

# Practical News - Pairing wide-row corn with cover crops + Boosting profitability with conservation

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**June 10, 2024**

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



## **Making way for cover crops in 60-inch corn rows**

Planting corn in wider rows spaced 60 inches apart, as opposed to the typical 30-inch rows, provides a unique opportunity to grow cover crops while simultaneously growing a cash crop.

**David Dedert** of Quincy, Illinois, grows row crops and raises beef cattle, calves and sheep. While he has grazed cover crops for the past two decades, he was intrigued when he learned from eastern Iowa farmers **Bob Recker and Eric Miller**

about planting cover crops in the wider 60-inch space between corn rows. David decided to trial it on his farm in 2023.

"I liked the idea of being able to raise a decent stand of corn crop and then also be able to graze the cover crops in the fall afterward," he says.

[Read David's takeaways from 2023 and his plans for the 2024 season on the blog.](#)

## ON THE BLOG

### Precision Conservation: Increasing Profitability and Conservation on Your Farm



**Jacob Bolson** and his family run Hunt Farm, growing corn and soybeans on rented farmland in Hubbard, Iowa.

Learn how Jacob gradually widened buffers on his farm to increase his yields and profitability while adding new conservation areas to the farm, including pollinator habitat and wood chip bioreactors.

[Read more on the blog.](#)

## NEWS

### PFI's grazing cost-share is getting more livestock on the land



**Laura Keniston** of Night and Day Ranch near Alburnett, Iowa, received funds to help purchase portable fencing through PFI's grazing infrastructure cost-share program.

The portable fencing allowed Laura to begin rotationally grazing her cattle on neighboring farms. Read more about how farmers are using the grazing cost-share to build connections and get more livestock on the land in [this article from our Spring 2024 magazine.](#)

## Now hiring a field crops education coordinator



We continue to grow and are seeking a field crops education coordinator to join our team.

In this position, you'll connect with field crops farmers to learn about their challenges, opportunities and how PFI can serve them. You'll also help coordinate field days, conference sessions, webinars and more to help farmers build peer networks and learn from one another.

[Learn more and apply.](#)

## MEMBERSHIP

### Support farmers and sustainable agriculture



Help PFI ensure that farmers are not alone as they work toward creating resilient farms and sustainable food systems.

Your donation supports programs that connect farmers and enhance the health of the land and the communities around them.

Please consider making a donation today to support this important work.

[\*\*Donate today\*\*](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Featured field days



### **June 20: Field Day – The Basics of Raising Sheep for Wool**

*Hosted by: Stacy & Kevin Dresow*  
4-6 p.m. | Lonsdale, MN

**Stacy and Kevin Dresow** at Dresow Family Farm raise white and colored Cormo and Cormo cross-bred fine-fleeced sheep for their squishy, soft wool. Join them to learn all about sheep, from lambing and feeding to shearing and marketing. [\*\*RSVP\*\*](#)



### **June 20: Field Day – Discovering Covers: Options From Seeding to Species and How They Affect Soil Health**

*Hosted by: Edmund & Barbara Ruff*  
4-6 p.m. | Garnavillo, IA

**Edmund and Barbara Ruff** steward Edmund's family farm, a century farm, growing corn and soybeans on approximately 85 acres. Learn how they plant cover crops across their whole farm and how no-till and cover crops can help build soil health and improve nutrient management. [\*\*RSVP\*\*](#)



### **June 22: Field Day – Maintaining High Yields With Cover Crops and Conservation**

*Hosted by: Kurtis & Kathy Kadolph and Al Kadolph*  
10 a.m.-Noon | Hubbard, IA

Join us to learn how **Kurtis and Kathy Kadolph**, along with Kurtis' father **Al**, farm 700 acres of no-till corn and soybeans and use cover crops on all their acres while working to maintain high yields and profitability. [\*\*RSVP\*\*](#)



### **June 23: Field Day – Cultivating an Experience: Engaging Through Agritourism, Marketing and Production at Rose Farm**

*Hosted by: Karri & Patrick Rose*  
3-5 p.m. | Norwalk, IA

**Karri Rose** and her husband, **Patrick**, manage 3 acres of cut flowers and 2 acres of pollinator habitat while also cultivating an array of memorable guest experiences for visitors. Learn how they assess what

works and doesn't work on their farm and how they identify new opportunities. [RSVP](#)

[View the full field day schedule](#)

## More upcoming events

*All events listed are in Central time.*

**June 12: Field Day – [Targeted Conservation for Layered Benefit: Using Data to Create Habitat](#)**

*Hosted by: Steve Robisky*  
9 a.m.-Noon | Cedar Falls, IA

**June 14: Field Day – [Grazing 'Round the Farm](#)**

*Hosted by: Ethan & Becca Book*  
10 a.m.-Noon | Knoxville, IA

**June 17: Field Day – [Rye Resiliency: Strategies for Using Rye to Build and Maintain Soil Health](#)**

*Hosted by: J.D. Hollingsworth & Dave Hollingsworth*  
4:30-6:30 p.m. | Packwood, IA

**June 19: Field Day – [A Legacy of Stewardship: Using Cover Crops, Biochar and Nature for Sustainable Agriculture](#)**

*Hosted by: Rob Stout*  
4-6 p.m. | Washington, IA

[View our events calendar](#)

## IN THE NEWS

### Members in the News

*Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.*

**T.D. Holub** of Coggon, IA, and **Rachel Burke**, PFI's beginning farmer engagement coordinator, were featured on [Iowa Public Radio: \[Learn about practical farming in Iowa\]\(#\)](#)

**Amos Troester** of Garnavillo, IA, and **Loran Steinlage** of West Union, IA, were featured on [The Big Show: \[Clean Water Starts Here with Beer!\]\(#\)](#)

**Hannah Bernhardt and Jason Misik** of Finlayson, MN, were featured on [Minnesota Bound: \[Big Rock Creek\]\(#\)](#)

**Jon Bakehouse** of Hastings, IA, and **Tim Youngquist** of Zearing, IA, were featured in [The Daily Nonpareil: \[Golden Hills hosts field day to discuss prairie strips\]\(#\)](#)

**A.J. and Kellie Blair** of Dayton, IA, were featured in [Agri-View: Report shares water-recycling research](#)

**Ethan and Becca Book** of Knoxville, IA, were featured on [KNIA KRLS Radio: Practical Farmers Field Day](#)

**Matt and Jocelyn Vermeersch** of Red Oak, IA, were featured in [KMTV 3 News Now: Highland Cattle herd helping restore native prairie at Hitchcock Nature Center](#)

**Ruth McCabe** of West Des Moines, IA, was featured in [Farm Forum: ISU's Armstrong Research and Demonstration Farm Field Day set for June 27](#)

**Josh Nelson** of Belmond, IA, was featured on [Brownfield Ag News: Challenging Spring for North Iowa Farmer](#)

**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](mailto:elizabeth.wilhelm@practicalfarmers.org)

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