



## Practical News - Register by Friday to win a free hotel room at the conference + Sign Up for the Empower Farmers Program

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

Date Fri 12/13/2024 2:18 PM

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



**December 2, 2024**

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



## PFI farmers share their stories during national gathering of farm broadcasters

A key component of our work is connecting PFI farmers to media outlets and helping them share their knowledge and experience with a wider audience.

On Nov. 14, PFI staffers **Christine Zrostlik** and **Elizabeth Wilhelm**, along with

farmers **Wade Dooley** of Albion, Iowa, and **Mark Peterson** of Stanton, Iowa, attended the National Association of Farm Broadcasting Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. The event brings together broadcast professionals, industry leaders and students focused on the agriculture industry.

Mark and Wade did over 20 interviews with broadcasters from the Midwest on topics including cover crops, soil health, the history of PFI, the 2025 Annual Conference and more. In the coming weeks, watch for stories featuring Mark and Wade in our "Members in the News" section.

[Learn more about PFI's media outreach.](#)

## NEWS

### Now enrolling: Empower Farmers Program



Practical Farmers of Iowa is accepting applications for its 2025 Empower Farmers Program.

This program offers upfront payments to support the success of **historically underserved farmers and ranchers** by helping to reduce financial barriers. These payments may be used for a range of eligible farming-related expenses.

**Applications are due Dec. 31.**

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**Last chance to register to win a free hotel room during annual conference**



Don't miss your chance to win a free hotel room for PFI's 2025 Annual Conference.

When you **register by Dec. 6** (that's this Friday!), you'll be entered into a raffle for two nights at the Hilton Downtown Des Moines during the conference.

With over 70 sessions on topics ranging from pasture management to herb production to reducing fertilizer use in row crops, the annual conference offers something for everyone. **Register today.**

## Apply today for PFI's produce safety cost-share



PFI offers a cost-share program for specialty crop farmers seeking to make on-farm food safety improvements. Participants must spend at least \$2,200 on improvements and will receive a \$2,000 reimbursement.

Improvements include installing a cooler or CoolBot system, enclosing a packing area, purchasing protective fencing and more. **Review the eligibility requirements and apply.**

## Welcome Bryan White in his role as office and IT manager



**Bryan White** joined Practical Farmers of Iowa as the office and IT manager. His responsibilities include working with the operations team to ensure that PFI's staff have the technological resources to serve our members.

Bryan received bachelor's degrees from Iowa State University in sociology and political science, and a graduate certificate in public policy from Drake University, where he worked on a campus-wide cancer research project. [Read Bryan's full bio.](#)

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## PFI is hiring a farm systems viability manager



We're seeking a **farm systems viability manager** to manage our largest financial and technical assistance programs and a growing team of staff who advise farmers looking to adopt new practices in their farming operations.

As the farm systems viability manager, you'll be responsible for ensuring execution of our largest programs that impact millions of acres of crop ground in Iowa and surrounding states.

[Apply for this position.](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Field crop farmer meet-up in Decorah, Iowa





## Saturday, Dec. 14 | 5-7 p.m.

The final field crop farmer meet-up of the year will be at Pulpit Rock Brewing Company in Decorah, Iowa, on Dec. 14.

Join the Practical Farmers community for a casual barbecue dinner from Fat Pat's Brewery and an informal discussion about your growing season, soil health and conservation practices.

**RSVP**

## More upcoming events

*All events listed are in Central time.*

### **Dec. 4: Field Day – Reading Between the Aggregates: What Your Soil Can Tell You About Farm Management**

*Hosted by: Ryan Gibbs*  
4-6 p.m. | Hopkinton, IA

### **Dec. 6: Shared Learning Call – Growing and Marketing Diverse Grains**

*Hosted by: Luke Peterson*  
Noon-1 p.m. | **Online**

[View our events calendar](#)

## IN THE NEWS

### Members in the News

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

**Madeline Schultz** of Ames, IA, and **Meredith Nunnikhoven** of Oskaloosa, IA, were featured on [Farms.com: Women in Ag Leadership Conference Offers Inspiration and Skill Building](#)

**Mark Peterson** of Stanton, IA, was featured on [KMAland: Peterson talks diversity, educational opportunities with Practical Farmers of Iowa](#)

**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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