



The Monthly Feedstuff - New funding sources + One more livestock field day

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

October 2024



NRCS funding for virtual fencing

The NRCS announced they will begin funding cost-share for virtual fencing for livestock. While exciting, implementation questions remain. To help address these

questions, PFI held a series of virtual sessions discussing how the technology works, including clarifying information from NoFence staff. NRCS staff also answered questions about how this technology will integrate with managed grazing plans through EQIP.

Thanks to all who attended and asked excellent questions during the virtual fence and EQIP cost-share calls. If you weren't able to make it, or want to share the information with others, see the links below for the recording and materials from a similar event held by Green Lands Blue Waters:

- [Full recording of presentation](#)
- [Slides only](#)
- [Virtual fence 101 factsheet](#)

Remember the [EQIP application](#) deadline is Nov. 3.

PROGRAM UPDATES

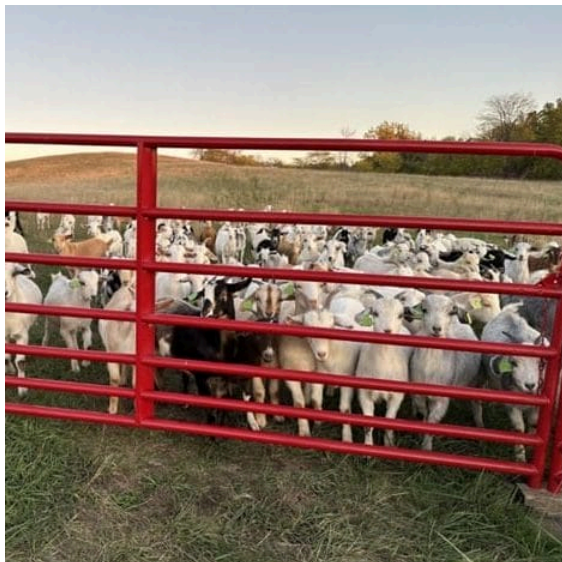
Research report: "Effects of Johnson-Su Compost Extract on Pasture Production and Quality"



Johnson-Su is a method of creating compost from wood chips or leaves in large, passively-aerated and watered piles. This method is attractive because the process does not smell or require turning. **Rory Van Wyk** wanted to determine the effects of compost extract created by the Johnson-Su method applied at the time of pasture establishment on pasture production and quality.

[Explore the result of his trial.](#)

Research report: "Castration Timing in Goats and Sheep"



Castration of goat kids and lambs is a common practice, but the U.S. has no set regulations, and farmers castrate animals anywhere from a few days to several months old.

Castration affects the animal's hormones and therefore growth rate, meat fattiness and some physical development factors, like urethra size. Cooperators **Emily Fagan & Hannah Breckbill, Adam Ledvina** and **Bee Lutz** wondered if timing of kid or lamb castration would affect the final hanging weights of their animals or the general health in their herds.

[Check out the results of their trial.](#)

BEYOND THE GATE

Livestock grant application open



The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for its Livestock Investment Grant, which reimburses investments in:

- Buildings or facilities to produce livestock or livestock products.
- Development of pasture for use by livestock, including lanes, watering systems and fences.
- Equipment for livestock housing, confinement, feeding and waste management.

Applicants may apply for up to 10% of a project's total cost, with grants ranging from \$400 to \$25,000. **[Learn more and apply.](#)**

How good nutrition boosts honey bee resilience



In a **new study**, researchers at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign tackled a thorny problem: how do nutritional stress, viral infections and exposure to pesticides together influence honey bee survival? By looking at all three stressors together, the scientists found that good nutrition enhances honey bee resilience against the other threats.

To read about PFI members raising honey bees and finding joy amidst the challenges, spend some time with **this article** from the summer magazine.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Field day: "Balancing Your Farm Dream With Your Family's Needs"



Saturday, Nov. 9 | 9 a.m.-Noon | Mount Ayr, IA

Beginning farmers **Kevin and Kendra Martin** own and operate Holdfast Farmstead. Prior to farming, they captained ships in the Pacific Northwest.

Now the Martins are raising Kiko goat breeding stock, along with producing freeze-dried and other value-added products. Join the Martins at this field day to learn about their journey to farming and how they're "holding fast" to their farming vision.

[Learn more and RSVP.](#)

Friends of PFI events

Oct. 24: Field Day – Extending the Grazing Season With Diverse Cover Crops

Oct. 26: Field Day – Fall Lambing Field Day

Hosted by: Iowa Sheep Association
10 a.m.-Noon | New Sharon, IA

Hosted by: Sustainable Farming Association

4-6 p.m. | Cold Spring, MN

Nov. 2: Field Day – Prepping for Winter & Grass-fed Cattle Genetics

Hosted by: Sustainable Farming Association

1-4 p.m. | Benson, MN

Nov. 7: Conference – Nebraska Beef Summit

Hosted by: Nebraska Cattlemen

10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Ithaca, NE

View our events calendar

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