

Practical News - PFI members develop cover crop businesses + Seeking conference suggestions

Practical Farmers of Iowa <info@practicalfarmers.org>

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Growing more than crops, field day gives inside look at a cover crop business

At a recent field day in Stanley, Iowa, **Dan and Jessica Bahe** shared how they purchased a 15-foot drill and some cover crop seed and began thoughtfully building their business, Bahe Cover Crops.

The Bahes now seed over 5,000 acres and offer a myriad of services, including selling humic and fulvic products, selling equipment and parts online, and advising on cost-share opportunities.

Attendees, many of which were interested in starting or expanding their own cover crop businesses, saw Dan's seed tender, purchased using money from PFI's [cover crop business accelerator program](#), as well as his crustbuster 40-foot drill.

To find a field day near you, visit our [full schedule here](#).

NEWS

What do you want to learn at PFI's 2025 Annual Conference?



Planning is already underway for the 2025 annual conference on January 10-11, 2025, in Des Moines.

Our farmer-led education team wants to hear your ideas for session topics and speakers.

Check out our [resources from past annual conferences](#) to get your ideas rolling!

[Use this form to share your ideas with PFI staff before August 23.](#)

Summer magazine article: "Oh, for a Bee's Experience"



For beekeepers in Iowa, the practice is full of compounding challenges as well as meditative joy.

In our summer magazine article, "Oh, for a Bee's Experience," **Emily and Nathan Paulsen** and **Phil Ebert** discuss their experiences living in tune with their 6-legged flocks.

[Read the article.](#)

Welcome Shawn Hanson to staff



Shawn Hanson joined Practical Farmers of Iowa in August 2024 in the role of finance manager.

After working in Milwaukee, Shawn moved back to Iowa to work for his family's agricultural construction business, assisting with bookkeeping and operations and later becoming the office administrator.

Shawn is experienced with ERP systems and financial processes and looks forward to applying his expertise at PFI. [Read more about Shawn.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Look for PFI at the Farm Progress Show



Tuesday, Aug. 27 – Thursday, Aug. 29
8 a.m.-5 p.m. | Boone, IA

The **Farm Progress Show** is one of the nation's largest outdoor farm shows.

Practical Farmers of Iowa staff and farmers will be located in the **Varied Industries tent at booth VIT9513.**

Find our booth to join conversations, ask questions and share advice on cover crops, small grains, grazing, conservation cost-share and more.

Featured field days



Aug. 23: Field Day – Scaling Up Custom Cover Crop Application

Hosts: Mike & Kara Dickinson and Mark Unruh
10 a.m.-Noon | Logan, IA

Learn how Mike and Kara Dickinson, alongside their business partner, Mark Unruh, started a custom cover crop application business.

Mike and Kara Dickinson own and operate Mike Dickinson Farms near Logan, Iowa, growing corn and soybeans, raising a cow-calf herd and running a commercial broiler chicken operation called East Valley Poultry. [RSVP](#)



Aug. 25: Field Day – [Hands-On Poultry Processing at Mad Acre Farms](#)

Hosts: Ryan & Jamie Madison
9 a.m.-1 p.m. | Gladbrook, IA

In 2020, beginning farmers Ryan and Jamie Madison founded Mad Acre Farms, a 4-acre farm with a market garden, a 240-square-foot greenhouse, a high tunnel and pastured chickens.

At this field day, the Madisons will showcase their pasture-raised poultry enterprise, from getting started to processing and marketing.

Registration is full. [Join the wait list.](#)



Aug. 27: Field Day – [Getting Started With Chestnuts](#)

Host: Elana Gingerich
9-11 a.m. | Parnell, IA

Elana Gingerich operates Olivia's Orchard (formerly East Holbrook Chestnut Grove), a 40-acre farm with over 10 acres of chestnut trees, a few acres of pawpaw trees and a handful of other fruit and nut trees. Elana also raises grass-finished beef cattle, which are rotationally grazed to manage pasture and timber.

Learn from Elana how you, too, can get started with chestnuts, a tree that grows well in Iowa! [RSVP](#)

[View the full field day schedule](#)

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

[Aug. 13: Meet-Up – PFI Member Day at the Iowa State Fair](#)

[Aug 13: Meet-Up – Farm Family Meet-Up](#)

8 a.m.-Noon | Des Moines, IA

In partnership with ADM
11 a.m.-1 p.m. | Rutledge, MO

Aug. 21: Field Day – Make Way for Pheasants: Assessing Habitat Potential on Marginal Acres

Hosted by: Jerry & Nancy Ackermann

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. | Lakefield, MN

Aug. 24: Spanish Field Day – Year in the Life With Jenny & Emilio: What to Expect From Rotational Grazing

Hosted by: Jenny Horner & Emilio Moreno

Noon – 2 p.m. | Red Oak, IA

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Andrew VanDerPol of Kerkhoven, MN, and **Amos Johnson**, PFI's senior livestock education coordinator, were featured in [West Central Tribune: Pastures A Plenty in west central Minnesota showcases sustainability of its hog operation](#)

David Rosmann of Avoca, IA, was featured on [KMA Radio: KMA MORNING SHOW - David Rosmann, Practical Farmers of Iowa](#)

Jathan Chicoine of Story City, IA, and **Grace Yi**, PFI's senior habitat viability coordinator, were featured on [Iowa Public Radio: A growing effort to restore oxbow wetlands aims to boost habitats and better filter farm runoff](#)

Kellie and A.J. Blair of Dayton, IA, were featured in [Farmtario: Seeing the benefits of drainage water recycling](#)

Matt Vermeersch, Jenny Horner and Emilio Moreno of Red Oak, IA, were featured in [One Earth: How goats are helping restore Iowa's prairie and preserve the Loess Hills ecosystem](#)

Tammy Deal of Panora, IA, and **Bill Frederick** of Jefferson, IA, were featured on [Raccoon Valley Radio: Registrations Now Accepted for a Cover Crop Field Day in Southern Greene County](#)

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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