



Practical News - Renew your membership by Tuesday for special rates + New video on summer cover crops

From Practical Farmers of Iowa <info@practicalfarmers.org>

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To Anna Pesek <anna.pesek@practicalfarmers.org>



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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Explore how summer cover crops help build organic matter in our YouTube video series

In Earlham, Iowa, a summer cover crop mix of sorghum, sunflower, flax, cow peas, forage collards and more towers over **Jordan Clasen** of Grade A Gardens on a warm September day.

In one of the latest videos in our "[Practical Cover Cropper](#)" series, Jordan shares how a thriving cover crop boosts soil fertility and organic matter, both of which benefit his upcoming garlic planting, a major crop at the farm. At Grade A Gardens, cover crops also help reduce weed pressure and serve as a nutrient-dense forage for the farm's chicken flock.

[Watch the "Practical Cover Cropper" series.](#)

NEWS

Thinking of reducing your nitrogen rate? Lower your risk with our N Rate Risk Protection Program



If you're thinking of giving lower nitrogen rates a try next growing season, lessen your financial risk by enrolling in our N Rate Risk Protection Program. You choose the lower nitrogen rate – and if your yield drops after doing so, you'll receive a per-acre payment from PFI.

Farmers who are new to reducing inputs, as well as those who've reduced nitrogen rates previously, are both eligible for the program.

[Enroll today.](#)

We're hiring an office and IT manager



PFI's operations department is growing with the addition of an office and IT manager!

This role will help ensure efficient delivery of all internal office and IT services. This includes managing PFI's two office building facilities, vehicles, reception, online retail and IT support vendors and procedures.

If you are a seasoned office professional with a knack for process improvement through teamwork, this is the job for you. [Apply today.](#)

Tim Kelley honored with Farmland Owner Legacy Award



During his Sept. 13 field day in Elmo, Missouri, **Tim Kelley** received PFI's Farmland Owner Legacy Award in recognition of his efforts to steward his soil and the land for long-term health.

In partnership with his tenant, **Brett Nolan**, Tim has diversified the farm's crop rotation with small grains and diverse cover crops, using poultry litter to further build soil fertility, while reducing his use of synthetic fertilizer and chemicals.

[Read more about Tim Kelley and Brett Nolan's work together.](#)

Blog: "Don't forget about P and K!"



Times of low commodity prices offer an opportunity to reconsider input practices that may help lower production costs.

Our latest blog post shares the experience of PFI member farmers who are finding ways to manage their fertilizer needs, resulting in positive economic and environmental impacts.

[Read the full blog post.](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Lock in lower rates – renew by Oct. 1



Have you checked your PFI membership status recently? **If you renew by Oct. 1, you'll get a free gift** – and you'll lock in lower annual fees (for Farm & Household and Organization levels) that are set to go up after our membership drive ends.

Access-level members receive a swag pack; all other member levels choose from a fleece-lined stocking cap or a PFI-branded cooler bag. Renew now so you can enjoy all the benefits membership has to offer, including steeply discounted rates to our annual conference in January.

[Renew your membership.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fuel your harvest with free field meals

Harvest Dinners
Free Meal Pickup

FARMERS, FUEL YOUR HARVEST!
This October sign up for
free hot meal pickup!



More info at practicalfarmers.org/events

Practical Farmers of Iowa and ADM re:generations are partnering to provide hot, delicious meals to farmers and their families this harvest season.

Working with local caterers, free meals will be available for pickup at select locations in eastern Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois and Missouri this October.

[View locations and sign up](#) to secure free meals for your harvest crew today.

Featured field days



Oct. 12: Field Day – Year in the Life of a Goat Farmer: Goat Health

Hosts: Jenny Horner & Emilio Moreno

10 a.m.-Noon | Red Oak, IA

Join **Jenny Horner & Emilio Moreno** for a Spanish-interpreted field day on goat health basics.

During this next installation of the "Year in the Life" series, Jenny and Emilio will share about grazing for meat production, evaluating eyelids and body composition and a general overview of goat health.

To register: please contact Valeria at (515) 232-5661 or valeria.cano.camacho@practicalfarmers.org.

[View the full field day schedule](#)

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

Oct. 1: Field Day – Year in the Life With Adam: Equipment Overview

Hosted by: Adam Ledvina

5:30-7:30 p.m. | Chelsea, IA

Oct. 2: Field Day – Starting Out and Building Up With Pigs

Hosted by: Ryan & Ashley Wallace

10 a.m.-Noon | Luzerne, IA

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Eric and Ann Franzenburg of Van Horne, IA, were featured on [Iowa News Now: Small farms turn to agritourism as corporate ag dominates](#)

Ilsa DeWald of Iowa City, IA, **Taylor Getting** of Oxford, IA, and **Jenna Hammerich** of Oxford, IA, were featured in [The Daily Iowan: Photos: Bike Spokes and Farm Folks: 2024 Farm Cycle](#)

John, Mary Lou, Alex, Krissy and Jake Udermann of Sartell, MN, **Mark Gutierrez** of Moose Lake, MN, and **Hannah Bernhardt** of Finlayson, MN, were

featured in [The Farmer: **Minnesota Leopold finalists named**](#)

Jordan Clasen of Earlham, IA, **April Clark** of Des Moines, IA, and **Tate Carlson** of Storm Lake, IA, were featured in [Des Moines Register: **See photos from Oak Park's inaugural outdoor vendors' market**](#)

Lee Tesdell of Slater, IA, **Lisa Schulte** Moore of Ames, IA, **Eric Hoien** of Spirit Lake, IA, and **Omar de Kok-Mercado** of Spring Green, WI, were featured in [Harvest Public Media: **Prairie home companions: Why more farmers are planting native landscapes in their crop fields**](#)

Shaffer Ridgeway of Waterloo, IA, was featured in [American Ag Network: **OPINION: The Federal Government Spends Billions on Food. Why Doesn't This Money Go to Farmers That Need the Business?**](#)

PFI in the News

Morgan Jennings, PFI's field crops viability coordinator, was featured on [Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network: **Enrollment open for 10th year of PFI's cover crop cost-share program**](#)

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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