

Practical News - Investigating small ruminant animals with on-farm research

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Researching pastured goats and sheep with PFI's Cooperators' Program

Last year, goat farmers **Adam Ledvina** of Chelsea, Iowa, and **Bailey Lutz** of Decorah, Iowa, alongside sheep farmers **Hannah Breckbill** and **Emily Fagan** of Decorah, Iowa, completed the trial "[Castration Timing in Goats and Sheep.](#)"

As they enter kidding season, Adam and Bailey are gearing up for their next trial, exploring what effect weaning timing has on the growth rates of market animals.

"There's very little contemporary information available around the economics of goat rearing, especially fully pastured herds," Bailey says.

Adam adds, "Projects like this can help other producers learn from cooperators who raise animals like they do in a real-world setting."

ON THE BLOG

Blog: "Adding Forage Substance to Sparse Spring Cereal Rye Stands"

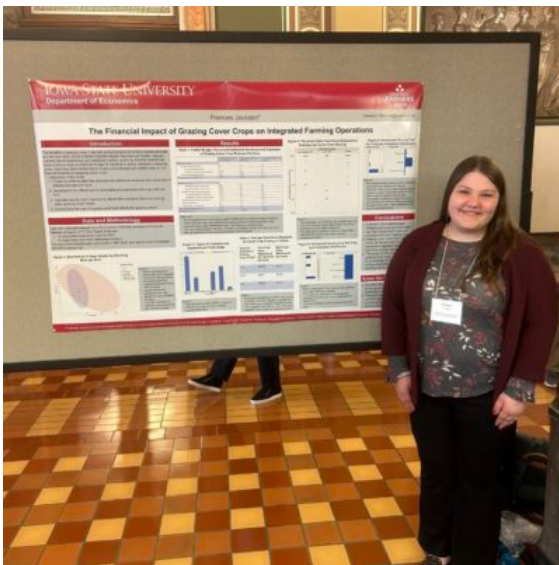


This spring, crop-livestock farmers face many highs and lows: the projected low prices of corn and soybeans, the high prices of hay and cattle and the low amount of moisture in the soil profile across the Midwest.

[In our latest blog post](#), PFI members **Dennis McLaughlin, Nick Smith and Wade Dooley** offer insights on maximizing forage potential and managing costs while adapting to changing conditions.

NEWS

Undergrad honors project takes PFI research to Iowa Legislature



Iowa State University student **Frances Jackson** presented her research on the benefits of grazing cover crops to the Iowa Legislature on March 25.

The project analyzed data from a PFI survey of cover crop farmers. Practical Farmers staff members **Sarah Carlson, Margaret Chamas and Rebecca Clay** helped collect data and advised Frances on data analysis.

[View her research poster for her takeaways.](#)

Last chance to sign up for on-farm research project



Join a multifarm project investigating if cover crops contribute to earlier spring field access and rut-free fall harvests.

You'll participate by completing a weekly survey where you'll share insights on whether you could perform field activities without compromising field integrity.

[Apply to join the trial by April 10.](#)

Winter 2023 magazine: "Saving Land"



[In this article](#), get to know our 2023 Farmland Owner Legacy Award winners, Hidden Falls LLC.

Learn how this group of neighbors in Decorah, Iowa, joined together to purchase 22 acres of ecologically sensitive land and successfully transferred it to beginning farmers at Humble Hands Harvest.

MEMBERSHIP

Why did you become a lifetime member? 5 common reasons



Beth Larabee of Ames, Iowa, and her husband **Randy Larabee** have been lifetime members since 2014.

Lifetime members join for many reasons. **Here are five common ones:**

1. PFI has been a great resource for my farm and family.
2. No more renewal notices!
3. A lifetime membership is one way I can support PFI, sustainable farming and locally grown food.
4. PFI provides resources and support for farmers at all levels and scales.
5. I want to ensure PFI will be around for the next generation.

[Learn more and join as a lifetime member](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events listed in Central time.

April 11: Social – [Field Crop Farmer Social](#)

Hosted by: Troy Benjegerdes
5-7 p.m. | Northwood, IA

April 12: Shared Learning Call – [Spend Money to Make Money? Effective Fungicide and Herbicide Management for Small-Grain Production](#)

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

April 16: Webinar – [Precision Conservation: Increasing Profitability and Conservation on Your Farm](#)

Hosted by: Jacob Bolson & Stephanie Nelson
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

April 23: Webinar – [Diversifying Pollinator Habitat on a Multi-Generational Illinois Farm](#)

Hosted by: John & Nancy Brannaman
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Matt and Jocelyn Vermeersch, Maggie McQuown and Steve Turman of Red Oak, IA, and **Teresa Opheim** of Minneapolis, MN, were featured in a [Climate Land Leaders blog: An Intergenerational Passing of the Baton](#)

Kellie and A.J. Blair of Dayton, IA, were featured in [The Messenger: Curiosity powers improvement](#)

Sara Ziehr of West Branch, IA, and **Donna Warhover** of Mount Vernon, IA, were featured in [Progressive Farmer: Labor4Learning Looking for Applicants: Beginning Farmers Earn Money, Gain Skills](#)

Bill Frederick of Jefferson, IA, and **James Holz** of Grand Junction, IA, were featured on the [Building In A Small Town podcast: Episode 14: From 4-H to Pond Owners' Association to Iowa Cover Crop - Bill Frederick & James Holz](#)

Mitchell Hora of Brighton, IA, was featured on the [Farm4Profit Podcast: Carbon Intensity Scores w/ Mitchell Hora](#)

Paul Rasch of Solon, IA, was featured in [The Des Moines Register: 'Cacophony of colors': what to expect as Wilson's Orchard opens in Cumming](#)

Ben Dwire of Arco, MN, **Sam Bennett** of Galva, IA, and **Jon Bakehouse** of Hastings, IA, were featured in [No-Till Farmer: No-Till Highlights: March 28, 2024](#)

Kevin Prevo of Bloomfield, IA, was featured in [Agri-View: Incorporate livestock with small grains, cover crops](#)

PFI in the News

Chelsea Ferrie, PFI's field crops viability coordinator, was featured in [Public News Service: Program for farmers lowers the risk of reducing nitrogen application](#)

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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