



Practical News - "Year in the Life" series offers deep dive into goat farming + New blog on marketing wheat

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.



Spanish-speaking farmers gain in-depth look at goat farming from "Year in the Life" series

At a recent field day in Red Oak, Iowa, a group of Spanish-speaking farmers and guests gathered at Jenny Horner and Emilio Moreno's farm, Spring Lake Organics, to learn about the basics of goat health. The event capped off a five-

part series on goat production at Spring Lake Organics that Jenny and Emilio hosted as part of PFI's "Year in the Life" series.

Now in its second year, the series is designed for Spanish-speaking farmers, aspiring farmers and their families to explore a specific farm enterprise throughout a growing season. This year's events explored the business of raising, grazing and marketing goats through Spanish-interpreted field days and virtual classes held on Google Classroom.

Two sets of farmer hosts – Jenny and Emilio, and **Adam Ledvina** of Chelsea, Iowa (note that **one field day remains at his farm**) – shared their knowledge at events held from early spring through fall. Each event featured seasonally relevant topics, from goat kidding and managing pasture to using electric netting and more.

[Learn more about PFI's Spanish-language programming.](#)

## NEWS

### Welcome Becca Snider to PFI staff



**Becca Snider** joined the Practical Farmers of Iowa staff in September 2024 as a finance assistant, responsible for accounts payable processing.

Becca came to PFI from a small community bank, where she worked in deposit operations and bookkeeping. Becca is from central Iowa and her favorite memories are from her grandparents' farms, particularly helping with the livestock.

[Read more about Becca.](#)

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### Explore land access options through custom land matching



Securing land access or transitioning farmland to the next generation can pose major challenges.

PFI has resources to help. **Martha McFarland**, senior farmland access viability coordinator, offers one-to-one consulting, connecting landowners and beginning farmers with one another.

Both landowners and land seekers can **[schedule a consultation with Martha today.](#)**

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## Reduce inputs with PFI's N Rate Risk Protection Program



As we look to the next growing season, farmers who want reduce their inputs, and lower the financial risk of doing so, are encouraged to enroll in PFI's N Rate Risk Protection Program.

You're eligible to apply whether this is your first time reducing your nitrogen rate or you've previously done so. The program is also flexible to your needs – you decide what the lower nitrogen rate will be.

**[Enroll today.](#)**

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## New blog post: “Exploring Opportunities for Marketing Wheat Straw”





Finding markets for straw can be challenging, but once found, the demand keeps growing.

Hear **Angela and Kerry Knuth's** transformation from old-school baling parties to efficient, mechanized bale production using a Bale Baron to meet the market demand near Omaha, Nebraska.

Read their straw story in this [new blog recap](#) of their September shared learning call.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Field day: "A Farmer's Soil Health Journey: No-Till Cover Crop Synergies"



**Thursday, Nov. 21 | 9-11:30 a.m. | Plainfield, IA**

**Keith Lovrien** raises corn and soybeans in northeastern Iowa. Eight years ago, Keith added cover crops to his operation, which profoundly improved his soil health and crop yield.

Learn from Keith's experience about soil health and conservation practices on his farm.

[RSVP to attend this field day.](#)

### More upcoming events

*All events listed are in Central time.*

**Oct. 22: Meet-Up – [Spanish Community Social](#)**

5-7 p.m. | Marshalltown, IA

**Oct. 26: Field Day – [Establishing Prairie: Selecting Seeds To Restore and Optimize Native Habitat](#)**

*Hosted by: Cait Caughey*

1-4 p.m. | Woodbine, IA

View our events calendar

## IN THE NEWS

### Members in the News

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

**Beth Hoffman** of Lovilia, IA was featured on the [American Farmland Owner Podcast: A New Future on an Old Farm and mentioned John Hogeland of Lovilia, IA, and Denise O'Brien of Atlantic, IA](#)

**Michelle Kenyon** of Mechanicsville, IA, **Emma Johnson** of Central City, IA, and **Teresa Wiemerslage** of Dorchester, IA, were featured in [The Daily Iowan: National Great Apple Crunch is celebrated across Johnson County](#)

**Jordan Clasen** of Earlham, IA, was featured on [Cover Crop Strategies: Cover Crop Strategies' Best of the Web: Oct. 11, 2024](#)

**Seth Watkins** of Clarinda, IA, was featured in [Newsweek: Soils 'Are Naked, Hungry and Have a Fever,' Says Farmer](#)

**Wendy Johnson** of Charles City, IA, was featured in [Public News Service: Paying Iowa farmers to expand 'climate smart' acres](#)

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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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