

Practical News - 2024 cover crop programs now open + Jam-packed June field days

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



June 17, 2024

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Dairy grazing, silvopasture and composting at Wilson Organic Dairy field day

On Friday, June 7, Wilson Organic Dairy in Paullina, Iowa, hosted our first field day of the year with over 80 participants. **Torray Wilson** demonstrated his Johnson-Su composting method and a homemade compost extractor crafted from jacuzzi pumps. A hayrack ride to the pasture showcased efficient fencing techniques and the flexible design of their silvopasture system.

[View upcoming field days near you.](#)

NEWS

This year's cover crop cost-share is now open for enrollment



Do you plan to seed cover crops this fall?

Applications for our cover crop cost-share program just opened.

Payment rates are **\$10 or \$15 per acre** on an unlimited number of acres. The program extends beyond Iowa and is stackable with any publicly funded cost-share programs.

[Check your eligibility and apply.](#)

Examining potential impacts of using compost tea in corn



Last season, **Jack Boyer** investigated the yield impact of applying Holganix Bio 800+, a commercial compost tea, at the time of corn planting in addition to his regular corn fertilizer treatment.

He wanted to learn how the recommended rates impacted corn yield and economic performance.

[Learn what he found in our latest report.](#)

Welcome Anna to PFI staff



Anna Pesek (Hankins) joined the PFI staff as the digital content coordinator in June 2024. Previously, Anna served PFI as a farmer-at-large representative on the board of directors.

Anna and her wife, Shae, raise seasonal cut flowers, chickens, ducks, turkeys and farrow-to-finish Berkshire pigs at Over the Moon Farm, located in Delaware County, Iowa.

[Learn more about Anna.](#)

PFI's cover crop business accelerator is open for 2024



With tailored business coaching, technical guidance and financial incentives, our cover crop business accelerator program aims to support the cover crop seed and application businesses.

Benefits for participants include:

- Business growth consulting
- Capital investment funds
- Incentive payments

[Learn more and apply.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Featured field days



June 26: Field Day – [Building Soil Health Through Relay-Cropping, Extended Rotations and Reduced Tillage](#)

Hosted by: Doug & Kim Adams and Harley Hett
4:30-6:30 p.m. | Humboldt, IA

Doug Adams grows corn and soybeans using strip-till, no-till and cover crop practices as well as extended rotations with small grains. Learn about his experiences with relay-cropping soybeans and winter

wheat to control weeds and build the soil and his partnership with neighbor **Harley Hett**. [RSVP](#)



June 27: Field Day – Farming Outside the Box: A Fresh Approach to Diversification on a Nebraska Farm

Hosted by: Junior & Katelyn Pfanstiel, Gene & Julie Pfanstiel

10 a.m.-Noon | McLean, NE

Junior Pfanstiel and his family raise corn, soybeans, small grains, grain sorghum, buckwheat, forage peas and pinto beans on 270 acres. At this field day, Junior will showcase his roller-crimping trial, experiences growing food-grade white grain sorghum and discuss his journey transitioning to organic. [RSVP](#)



June 28: Field Day – Creating Resiliency Through Diversity With Crops and Livestock

Hosted by: Kevin Wagner & family

10 a.m.-Noon | Cuba City, WI

Kevin Wagner raises beef cattle and grows corn, soybeans, alfalfa, oats and wheat on his family farm. Kevin will discuss his use of small grains and alfalfa in his rotations, how his rotations support his livestock operation – which includes raising cows from start to finish – and what he has learned about planting soybeans green into cover crops. [RSVP](#)



June 30: Field Day – Hands-On Field Day at Garden Oasis Farm

Hosted by: T.D. & Sarah Holub

9 a.m.-Noon | Coggon, IA

T.D. and Sarah Holub started farming vegetables at Garden Oasis Farm in 2013 on a half-acre and now have a 10-acre operation. At this field day, you'll have a chance to learn about and test a variety of hand tools, gain in-depth experience with transplanting crops and more. Due to the hands-on nature of this field day, attendance is limited. [RSVP](#)



June 30: Field Day – Agriculture Supporting Community: Cultivating Food, Habitat and Leaders at Mustard Seed Community Farm

Hosted by: Alice McGary

3-5 p.m. | Ames, IA

Alice McGary owns the land and is the chief farmer at Mustard Seed Community Farm, but the farm operation is entirely volunteer-run. Together, they deliver free vegetables to medical clinics, supply local food pantries and feed individuals who connect via referrals. Come to this field day to revel in the joy of community connection. **RSVP**

[View the full field day schedule](#)

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

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

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

Hosted by: Stacy & Kevin Dresow

4-6 p.m. | Lonsdale, MN

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

June 21: Social – Spanish Community Social

Hosted by: LULAC and Eat Greater Des Moines

4-7 p.m. | Columbus Junction, IA

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

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

June 25: Meet-Up – Field Crops Farmer Meet-Up

Hosted by: Sean Dolan

12:30 p.m. | Independence, IA

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

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Meghan Filbert of Spring Green, WI, was featured in [VTDigger: Cows in electric collars: Vermont farmers pilot virtual fencing technology](#).

Beth Hoffman of Lovilia, IA, was featured on the [Earth Eats: Real Food, Green Living Podcast: Beth Hoffman speaks frankly on the financial challenges of farming](#)

Beth Hoffman and John Hogeland of Lovilia, IA, were featured in [The Hawk Eye: Hoffman: a career in ag journalism didn't prepare her for the realities of Iowa farm life](#)

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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