

Practical News - Growing a diverse ecosystem at 3 Brothers Farm + Kidding video FAQ

Practical Farmers of Iowa <info@practicalfarmers.org>

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To: Anna Pesek <anna.pesek@practicalfarmers.org>



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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Supporting a diverse ecosystem with multi-species grazing at 3 Brothers Farm

Nested in Waukesha County, Wisconsin, **Michael and Courtney Gutschenritter's** 100-acre farm is planted entirely in perennials, including 28 acres of pollinator habitat.

Last Tuesday, over 75 field day participants joined the Gutschenritters to see their operation up close. Guests saw the couple's pasture, which is thick with prairie plants, and learned about the [sliding electric fence systems](#) for poultry they innovated and have begun popularizing. Attendees also learned how Michael and Courtney raise grass-fed lamb, 120 Shetland sheep and 2,800 laying hens; and how they custom-graze 25 of their neighbor's dairy heifers.

This diversity is the ecological and economic web of the operation. They also sell wool blankets and sheepskins, pastured eggs; and in recent years, and innovative farm manuals.

The field day ended with a meal of lamb gyros, made from meat produced on the farm, and local vegetables. Those who attended the field day were left feeling nourished in more ways than one.

See the rest of PFI's [field day schedule here](#).

NEWS

Welcome Austin to PFI staff



Austin Geist joined the Practical Farmers of Iowa staff in July 2024 as the senior data systems coordinator.

Austin has been deeply immersed in agriculture since 2010 and earned his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University. He is excited to use his prior knowledge and experience to help overcome challenges currently faced within the farm viability department's data management structure at PFI.

[Read Austin's full bio.](#)

New Video: Kidding with Adam Ledvina



Join **Adam Ledvina** of Iowa Kiko Goats as he answers FAQs about kidding in our latest YouTube video.

Learn the signs a doe is getting ready to give birth, thoughts on interventions and what to look for as you develop a healthy and low-maintenance herd.

[Watch the YouTube video.](#)

Trialing strip-till vs. no-till soybeans or corn following a cover crop



Does strip-tilling fields after a cover crop affect corn and soybean yield compared with no-tilling? Iowa farmers **Keaton Krueger and Tim Sieren** aimed to find out in their 2023 trial.

Keaton and Tim both use strip tillage to prepare cover-cropped fields for soybean or corn planting. But they both think no-till would be preferable on their operations if there's no large negative yield impact.

[See what they found out.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming small grains shared learning call



Friday, Aug. 2 | Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Hybrid cereal rye, developed by KWS Cereals, typically yields over 100 bushels per acre while needing few crop protectants. These attributes have sparked a growing following among farmers.

Featured speaker **Becca Brattain** is the country manager for KWS Cereals whose work expands small grains production and use across North America with a focus on hybrid rye and its role in livestock diets. [RSVP.](#)

Featured field days



Aug. 9: Field Day – [Boots on the Ground: Tips for Transitioning to No-Till](#)

Hosts: Alex & Krissy Udermann, John Udermann and Jake Udermann

1-3:30 p.m. | Sartell, MN

Learn from the Udermann family about cover crops, transitioning to no-till and other practices that build more resilient soil.

Their farm includes a 1,000-acre row crop operation, which is 100% no-till, along with 80 dairy cows and 300 beef steers. They also grow cereal rye for seed, use cover crops extensively, custom-haul liquid and solid manure and do custom no-till planting and cover crop seeding. [RSVP.](#)



Aug. 10: Field Day – [Honing Pasture Management With Rotational Grazing + Cover Crops](#)

Hosts: David Rosmann & Becky Tompkins-Rosmann, Ron Rosmann & Maria Vakulskas Rosmann, Daniel Rosmann & Ellen Walsh-Rosmann, Mark Rosmann & Virginia Lehner-Rosmann

3-5 p.m. | Harlan, IA

Operated by **David Rosmann** and family, Rosmann Family Farms in Harlan, Iowa, is a 700-acre certified organic farm with a mixture of field crops, pasture, popcorn, small grains and hay as well as cattle and

hogs. Learn about the systems-based approach the Rosmanns take that can work on any farm, showcasing grazing, row crops, small grains and cover crops. **RSVP.**

[View the full field day schedule](#)

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

July 30: Field Day – Establishing and Growing a Cover Crop Seeding and Service Business

Hosted by: Dan & Jessica Bahe
10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Stanley, IA

July 31: Meet-Up – Farm Family Meet-Up

In partnership with ADM
5-7 p.m. | Lanark, IL

Aug. 1: Meet-Up – Farm Family Meet-Up

In partnership with ADM
4-6 p.m. | Donnellson, IA

Aug. 4: Field Day – Adaptive Marketing Through a Collaborative CSA, Value-Added Products and On-Farm Sales at Buffalo Ridge Orchard

Hosted by: Marcus & Emma Johnson
1:30-4 p.m. | Central City, IA

Aug. 6: Workshop – Central Nebraska Cover Crop Workshop

9 a.m.-4 p.m. | Gothenburg, NE
***registration closes July 31, walk-ins will be accepted**

Aug. 7: Meet-Up – Farm Family Meet-Up

In partnership with ADM
5-7 p.m. | Lena, IL

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Karri Rose of Norwalk, IA, was featured in [Travel + Leisure: Des Moines Is More Than Corn Fields and the State Fair — Here's What We Love About This Midwest Capital](#)

Kathy Stockdale and John Gilbert of Iowa Falls, IA, were featured in [Truthout:](#)

Farmers Fight a Hazardous Carbon-Capture Pipeline in Rural Midwest

Jodi Enos-Berlage of Ridgeway, IA, **Catherine DeLong** of Ames, IA, **Kellie Blair** of Dayton, IA, and **Wendy Johnson** of Charles City, IA, were featured in [Farms.com](#): **Save the Date! Iowa Women in Agriculture Conference is August 1, 2024**

Lee Tesdell of Slater, IA, **Lee Burras** of Ames, IA, and **Amber Anderson** of Ames, IA, were featured on [Brownfield Ag News](#): **Iowa farmer sees benefits of conservation management**

Maury and Mary Wills of Adel, IA, and **Beth Romer** of Altoona, IA, were featured on the Iowa [Farm Bureau website](#): **Choose Iowa invests in farm expansion, innovation**

Wendy Johnson of Charles City, IA, was featured in an [Environmental Defense Fund blog](#): **How a producer-led movement to diversify food production can strengthen global food supply**

PFI in the News

Sally Worley, PFI's executive director, was featured in [The Associated Press](#): **PepsiCo Foods North America Launches New "Planting Pathways Initiative" To Expand Opportunities in the Agriculture Sector**

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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