

---

**The Monthly Feedstuff - Share your conference ideas + Thinking about stockpiling forage?**

---

From Amos Johnson <amos.johnson@practicalfarmers.org>

Date Wed 8/21/2024 4:01 PM

To Emily Yaddof <emily.yaddof@practicalfarmers.org>



*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*

**August 2024**



**Tell us about your ideas for PFI's 2025 Annual Conference!**

It's peak summer right now. The sky is blue, the grass is green and the heat is hovering around bearable. But, as we all know, this is only temporary. Cold and bitter winds are just over the horizon. Likely you've already been thinking about

and preparing for the winter. Here in the PFI offices, on all levels except physical, we're in January. It's annual conference planning time! If you have thoughts on potential speakers, topics or want to present something yourself, [fill out this form](#) to share your ideas.

Make sure to get the conference dates, **January 10-11 in Des Moines, Iowa**, on your calendars. Plus, consider this a special sneak peek announcement of the **Midwest Meat Summit January 9-10** happening right before the conference. More details are forthcoming.

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### New PFI video on kidding goats



It's not kidding time on most farms, but file this new video away for the next time you need it. **Adam Ledvina** of Iowa Kiko Goats in Tama County, IA, answers some FAQs about kidding, including signs that a doe is getting ready to give birth, thoughts on interventions and what to look for as you develop a healthy and low-maintenance herd.

[Watch the video to learn more about care and maternal qualities with Adam.](#)

---

### 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.](#)

## BEYOND THE GATE

### New study on stockpiling forage



It's creeping into late summer now, and you might be thinking about stockpiling forage for this winter. [This study](#) from Iowa State University evaluates the nutrition of stockpile based on the method with which it was done.

For more info on stockpile grazing take a look at this [PFI blog](#), [this cooperators' report](#) and [this webinar](#).

---

## Curious about solar grazing?



As solar panels become an increasingly familiar part of the landscape there is potential for livestock grazing underneath to become just as regular an occurrence.

[This story](#) from Minnesota Public Radio tells about one farm in Minnesota using solar grazing as an entry way into farming and a way to keep livestock on the land.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Year in the Life With Jenny & Emilio: "What to Expect From Rotational Grazing"**





**Saturday, Aug. 24 | Noon-2 p.m. |  
Red Oak, IA**

*Hosts: Jenny Horner and Emilio Moreno*

**Jenny Horner and Emilio Moreno** are beginning farmers in Red Oak, Iowa. They farm on Jenny's family farm, Spring Lake Organics, which includes 110 acres of certified organic hay. Jenny added goats to the farm to help revive the land with rotational grazing and foraging. Their future plans include producing value-added products and getting started with agrotourism.

**\*\* This is a Spanish-interpreted event. To register, please contact Valeria at 515-232-5661.**

---

## Field day: "Transitioning Ground and Changing Generations"



**Tuesday, Sept. 3 | 10 a.m.-Noon |  
Red Oak, IA**

*Hosts: Matt and Jocelyn Vermeersch and  
Maggie McQuown and Steve Turman*

**Matt and Jocelyn Vermeersch** are first-generation farmers in their second year collaborating on a farm transition with **Maggie McQuown**. They are also working to transition the row crop ground to permanent pasture.

**RSVP** to learn how Matt, Jocelyn and Maggie are making these transitions work and what the vision for their regenerative, grass-based system is.

**\*\*Field days are free and open to everyone!\*\***

---

## Field day: "Cattle Handling and Grass-Based Genetics"



**Saturday, Sept. 7 | 9 a.m.-Noon | Winterset, IA**

For the past 14 years, **Jake Bigelow** has been working towards a sustainable balance among family, farm and finances while feeding his local community with quality products. To that end, he is carefully managing his herd for genetics that thrive on a grass-based system.

**RSVP** to come learn what traits Jake looks for in cattle to decide if they'll do well in his herd. He will also demonstrate techniques for calm and quiet animal handling.

---

## Upcoming PFI events

*All events listed in Central Time.*

**Sept. 12: Field Day – Making a Livelihood With Livestock: A Whole-Farm Approach With Forage Crops and Cover Crops**

*Hosted by: Dan & Ila Taylor and Noah, Sarah and Todd Taylor  
4-6 p.m. | Bouton, IA*

**Sept. 15: Field Day – Diversifying the Farm by Integrating Pastured Poultry With Tree Fruit and Berries at Solstice Farm + Paha Cider Co.**

*Hosted by: Mark Westbrook  
2-4 p.m. | Waverly, IA*

**Sept. 26: Field Day – Sheep, Dogs and Sheepdogs**

*Hosted by: Fiona Harrar  
9a.m.-Noon | Washington, IA*

---

## Friends of PFI events

**Aug. 22: Field Day – Custom Grazing Dairy Heifers and DNR Land at Voss Farms**

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

**Aug. 22: Field Day – Match Made in Heaven: Livestock + Crops Field Day**

*Hosted by: Green Lands Blue Waters  
5:30 p.m. | Clearmont, IA*

**Aug. 28: Field Day – Highway 34 Pasture Walk**

*Hosted by: ISU Extension  
5:30-7 p.m. | Creston, IA*

**Sept. 6-8: Conference –Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival**

*Hosted by: Wisconsin Sheep Breeders Co-op*

Jefferson, WI

[View our events calendar](#)

## Contact our team

**Margaret Chamas**

*Livestock Viability Manager*

[margaret.chamas@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:margaret.chamas@practicalfarmers.org)

**Amos Johnson**

*Senior Livestock Education*

*Coordinator* [amos.johnson@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:amos.johnson@practicalfarmers.org)

---

**Donate today**

**Join Practical Farmers**



© 2023 Microsoft Dynamics. All rights reserved.

1615 Golden Aspen Dr Suite 101

[Unsubscribe](#)