuring Out Funding: Conventional and Unconventional Sources

Hosted by: Anna Hankins & Shae Pesek

Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

March 5: Webinar – Developing a Meat CSA

Hosted by: Peter Allen

Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

March 12: Webinar – Building a Farm for Shepherding

Hosted by: Wendy Johnson

Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

April 2: Webinar – Establishing and Grazing Native Perennials

Hosted by: Kevin Fulton

Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Friends of PFI events

Feb. 1-3: Conference – GrassWorks Grazing Conference

Hosted by: GrassWorks Grazing All Day | Wisconsin Dells, WI

Say "hi" at the PFI booth!

Feb. 10: Conference – Sustainable Farming Conference

Hosted by: Sustainable Farming Association

8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. | St. Joseph, MN

Say "hi" at the PFI booth!

**Jan. 25-26: Conference –
Driftless Beef Conference**

Hosted by: Iowa State Extension
All Day | Dubuque, IA

**Jan. 30: Webinar – Preparations
for the Lambing Season**

*Hosted by: Food Animals Concern
Trust*
1 p.m. | [Online](#)

**Feb. 13: Webinar – Brooder
Success: How to reduce brooder
mortality for a healthier flock**

*Hosted by: Food Animals Concern
Trust*
12 p.m. | [Online](#)

[View our events calendar](#)

Contact our team

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