

The Monthly Feedstuff - Meat CSA webinar recording online

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

April 2024



Gearing up for field days

We're gearing up for a busy summer of field days here at PFI. With 59 events, we're going to be crisscrossing Iowa and neighboring states to help farmers share their knowledge, experience and farms.

The full list of field days will be out in May, but here's your sneak peek of livestock field day topics: grazing cover crops, converting row-crop to pasture, animal

handling, wool marketing, pasture farrowing, deep-bedded pig production, communicating cuts to consumers, livestock guardian dogs and much more!

We'll let you know more in our next Monthly Feedstuff. To make sure you hear about field days as soon as they're announced, [subscribe to our weekly PFI email, Practical News.](#)

PROGRAM UPDATES

Research report: "Castration Timing in Goats and Sheep"



Last year, goat farmers **Adam Ledvina** and **Bailey Lutz**, alongside sheep farmers **Hannah Breckbill** and **Emily Fagan**, completed a castration timing trial. [Read the report.](#)

Adam and Bailey are getting ready for their next trial to explore what effect weaning timing has on growth rates.

"Projects like this can help other producers learn from cooperators who raise animals like they do in a real-world setting," Adam says.

Blog: "Adding Forage Substance to Sparse Spring Cereal Rye Stands"



This spring, crop-livestock farmers face many highs and lows: the projected low prices of corn and soybeans, the high prices of hay and cattle and the low amount of moisture in the soil profile across the Midwest.

[In our latest blog post](#), PFI members Dennis McLaughlin, Nick Smith and Wade Dooley offer insights on maximizing forage potential and managing costs while adapting to changing conditions.

Catch the replay of our meat CSA webinar



Watch the recording of our webinar with Peter Allen of Mastodon Valley Farm now on YouTube.

Peter shares his unique CSA subscription model, which he's used for the last 10 years to successfully direct-market his farm's regenerative meats.

View recordings for all past webinars **on our YouTube playlist.**

BEYOND THE GATE

HPAI detected in cattle



Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A has mostly been a concern for poultry flocks but, at the start of April, HPAI was detected in dairy cattle in several states.

So far, evidence suggests the disease is passed from migrating birds and not between cows. No cattle deaths have been reported.

The **USDA issued recommendations** for farmers to help prevent further disease spread, and the University of Wisconsin Extension has assembled **this fact sheet.**

Grant opportunities for Minnesota farmers



The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for two grant opportunities.

The **AGRI Livestock Investment Grant** can be used for equipment purchases and physical improvements on livestock farms.

The **AGRI Preparing for Extreme Weather Grant**, open to livestock and specialty crop producers, can help buy and install supplies or equipment used to make farms more resilient to extreme weather.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming PFI events

All events listed in Central Time.

April 18: Spanish virtual course – Breeding, Gestation and Parturition Part 1
6-8 p.m. | [Online](#)

May 2: Spanish virtual course – Breeding, Gestation and Parturition Part 2
6-8 p.m. | [Online](#)

Friends of PFI events

April 18: Workshop – “Three Crucial Steps to Build Your Profitable Farm” with Charlotte Smith
Hosted by: Sustainable Farming Association
8 a.m.-5 p.m. | St. Joseph, MN

April 24: Webinar – Feeding your flock’s genetic potential with proper nutritional management
Hosted by: University of Wisconsin Extension
7:30 p.m. | [Online](#)

April 25: Pasture Walk – Pasture Walk Series #1: Overwintering
Hosted by: Sustainable Farming Association
5:30-7:30 p.m. | Vining, MN

April 26-28: Workshop – MN Sheep Shearing School
Hosted by: Lamb Shoppe
Hutchinson, MN

April 29: Webinar – Thriving Through Drought: Regenerative

April 30: Class – Multispecies Grazing Class

Grazing Strategies for Sheep and Goats

Hosted by: Missouri Extension
Noon-4 p.m. | Clinton, MO

Hosted by: Minnesota Extension
7:30 p.m. | **Online**

View our events calendar

Contact our team

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