



Outlook

Practical News - Livestock and small grains at Raw Farms + Business support programs enrolling

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

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



October 14, 2024

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Closing the loop with livestock and small grains at Raw Farms

In Luzerne, Iowa, **Ryan and Ashley Wallace** are building diversity and resilience on their crop and livestock farm. The Wallaces raise farrow-to-finish hogs, cattle, chicken, sheep and crops, including small grains. At their recent PFI field day, they showcased their integrated system that includes small grains to feed livestock and capturing manure to fertilize crop fields.

The Wallaces are also developing their pasture-based pig farrowing system using huts, pictured above. Their hope is to have a constant flow of piglets born throughout the year.

Only two more fields days are left this season! [Find out more and RSVP.](#)

NEWS

Take your business to the next level with our new program



PFI's Sustainable Agriculture Business Incubator is a new program in partnership with Grey Swan, an investment firm focused on regenerative agriculture.

All businesses accepted into the program will receive high-level coaching to help address barriers and bottlenecks to success.

[Learn more or apply by Nov. 4.](#)

Apply for SIP to get mentorship and help with your business plan



Applications are now open for PFI's Savings Incentive Program.

SIP helps beginning farmers develop sustainable business plans and invest in tangible farm assets through a 1-to-1 financial match or a 1-to-2 financial match for farmers of color.

[Apply for SIP](#) to receive help with business planning, network-building and capitol investing.

New research: Tarping for weed control in horticulture production



Tarping is an increasingly common practice on vegetable farms for bed preparation and weed or cover crop termination, especially in no-till or minimal-till systems.

Horticulture farmers **Hannah Breckbill and Emily Fagan**, along with **Marlon Mormann**, did an on-farm research project to answer questions relevant to their operations, including what duration of tarping is most effective for killing rye and if clear tarps can effectively get rid of perennial weeds. [Read the full research report.](#)

Welcome Kyleigh, PFI grants coordinator



We're excited to welcome **Kyleigh Meyer** as our new grants coordinator! She has been with Practical Farmers of Iowa since June 2023 as an office assistant and transitioned to grants coordinator in September 2024.

Kyleigh graduated Iowa State University in 2024 with a Bachelor of Science in technical communication, specializing in proposal grant writing.

[Read more about Kyleigh.](#)

Join the PFI team



We're Hiring!

Join the Practical Farmers of Iowa team!

practicalfarmers.org/employment

PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

We are looking for a **senior grants finance coordinator** to manage and assist our growing finance department. This position will support all departments to ensure proper management of private, state and federal funding.

Join the PFI team and play a vital role in the success and operations of a growing organization.

[Learn more and apply for this position.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Spanish community social in Marshalltown, Iowa



Tuesday, Oct. 22 | 5-7 p.m. | Marshalltown, IA

Join us for a free meal at the House of Compassion in Marshalltown to connect with other Spanish speakers involved or interested in agriculture. Learn about the services offered through House of Compassion and what aspiring farmer resources are available from Practical Farmers of Iowa.

[Learn more about Spanish community socials.](#)

"Establishing Prairie: Selecting Seeds to Restore and Optimize Native Habitat" field day



**Saturday, Oct. 26 | 1-4 p.m. |
Woodbine, IA**

Cait Caughey has been working to restore native upland prairie through careful selection of eco-typical seeds. **Lance Brisbois**, the deputy director of Golden Hills RC&D, specializes in habitat restoration and outdoor recreation. Come prepared to work as Cait and Lance will lead guests on a prairie seed harvest. You'll have the opportunity to pick, clean and sort your own prairie seed to take home.

Note that this field day location has changed. [RSVP](#)

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

**Oct. 16: Harvest Dinner –
[Harvest Dinner for Field Crop
Farmers](#)**

4-7 p.m. | Wapello, IA

**Nov. 5: Spanish Field Day – [Fall
Grazing and Pasture
Management](#)**

Hosted by: Adam Ledvina
5:30-7:30 p.m. | Chelsea, IA

**Oct. 20: Meet-Up –
[Fall Flower Farmer Meet-Up](#)**

Host: Tricia Englebrecht
1:30-4:30 p.m. | Waverly, IA

**Nov. 7: Spanish Webinar –
[Holistic Management, FSA &
Legal Issues](#)**

6-8 p.m. | [Online](#)

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Brice and Melanie Hundling of Breda, IA, were featured in [The Associated Press: \[Iowa's Hundling Family Farm Named Niman Ranch 2024 Sustainable Farm of the Year\]\(#\)](#)

Dan Fillius of Des Moines, IA, was featured on [Iowa Public Radio: \[Apple orchards, pumpkin patches and flower fields: Iowa farmers see the growing\]\(#\)](#)

success of agritourism

Dan Voss of Atkins, IA, was featured in [The Gazette: **'Severe drought' enters western Iowa, 'moderate drought' spreading**](#)

Kristine Lang of Brookings, SD, was featured in [Farm Forum: **Dakota Food Rx and high tunnel research support local producers**](#)

Paul Rasch of Solon, IA, was featured on [WHO 13 News: **Gabe on the Go: A fall escape at Wilson's Orchard and Farm**](#)

Jon and Tina Bakehouse of Hastings, IA, **Lisa Schulte Moore** of Ames, IA, **Maggie McQuown** of Red Oak, IA, and **Steve Turman** of Red Oak, IA, were featured in [The New York Times: **Hidden in Midwestern Cornfields, Tiny Edens Bloom**](#)

PFI in the News

Chelsea Ferrie, PFI's senior field crops viability coordinator, was featured on [Brownfield Ag News: **N Rate Risk Protection 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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