

# The Monthly Feedstuff - Register for field days + Opportunities for grants

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*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*

**June 2024**



## **Field day season is here!**

June marks the start of field day season here at PFI, and it's off to a roaring start. This year's livestock field days range the gamut from cattle, pigs, poultry, sheep and goats.

You'll learn about grazing permanent pasture and cover crops, a lamb carcass break-down and hands-on photography, generational transition, animal handling and so much more.

PFI field days are always **free and open to everyone.**

**[Check out our new interactive map, the full list of field days and register.](#)**

We'll see you at the farm!

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### 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.](#)**

## BEYOND THE GATE

### Microgrants to support endangered breeds now open



**[Livestock Conservancy microgrants](#)** of \$500 to \$2,000 can support your efforts to preserve genetic diversity in endangered breeds. Microgrant applications are now open for farmers, ranchers, breed clubs and associations who are already working with endangered breeds on the Conservation Priority List. Previous recipients have improved farm safety, added marketing tools, upgraded equipment and improved their breeding herds.



Application deadline is August 31.

## Continuous Living Cover Grants



The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is **accepting applications** for a grant to develop enterprises, supply chains and markets for continuous living cover crops and cropping systems in the early stage of commercial development.

Continuous living cover refers to agricultural systems where living plants and roots are in the ground year-round, including winter cover crops, agroforestry and perennial crops.

For ideas on using perennial living cover with livestock, check out this **PFI blog** about grazing Kernza with small ruminants.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Basics of Raising Sheep for Wool



**Thursday, June 20 | 4-6 p.m. | Lonsdale, MN**

**Stacy and Kevin Dresow** raise white and colored Cormo and Cormo cross-bred fine-fleeced sheep for their squishy, soft wool. From lambing and feeding to shearing and marketing, Stacy has been figuring out how to do it all while keeping "local" in mind in all their farm operations. If you're thinking about starting to farm, are new to sheep or want to explore new opportunities for marketing, come learn what Stacy says are the key things you need to know about sheep. **RSVP**

## Creating Resiliency Through Diversity with Crops and

Friday, June 28 | 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 has been fine-tuning his rotations to maintain high yields while reducing inputs. He has also added cover crops and integrated livestock.

Kevin will discuss using small grains and alfalfa in his rotations and how it supports his livestock operation, plus share what he learned about planting soybeans green into cover crops. [\*\*RSVP\*\*](#)

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## Communicating Cuts Workshop: From Carcass to Consumer

Saturday, July 13 | 9 a.m.-3 p.m. |  
Spring Grove, MN



Come learn as **Cecka Parks**, of the Minneapolis Meat Collective, breaks down a lamb, explains how the cuts relate to each other and shares basic rules of thumb for cooking each cut. Then learn how to affordably take attractive marketing photos of meat with your phone from food photographer **Tiffany Alexandria** of Choochoo-ca-Chew. Everyone will go home with their own photos of grass-fed lamb cuts.

**\*Due to the interactive nature of this workshop, attendance is limited and [registration is required.](#)**

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## Upcoming PFI events

*All events listed in Central Time.*

**July 16: Field Day –**

**July 23: Field Day – [Centering Sustainability From Farrow to](#)**

**Setting Up a Multi-Species**

**Grazing Operation**

*Hosts: Michael & Courtney*

*Gutschenritter*

3-5:30 p.m. | Oconomowoc, WI

**Finish**

*Host: Andrew VanDerPol*

9-11 a.m. | Kerkhoven, MN

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**Friends of PFI events**

**June 22: Field Day – Whetstone Farm and Cultivating the Commons**

*Hosted by: River Country RC&D*

10 a.m.-1 p.m. | Amery, WI

**June 24: Field Day – Prescribed Goat Grazing for Savanna Restoration**

*Hosted by: Sustainable Farming Association*

4-7:30 p.m. | Eagan, MN

**June 26: Field Day – Starting a Commercial Sheep Farm from Scratch**

*Hosted by: Sand County*

*Foundation*

9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. | Mineral Point, WI

**June 26: Workshop – Northwest Iowa Livestock Forum**

*Hosted by: Iowa State University Extension*

9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. | Sioux Center, IA

**June 28-29: Field Day – Driftless Grazing School**

*Hosted by: Land Stewardship*

*Project*

8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. | Caledonia, MN

**July 23-24: Field Day – Grazing School**

*Hosted by: Minnesota Grazing*

*Lands Conservation Association*

9:30 a.m. | Starbuck, MN

View our events calendar

**Contact our team**

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