



Outlook

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**Practical News - Sheep dogs in action + Attend our flower farmer meet-up**

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

Date Thu 10/24/2024 2:02 PM

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



**October 7, 2024**

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



## **Sheep dogs in action with Fiona Harrar at Premier 1 Supplies' demonstration farm**

On a beautiful September day with the pastures still lush, field day participants gathered in Washington, IA, at the expansive demonstration farm operated by Premier 1 Supplies, an electric fencing and livestock supply company.

Attendees learned from Livestock Manager Fiona Harrar about their accelerated lambing system, breeding management, feed rations and designing a lamb barn. Central to the field day was a discussion on the care and quirks of livestock herding and guardian dogs and a demonstration of the Premier 1 Supplies dogs in action.

[Explore all of our upcoming events on our website.](#)

## NEWS

### Farmer-led research evaluates best practices for overwintering spinach



Overwintering spinach is the practice of insulating a fall-planted spinach crop through the winter to produce an early spring crop of spinach.

Farmer-researchers **Hannah Breckbill, Emily Fagan, Natasha Hegmann, Peter Kerns and Mark Quee** investigated the best time to plant spinach for overwintering and tested whether direct-seeding versus transplanting performed better.

[Read the research report.](#)

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### New case study: "Hybrid Rye Pencils Out"



October is a great time to explore adding a third crop to your rotation with the addition of hybrid rye.

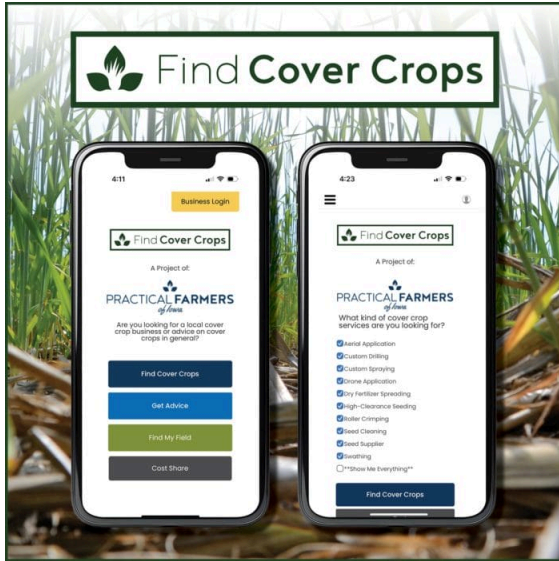
**Rebecca Clay**, PFI's field crops viability manager, sought to answer questions of cereal rye profitability when added to a corn and soybean rotation in our latest blog post. This detailed case study uses real production numbers of a farmer considering adding rye to his rotation in western Iowa.

[Dive into the case study results.](#)

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### Find Cover Crops directory makes accessing seed and services simple





Did you know PFI has a website and phone app that can help you find cover crop services and products near you?

**Find Cover Crops** is a business directory that includes seed, application, spraying, seed cleaning and more.

**Discover cover crop options in your area.**

In last week's Practical News, we misspelled **Brent Nold's** name. We apologize for the error. **Read more about the Farmland Owner Legacy Award and Tim and Brent's work together.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Register today for the flower farmer meet-up at Englebrecht Farm



**Sunday, Oct. 20 | 1:30-4:30 p.m. | Waverly, IA**

Do you currently grow and sell flowers on your farm? Then this meet-up is for you! Gather with flower farmers from across Iowa to network, compare notes from the season and do some hands-on crafting.

Bring fresh or dried flowers to share for a hands-on design project. Light refreshments will be provided.

**Pre-registration required. Limited to 35 people.**

## Let PFI and ADM fuel your harvest



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

- **Oct. 8 | 3-6 p.m. | Winona, MN**
- **Oct. 9 | 4-7 p.m. | Palmyra, MO**
- **Oct. 11 | 11 a.m.-2 p.m. | Table Grove, IL**
- **Oct. 16 | 4-7 p.m. | Wapello, IA**

**Sign up** to secure free meals for your harvest crew today.

## Spanish-interpreted field day on goat health basics



**Saturday, Oct. 12 | Noon-2 p.m. | Red Oak, IA**

Join **Jenny Horner and Emilio Moreno** for their next installation of the **"Year in the Life" series**. They will share about grazing goats for meat production, evaluating eyelid and body composition and a general overview of goat health.

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

[View our events calendar](#)

## IN THE NEWS

### Members in the News

*Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.*

**Beth Hoffman** of Lovilia, IA, wrote an opinion piece in [Des Moines Register](#): **Opinion: Iowa farms should produce not just the most, but also the best**

**Martin Larsen** of Byron, MN, was featured in [MinnPost](#): **Why advocates of an Olmsted County nitrate program want it broadened to other parts of the**

## state

**Shaffer Ridgeway** of Waterloo, IA, was featured on [Iowa Public Radio: Gardeners in Waterloo are adapting African crops for Iowa's climate — and feeding the community](#).

**Tate Carlson** of Storm Lake, IA, was featured in [Storm Lake Times Pilot: Growing project yields healthy, local produce](#)

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## PFI in the News

**Chelsea Ferrie**, PFI's field crops viability coordinator, was featured on [Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network's YouTube page: Enrollment open for PFI's N Rate Risk Protection Program](#)

**Chelsea Ferrie**, PFI's field crops viability coordinator, was featured on [Brownfield Ag News: Farmers make most of warm, dry September](#)

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**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](mailto:elizabeth.wilhelm@practicalfarmers.org)

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