
Practical News - Beginning farmers embrace farmer-to-farmer learning + New cereal rye research results

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

Date Mon 9/2/2024 7:02 AM

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



September 2, 2024

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Beginning farmers embrace farmer-to-farmer learning at Mad Acres Farm field day

Ryan and Jaime Madison, owners of Mad Acres Farm, exude joy as they talk about their farming journey. While it hasn't always been easy, it's clear they are two people exactly where they are supposed to be.

On a recent hot August Sunday, Ryan carefully demonstrated the process of butchering chickens before field day attendees got a chance of their own. All but one attendee self-identified as a beginning farmer. Guests participated in the full process, from slaughter to final clean-up, while gaining valuable hands-on experience.

This field day exemplified the power of farmer-to-farmer learning. [See more upcoming events](#) on our website. While you're there, [learn more about our beginning farmer programming](#).

NEWS

Research report: "Cereal Rye and Triticale Variety Trial"



For the past six years, Practical Farmers of Iowa has been coordinating cereal rye variety trials at Iowa State University research farms throughout the state.

In 2024, PFI looked at one winter triticale variety (Tulus) along with 11 cereal rye varieties, including three new cereal rye varieties: SU Bebop, SU Cossani and SU Performer.

[See the results of this trial and full research report.](#)

Find funding for your farm business through the Heartland Business Builder Grant



Applications are open for the Heartland Business Builder grant, with awards ranging from \$5,000-\$50,000.

Applicants are eligible for five bonus points when they include in their application how business coaching or other technical assistance has helped them in the past 12 months.

[Book a time](#) to meet with **Savanah Laur**, PFI's business viability manager, to help think through your business and proposal.

Welcome Beth to PFI's field crops team!



Beth Waage joined our team in August 2024 as a field crops education coordinator. In this role, she works with the farmer-led education and field crops departments to engage farmers and coordinate educational programs, both virtual and in the field.

Beth grew up in north-central Iowa and attended Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa, graduating with a degree in environmental science. Beth served two AmeriCorps terms, one in Montana and one in Oregon, before returning to her home state of Iowa. [Read Beth's bio.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Shared learning call: "Square Up With Wheat: Growing and Marketing Small Square Straw Bales"



Friday, Sept. 6 | Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Angela and Kerry Knuth farm with their son Gregory in Mead, Nebraska. The Knuths raise corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa and market an average of 6,000 small square straw bales annually.

[Join our September](#) shared learning call to hear how the Knuths found their small square straw bale markets with a feed store and the Henry Doorly Zoo. They will also share the benefits and challenges they've found related to growing and marketing wheat.

Featured field days



Sept. 20: Field Day – [Developing Infrastructure on a Diversified Farm One Project at a Time at Brun Ko Farm](#)

Hosts: Nathan & Emily Paulsen | Brun Ko Farm
4-6 p.m. | Exira, IA

In recent years, farmers Emily and Nathan Paulsen have overseen significant development at their operation in southwest Iowa. They've repurposed a

hog barn into a packing shed, added a high tunnel to extend their vegetable season and installed additional waterlines to better use their pastures – and they have done so by using diverse funding sources.

Join us to learn how they have enhanced their farm's infrastructure to increase their revenue.



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

Host: Fiona Harrar

9 a.m.-Noon | Washington, IA

Fiona Harrar has been farming for the last 25 years with a focus on grass-based ruminant management and meat production.

Fiona is the livestock manager at Premier Experimental Farms, a production farm with 1,000 ewes and 50 meat goats that produces lambs year-round. She also raises and trains border collies and livestock guardian dogs who work with her daily on the farm.

Join Fiona at this field day to learn about all things sheep, and the dogs who guard them.

****This event will be presented in English with Spanish interpretation available upon request.**

[View the full field day schedule](#)

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

Sept. 3: Field Day – Transitioning Ground and Changing Generations

Hosted by: Matt & Jocelyn Vermeersch, Maggie McQuown and Steve Turman
10 a.m.-Noon | Red Oak, IA

Sept. 5: Meet-Up – Field Crop Farmer Meet-Up

Hosted by: Richard Sperflage
In partnership with ADM
5-7 p.m. | Winthrop, IA

Sept. 4: Field Day – Fitting Farming Into Life at Mogo Farms

Hosted by: Morgan Hoenig
3-5 p.m. | Mount Pleasant, IA

Sept. 7: Field Day – Cattle Handling and Grass-Based Genetics

Hosted by: Jake & Crystal Bigelow
9 a.m.-Noon | Winterset, IA

Sept. 7: Field Day – Establishing New Prairie for Endangered Beneficial Insects on a Century Farm

Hosted by: Julie Martinez
10 a.m.-Noon | Camanche, IA

Sept. 12: Meet-Up – Field Crop Farmer Meet-Up

Hosted by: Paul Hoffman
In partnership with ADM
8 a.m. | Earlville, IL

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Kristine Lang of Brookings, SD, was featured on [KMIT Radio: SDSU Extension, SD Specialty Producers Association to host soil, cover crop field day](#).

Michael Gutschenritter of Oconomowoc, WI, was featured on [Farms.com: Wisconsin Farmers Receive Grants for Sustainable Projects](#)

PFI in the News

PFI was mentioned in [Agri-View: Edge of Ag News](#)

PFI was mentioned in [The Associated Press: Agriculture of America Podcast Interviews PepsiCo's VP of Sustainable and Regenerative Agriculture, Margaret Henry](#)

PFI was mentioned on [Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network: Secretary Naig announces 11 grants to support Iowa specialty crop production](#)

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

[Donate today](#)

[Join Practical Farmers](#)

Love Practical News? [Sign up for our specialty email newsletters.](#) In addition to our weekly email newsletter, Practical News, we also publish five monthly newsletters each focused on a different farming specialty.



© 2023 Microsoft Dynamics. All rights reserved.

1615 Golden Aspen Dr Suite 101

[Unsubscribe](#)