

Practical News - Last call for small grains cost-share + Navigating insurance challenges

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Specialty farmers navigate insurance challenges through virtual meet-ups

As successive bouts of increasingly severe storms have hit Iowa farms over the past few years, members have shared stories about how their insurance premiums have dramatically increased or how they've lost insurance altogether for their farm structures and homes.

A recent discussion in one of PFI's [email discussion groups](#), which are open to PFI members, highlighted this growing problem. In response to the interest, PFI's senior horticulture education coordinator, Jacqueline Venner Senske, organized a series of virtual listening sessions for members to share their experiences and discuss what can be done to address the problem.

For a full recap and resources, see the [blog post](#).

To join the conversation, consider signing up for PFI's [email discussion groups](#).

NEWS

Grow your cover crop business with our accelerator program



With tailored business coaching, technical guidance and financial incentives, our cover crop business accelerator program supports cover crop seed or application businesses in starting, expanding or refining their operations.

Benefits for participants include:

- Business growth consulting
- Capital investment funds
- Incentive payments

[Learn more and apply.](#)

New research report: "Can We Reduce N Rates to Corn to Improve ROI?"



Farmers seeking to decrease input costs while maintaining yield conducted replicated strip trials comparing their typical nitrogen rate against a reduced rate of their choosing.

Nineteen of 22 farmers saw a potential reduction in spending as a result. The results open the door for discussion around reducing nitrogen without sacrificing farmers critical return on investment.

[Learn more about their findings in this research report.](#)

PFI is hiring multiple positions



Our team is continuing to grow with multiple new, innovative positions.

We seek a **[remote data sensing coordinator](#)** to develop remote sensing workflows to interpret satellite imagery of farmland acres enrolled in our research and incentive programs.

The **[cropping systems research coordinator](#)** will lead some multisite on-farm research trials and analyze existing research data.

[View these and three other job openings on our website.](#)

Last call to apply for our small grains cost-share



We have reached enrollment capacity for our small grains cost-share program.

However, if you're growing wheat and selling to ADM in Mendota, Illinois, or Lincoln, Nebraska, we still have funding for you!

Apply today if you meet the above criteria or would like to be added to our waiting list.

Applications are due today, July 1.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Featured field days



July 13: Workshop – Communicating Cuts: From Carcass to Consumer

9 a.m.-3 p.m. | Spring Grove, MN

Come learn as **Cecka Parks**, of the Minneapolis Meat Collective, breaks down a lamb, explains how the cuts relate to each other and shares basic rules of thumb for cooking each cut. Then learn how to affordably take attractive marketing photos of meat with your phone from food photographer **Tiffany Alexandria** of Choochoo-ca-Chew.



July 16: Field Day – Setting Up a Multi-Species Grazing Operation

Hosts: Michael & Courtney Gutschenritter
3-5:30 p.m. | Oconomowoc, WI

Learn how **Michael and Courtney Gutschenritter** of Three Brothers Farm in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, use conversation-focused techniques to raise grass-fed lamb, 2,800 laying hens and 120 Shetland sheep. They also custom-graze 25 of their neighbor's bred dairy heifers. You will see their sliding fence system for their chickens, which allows them to move their coops and electric netting without handling.



July 18: Workshop – Grundy County Workshop: Biologicals, the Hot Topic

Hosted by: Fred Abels, Courtney Myers & Grundy County SWCD

9 a.m.-Noon | Grundy Center, IA

Hosted by **Fred Abels**, come hear farmers' experiences with biological products, how they make their own compost tea and how these products fit into their operations. **Josh Nelson and Ryan Gibbs**, both farmers who work with Singular Agronomics, will share their use of biological products and how these products work on their own farms.

[View the full field day schedule](#)

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

July 2: Field Day – Nutrient Management Using Intercropping in an Organic Operation

Hosts: Scott & Catherine Wedemeier

10 a.m.-Noon | Maynard, IA

July 10: Field Day – Growing, Processing and Marketing Onions and Potatoes for Wholesale Outlets

Hosts: Steve Rachut & Ron Rachut

10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. | Fertile, IA

July 10: Field Day – Innovative Strategies for Diversifying a Row Crop Operation

Hosts: Chris & Shannon Gaesser

4 p.m.-6 p.m. | Corning, IA

July 11: Field Day – Organic U-Pick Blueberries and Day-Neutral Strawberries at Blueberry Bottom Farm

Host: Kim Andersen

10 a.m.-Noon | Brighton, IA

July 11: Spanish Field Day – Year in the Life With Adam: Goat Health & Management

Host: Adam Ledvina

Chelsea, IA

July 15: Spanish Social – Storm Lake Community Social

4 p.m.-6 p.m. | Storm Lake, IA

July 18: Meet-Up – Farm Family Meet-Up

Host: Matt Lansing

2 p.m.-4 p.m. | Textile Brewery | Dyersville, IA

View our events calendar

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Dan Voss of Atkins, IA, was featured in [Ambrook Research: Farmers Aren't Keeping Up With Oat Milk Demand](#)

Kamyar Enshayan, Director of the Center for Energy & Environmental Education at University of Northern Iowa was featured on the [DonnaLonna Kitchen Show: Episode 103: Health Iowa Food Systems with Kamyar Enshayan.](#)

Tom Wahl and Kathy Dice of Wapello, IA, were featured in [Wallaces Farmer: Last stand for dicamba?](#)

Hannah Breckbill of Decorah, IA, was featured in [No-Till Farmer: No-Till Highlights: June 20, 2024](#)

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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