

Practical News - Cleaning up after storm damage at The Berry Patch Farm + Now hiring data systems coordinator

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Staff help clean up storm damage at The Berry Patch Farm

On Tuesday, May 21, storms caused significant damage to farms across Iowa.

The Berry Patch Farm in Nevada, Iowa, home to PFI members **Dean, Judy and Mike Henry**, was among those affected.

PFI staff gathered at the farm to clean up a high tunnel that had collapsed in the storm and another that housed raspberries, deconstructing metal frames and

clearing away debris.

While the tunnel pictured above did not yet have plants growing when the storm hit, it had been prepared for melons. The farm also saw damage to 50-year-old pine trees that surround and protect the berry fields.

We know many other farms and PFI members were affected by the severe weather. If you were among them, **federal disaster assistance is available through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.** If you need help cleaning up your farm, you can post about it in our announcements email discussion group.

ON THE BLOG

Blog: "Effective and Cost-Saving Management of Diseases in Small Grains"



During a wet spring, weed and fungal growth compete with a developing small-grain crop, causing many issues and costing valuable dollars when not managed effectively.

After a decade of growing small grains, **Wade Dooley** of Albion, Iowa, has learned to manage diseases in his small-grain crops with big-picture finances in mind. **Read about his decision-making processes in this new blog post.**

NEWS

Welcome Ann to the viability team



Ann Krause joins PFI as our senior cover crop business coordinator.

In her role, Ann oversees the Cover Crop Business Accelerator program and works to ensure the ongoing success of its participants.

Ann has a degree in finance from Iowa State University and currently farms alongside her husband and children in Slater, Iowa.

[Learn more about Ann.](#)

Join our team and support farmers in their business goals



Help PFI support farmers in achieving their business goals in this new position within our farm viability department.

We're seeking a senior data systems coordinator to lead our viability team in developing and implementing a data strategy for tracking program progress and facilitating meta-analysis and reporting.

[Learn more and apply today.](#)

Spring 2024 magazine: "Finding Common Ground"



In 2019, after years of increasing concerns about soil health and conservation, **Paul Thompson and Elena Meyer** decided to find a tenant who would transition their land to a more sustainable model.

Soon, they were connected with a young farmer, **Josh Nelson**. Today, Josh raises rye, oats, corn, soybeans and livestock.

Learn about their continued work together in [this article from our Spring 2024 magazine.](#)

(NOTE: Our print version of this article contained errors, including referring to the wrong Paul Thompson in the second paragraph of the piece. Errors have been corrected in the online version, which lists the full explanation of corrections.)

MEMBERSHIP

Building resilient farms through connection and support



Through the PFI network, farmers are connecting and finding support as they build resilient farms.

Now through the end of June, we're raising \$50,000 to help continue this work.

Your gift empowers farmers to improve their operations. In 2023, PFI held 218 events attended by 5,166 individuals. Plus, 79% of participants in PFI's farmer-led education reported improving their farms.

Give now

UPCOMING EVENTS

Featured field days



June 14: Field Day – Grazing 'Round the Farm

Hosted by: Ethan & Becca Book

10 a.m.-Noon | Knoxville, IA

Since 2006, the Book family has been raising livestock and direct-marketing through farmers markets and a CSA. Ethan is transitioning 60 newly acquired acres from row crop to permanent pasture. Learn how he's making it pencil out and work for his operation. [**RSVP**](#)



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

David Hollingsworth and his son **J.D.** raise corn, soybeans and cereal rye for seed. They became fully no-till in 2015 and now have 100% of their 1,200 acres cover cropped as well. Come learn how they're stewarding their farm's soil for future generations.

[**RSVP**](#)



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

Rob Stout is active in PFI's Cooperator's Program and is currently conducting on-farm research, including trials concerning planting corn into a green cereal rye cover crop and using biochar as a seed treatment. See research in action. [**RSVP**](#)

[View the full field day schedule](#)

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

June 7: Field Day – Dairy, Grazing, Silvopasture and Compost

Hosted by: Torray & Erin Wilson

June 7: Shared Learning Call – Boosting Forage Quality While Reducing Nitrogen Inputs in Extended Rotation

10 a.m.-Noon | Paullina, IA

June 8: Gathering – Women & Soil

1-5 p.m. | Dyersville, IA

Noon-1 p.m. | **Online**

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

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Jon Bakehouse of Hastings, IA, and **Tim Youngquist** of Zearing, IA, were featured on [KMTV 3 News Now: The prairie sells itself: Iowa farmers discover advantages to planting prairie strips](#)

Torray and Erin Wilson of Paullina, IA, **Brandon McHugh** of Dunlap, IA, and **Mitchell Hora** of Brighton, IA, were featured on the [Iowa Farm Bureau website: Upcoming conservation field days | May 23 update](#)

Seth Watkins of Clarinda, IA, was featured on the [ALUS website: Iowa farmer helps launch the first ALUS community in the United States to bring diversity—and people—back to the land](#)

Ray Gaesser of Corning, IA, and **Matt Russell** of Lacona, IA, were featured on the [Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance website: Remembering Bill Northey, a great agricultural and conservation leader](#)

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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