

Practical News - Exploring pig breeds with four PFI farmers

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Tue 2/20/2024 4:24 PM

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Practical
NEWS

February 5, 2024

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Winter 2023 Magazine: "Pig Portraits"

In many livestock circles, there's an ongoing debate about pig breeds. Some farmers discount breed altogether, arguing that pig performance depends on whether individual animals can thrive in a given system. Is there an answer?

In this Winter 2023 magazine story, hear from farmers **Ethan Book, Anna Hankins, Todd Maternach and Laura Tidrick** about their favorite breeds to raise

on their farms.

In true PFI style, the farmers featured don't claim to know what's right. Rather, they share their experiences with raising pigs and what's worked for them. Their approaches are diverse, but they have one thing in common: They're all on team pig.

NEWS

Cost-share opportunities available for extended rotations



This year, we're offering two forms of cost-share for those implementing extended rotations with small grains.

1. Earn up to \$20 per acre for raising a small-grain with a legume cover crop.
2. Earn an additional \$20 per acre for reducing nitrogen rates on 2024 corn that follows your small grain-legume cover in rotation.

Apply for one or both programs today.

Reduce your input costs with the N Rate Risk Protection Program



If you're raising corn in 2024, try reducing your nitrogen application rate with us!

If your harvest benchmark yield is not achieved, you'll be paid \$35 per acre.

Farms in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and southeastern South Dakota with acres under conventional management may be eligible.

Enroll by March 31.

Blog: "Frost-Seeding Red Clover into Winter Small Grains"



[This 2018 blog post](#) explores how frost-seeding red clover into rye or winter wheat fields in late February affects nitrogen credits, yields, disease resistance and soil health.

To learn more about PFI farmers' experiences with small grains and cover crops, view our ["Rotationally Raised" video series on YouTube.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Beginning farmers, join us for a retreat this Saturday



Saturday, Feb. 10 | 10 a.m.-7 p.m. | Iowa City, IA

Don't miss your last chance to register for the Beginning Farmer Retreat happening this Saturday!

Learn from a community of peers, financial experts and established farmers during this free, one-day event.

Farmers in all stages of planning their businesses are encouraged to attend.

[RSVP to reserve your spot.](#)

Winter webinars



Feb. 6: Webinar – [Turning Point: Key Moments for Two Farms Over Two Decades](#)

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

Learn from two experienced horticulture farmers, **Jill Beebout and Rob Faux**, as they talk about key moments and important decisions that made a difference, for good or bad, in their operations.



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

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

In this webinar, **Anna Hankins and Shae Pesek** will share what they've learned about funding a farm through multiple sources, from lines of credit to statewide grants to PFI programs.

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

Feb. 15: Meet-Up – Virtual Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up

9-11 a.m. | [Online](#)

Feb. 16: Meet-Up – Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up

*Hosted by: Joanne Roepke Bode,
Mary Beyerhelm Huey and Healthy
Harvest of North Iowa*
9-11 a.m. | Algona, IA

Feb. 21: Meet-Up – Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up

Hosted by: Molly Schintler
9-11 a.m. | West Branch, IA

Feb. 23: Meet-Up – Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up

Hosted by: Emily Paulsen
9-11 a.m. | Harlan, IA

March 1: Shared Learning Call – Frost-Seeding Clover Into Small Grains With Meadowlark Organics

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

March 4: Conference – Midwest Covers and Grains Conference

All Day | Mankato, MN

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Patti and George Naylor of Churdan, IA, were featured in [The Ag Herald: Local farmer stirs change on a global scale](#)

Josh Nelson of Belmond, IA, and **Jacob Bolson** of Hubbard, IA, were featured in [Agri-Pulse: IRA-infused conservation programs still struggling to keep up with farmer demand](#)

Jackson Drost of New Sharon, IA, was featured on [American Farmland Owner's YouTube page: Diversifying On and Off the Farm](#)

Beth Hoffman of Lovilia, IA, wrote an article that appeared in [Ambrook Research: What the Neighbors Think](#). The article also featured **John Hogeland** of Lovilia, IA.

Mitchell Hora of Brighton, IA, was featured in [Prairie Farmer: Farmers: How to actually get paid for carbon](#)

Kristine Lang of Brookings, SD, was featured in [Vegetable Growers News: Replacing plastic with cover crops](#)

Mitchell Hora of Brighton, IA, and Keith Berns of Bladen, NE, were featured on [KRVN Radio: The Dollars and Sense of Regenerative Agriculture](#)

PFI in the News

Margaret Chamas, PFI's livestock viability manager, was featured on [Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network: A little extra work can go a long way with rotational grazing](#)

Rachel Burke, PFI's beginning farmer engagement coordinator, wrote a story for PFI's Winter 2023 magazine that was republished in [Agri-View: Think global, grow local](#)

PFI was mentioned on [Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network: Ag Matters PM, Episode 421](#)

PFI was mentioned in a news release by the [Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship: Secretary Naig Encourages Participation in Statewide Horticulture Food Crops Survey](#)

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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