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**Practical News - Midwest Meat Summit begins one month from today + Potato planting research**

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

Date Fri 12/13/2024 2:52 PM

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



**Secure your spot by [registering for PFI's 2025 Annual Conference](#) today.**

The Annual Conference is taking place **Jan. 10-11, at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, Iowa.**

**December 9, 2024**

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



## Connect with people across the meat supply chain at the Midwest Meat Summit

The meat industry takes center stage at the [Midwest Meat Summit](#), Jan. 9-10 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Join producers, butchers, food safety professionals, marketers and others across the supply chain for two half-days of learning and networking while celebrating the connections that make a thriving meat supply chain.

Learn about everything from pricing and marketing, to technology trends, to organic certification, to food safety, to meat processing – and more. You'll also have a chance to sign up for one-on-one consultations with speakers.

Register today to attend

### NEWS

## Horticulture farmer conducts potato planting research



In 2024, **Lee Matteson** of Lee's Greens in Nevada, Iowa, set out to explore varying his planting dates of two potato varieties, Kennebec and Red Pontiac, to see if and how it would affect his yield.

Lee found that his early-planted Kennebec outperformed the late-planted Kennebec. However, it was a tough year for potatoes with wet conditions and high weed and pest pressure. [Explore the full research report.](#)

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**New blog post: “Unlocking the Potential of the Soil: Boosting Forage Nutrition With Extended Rotations”**



Small grains, when paired with cover crops and reduced tillage, are a gateway to diversifying a farm. With that diversity comes improved soil quality and nutrient retention.

Wisconsin dairy farmer **Josh Hiemstra** has been adding small grains and cover crops to his rotations for several years and notes a significant improvement in the quality of his forage mixes.

[Read this recap of Josh's June 2024 small grains shared learning call.](#)

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## Watch how Jon Bakehouse improves soil health in a new "Practical Cover Croppers" YouTube video



In the latest episode of our "Practical Cover Croppers" YouTube series, **Jon Bakehouse** of Hastings, Iowa, shows how he uses no-till and cover crops to save money on fertilizer application.

Jon's focus on soil health, especially nutrient-holding capacity and increasing organic matter, has let him reduce phosphorus and potassium rates on his corn and soybean crops without negative yield impacts. [Watch the video.](#)

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## Sign up to join in two PFI on-farm research projects



Are you ready to put your soil health to the test with on-farm research?

We are currently seeking participants for two on-farm research trials. Both trials are compensated.

- Can We Reduce N Rates to Corn and Improve ROI?
- Do Cover Crops Increase the Number of Days Suitable for Field Work?

**Enroll in on-farm research today.**

## MEMBERSHIP

### Can you help sustain the work of PFI?



As we continue to expand our work, your donations are more important than ever. Your contribution fills gaps in funding so we can respond quickly and directly to members' needs.

Please consider making a **year-end donation** to help PFI continue our work to improve farmers' livelihoods.

**P.S. Donations of \$150 or more will receive a PFI-branded thermal tumbler.**

**Give now**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### More upcoming events

*All events listed are in Central time.*

**Dec. 14: Meet-Up – Field Crop Farmer Meet-Up**

5-7 p.m. | Decorah, IA

View our events calendar

## IN THE NEWS

### Members in the News

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

**Beth Hoffman and John Hogeland** of Lovilia, IA, were featured in [Ambrook Research: Farming Small in Big Farm Country](#)

**Dan and Noah Taylor** of Bouton, IA, were featured in [Progressive Farmer: Cover Crops Benefit Cattle and Income Potential](#)

**George and Patti Naylor** of Churdan, IA, were featured on [Iowa PBS: Apple Cider Makers](#)

**Jenny Quiner** of Des Moines, IA, was featured on the [Permaculture Voices: Business | Gardening | Susta podcast: Getting Product into a Local Chain](#)

**Mark Peterson** of Stanton, IA, was featured on [Brownfield Ag News: Iowa Farmer Continues to Share Cover Crop Success Stories](#)

**Paul Mugge** of Sutherland, IA, **Lisa Schulte Moore** of Ames, IA, and **Nathan Anderson** of Aurelia, IA, were featured on [NBC News: 'Prairie strips' bring beauty to farms with big environmental benefits](#)

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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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