

Practical News - Apply for on-farm training with Labor4Learning

Practical Farmers of Iowa <info@practicalfarmers.org>

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March 11, 2024

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Wrapping up our second Midwest Covers and Grains Conference

Last Monday, over 100 people from across the Midwest – and as far away as Canada – attended our second annual Midwest Covers and Grains Conference in Mankato, Minnesota. Sessions covered topics ranging from adding value to cover crops by grazing cattle to marketing organic grains. [View the photo recap.](#)

After the conference, attendees continued conversations from the event at a local establishment, Pub 500. **Thank you to everyone who attended!** We hope to see you next at next year's event.

NEWS

Apply for on-farm training positions through Labor4Learning



Get paid, on-the-job training at a PFI member farm this season with the Labor4Learning program.

“The program is essential because it gives aspiring farmers the chance to try out different farming enterprises and styles before they make life-altering commitments to their own farm,” says **Rachel Burke**, PFI’s beginning farmer engagement coordinator.

[Browse 10 positions across the state.](#)

Winter 2023 magazine: "Farming From the Heart"



Max Chavez, who got started growing vegetables in Mexico 20 years ago before moving to California, now runs Sunny Valley Vegetables in Carlisle, Iowa.

“I struggled so much to get here, with little to no help, and I don’t want anyone to go through that,” Max says.

Now, he’s helping other Latino farmers get started and connect with PFI’s Spanish-speaking community. [Read his story from our most recent magazine.](#)

Nominate a landowner for the Iowa Leopold Conservation Award



PFI member Loran Steinlage won the 2023 Iowa Leopold Conservation award.

Nominations are now open for the 2024 Iowa Leopold Conservation Award. The \$10,000 award honors ranchers, farmers and forestland owners who go above and beyond in their land management.

Past winners include PFI members **Loran Steinlage** in 2023 and **Seth, Christy, Spencer and Tatum Watkins** of Pinhook Farm in 2022.

[Nominate someone you know today.](#)

Annual conference materials are now available on our website



Our conference materials are now available online!

[View presentation slides from our speakers](#) and [our photo recap.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter webinar: "Building a Farm for Shepherding"



Tuesday, March 12 | Noon-1 p.m.

In our next winter webinar, you'll learn from **Wendy Johnson**, who has designed her farm for rotationally grazing her Isle-de-France sheep.

From grazing covers to planting silvopasture, Wendy will explain why she loves the adaptability and resiliency of her wool sheep.

[RSVP to receive a reminder email.](#)

Chat about precision conservation with PFI and Pheasants Forever



Wednesday, April 3 | Noon-3 p.m. | Mankato, MN

Join PFI and Pheasants Forever at Jake's Stadium Pizza for an informal social centered around precision conservation.

Get to know the technical assistance staff, chat with other farmers and learn what programs can support projects on your farm.

[RSVP for this free event.](#)

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

March 12: Social – [Field Crop Farmer Social](#)

*Hosted by: Will and Cassie Cannon
1-3 p.m. | Prairie City, IA*

March 19: Webinar – [An Alternative Third Crop? Relay Cropping Winter Camelina With Soybeans](#)

*Hosted by: Robert Harvey
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)*

March 26: Webinar – [Trees and Bees: How Agroforestry Benefits](#)

April 2: Webinar – [Establishing and Grazing Native Perennials](#)

Insects and Farmers

Hosted by: Ann Novak and Sally McCoy (Bouska sisters) & Zach Burhenn
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Hosted by: Kevin Fulton
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Alice McGary of Ames, IA, was featured on [DonnaLonna Kitchen Show: Community service and good food at Mustard Seed Farm](#)

Dean and Josh Sponheim of Nora Springs, IA, and **Rachel Amundson** of Osage, IA, were featured on the [Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance webpage: Here to help – farmers support farmers in adding regenerative practices](#)

Martin Larsen of Byron, MN, was featured in [Star Tribune: Proposal would tax Minnesota farmers to help pay for cleanup of nitrate pollution](#)

Chris Von Holten of Walnut, IL, was featured in [Morning Ag Clips: ASA Celebrating 2024 Conservation Legacy Award Winners](#)

PFI in the News

Sally Worley, PFI's executive director, was featured on [WHO 13 News: Iowa lost over half a million acres of farmland in five years, according to latest Agriculture Census](#)

Stefan Gailans, PFI's senior research manager, was featured on [Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network: PFI inviting farmers to participate in on-farm trials](#)

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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