

The Monthly Feedstuff - Grazing consultations open + Upcoming field days

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

July 2024



Resources for extreme weather challenges

Last year, I apologized that so many of my newsletters started out talking about drought. Well, if nothing else, this year sure is different. Flooding across the Midwest has been dramatic, from flooding across Iowa, to a dam failure near where I grew up in southern Minnesota sending a centuries worth of sediment

pollution downstream. Extreme weather, be it heat, drought, or flood takes a toll on our environment, our homes, our health and our farms. **The Land Stewardship Project** has put together [farm crisis resource page](#) with a special section specifically for the 2024 floods. It draws on Minnesota resources but is applicable to farms in surrounding states as well.

Also worth mentioning is a recent discussion in one of PFI's email discussion groups, which are open to PFI members, that highlighted the growing difficulty and expense of getting insurance on farm structures and homes. In response to the interest, PFI's senior horticulture education coordinator, Jacqueline Venner Senske, organized a series of virtual listening sessions for members to share their experiences and discuss what can be done to address the problem.

For a full recap and resources, [see the blog post](#).

To join the conversation, consider signing up for [PFI's email discussion groups](#).

PROGRAM UPDATES

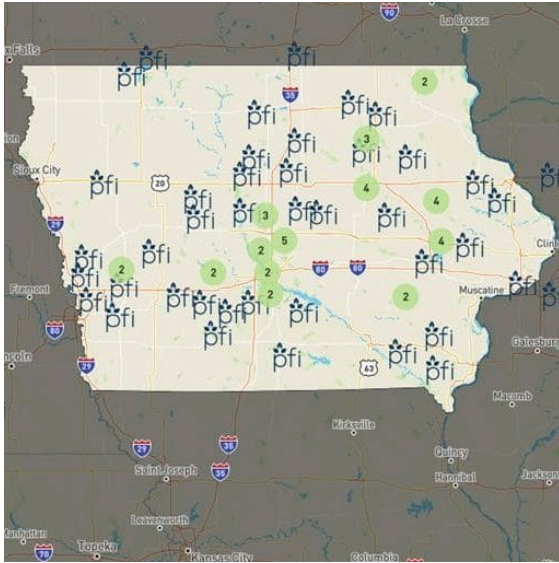
Grazing consultations open



Practical Farmers is offering grazing consultation calls with Livestock Viability Manager **Margaret Chamas** to farmers interested in taking their management to the next level – whether that’s grazing for the first time, going from monthly to weekly moves or setting up a super-intensive system with multiple paddock shifts a day.

[Visit our website to learn more and sign up for a consultation.](#)

List your farm on PFI's new and improved local foods directory



PFI's local foods directory is now part of MarketMaker's nationwide food system network. Use it to find PFI member farmers, businesses and organizations who offer local foods near you.

Current PFI member farmers, businesses and organizations can be listed for free in the PFI local foods directory. You'll need to create a MarketMaker account even if you were listed in our previous directory. Learn **[how to sign up](#)** and get listed.

BEYOND THE GATE

New fact sheet discusses lameness with hot, wet, muddy conditions



With all the rain, many pastures are sodden. Even without dramatic floods or standing water, the wet ground can lead to hoof issues with livestock.

"Foot Rot and Digital Dermatitis: Opportunists in Times of Wet Weather" is available as a free download from the **[Iowa Beef Center website](#)**. This four-page resource includes descriptions of these two diseases; symptoms to look for; diagnosis, treatment and preventative measures; photos; and a reference list.

Check out this **[PFI field day recap](#)** for more info on hoof care.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Field day: "Centering Sustainability From Farrow to Finish"

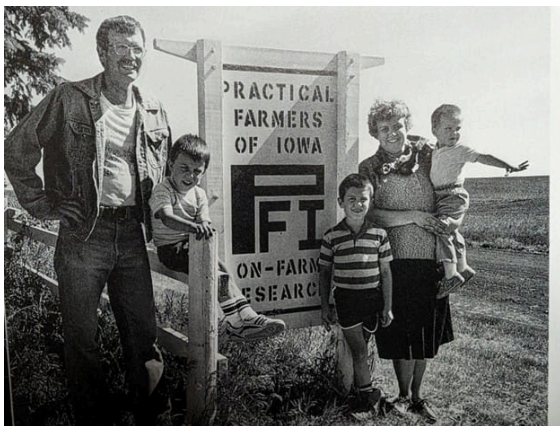


Tuesday, July 23 | 9-11 a.m. | Kerkhoven, MN

Come learn from **Andrew VanDerPol** how the values of environment, family, community and long-term profitability manifest in the family's production system today. We'll see all the stages of a pig's life on the farm, from the gestation barn, to the farrowing barn (rebuilt from an old hog building and featuring geothermal cooling), to growing and finishing in deep-bedded systems. Finally, Andrew will share how his family direct-markets up to 700 hogs a year.

[Learn more, and RSVP here.](#)

Field day: "Honing Pasture Management With Rotational Grazing + Cover Crops"



Saturday, Aug. 10 | 3-5 p.m. | Harlan, IA

Strong proponents of rotational grazing, **David Rosmann** and his family pay close attention to the health of their pastures.

At this field day, learn how the Rossmanns manage pasture outside of grazing periods, what cool- and warm-season planting mixes accompany each grazing period, how the farm lowers its overall inputs by composting manure and how rotational cover crops are seeded for livestock feed and as a supplement for cattle and hogs.

[Learn more, and RSVP here.](#)

Friends of PFI events

July 20: Workshop – Honey Bottling With Val

Hosted by: Honey by Hand Iowa
9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Urbandale, IA

July 22: Pasture Walk – Native Warm Season Grass Pasture Walk

Hosted by: University of Missouri Extension
5-8 p.m. | Fair Play, MO

July 25: Field Day – Organic Dairy Processing at Kalona Dairy

Hosted by: Iowa Organic Association
9 a.m.-2 p.m. | Kalona, IA

July 25: Pasture Walk – Oak Savannas, Native Prairies and Goat Grazing Pasture Walk

Hosted by: Sustainable Farming Association
6-8 p.m. | Barrett, MN

Aug. 9-10: Workshop – Wisconsin Schools of Managed Grazing

Hosted by: GrassWorks Inc.
Stratford, WI

Aug. 22: Field Day – Crop and Livestock Integration

Hosted by: Match Made in Heaven
5:30 p.m. | Clearmont, IA

[View our events calendar](#)

Contact our team

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