



Outlook

Practical News - Making way for pheasants + Register now for preconference short courses

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.



Minnesota farmers make way for pheasants using precision conservation

In 2019, **Jerry and Nancy Ackermann** began restoring a 3.4-acre area on their farm in Lakefield, Minnesota, transforming it back to native prairie. They partnered with Pheasants Forever to help them use **precision conservation** methods to

pinpoint low-yielding acres on the farm that would be better suited for habitat than cash crop production.

In August 2024, the Ackermans hosted a field day in collaboration with Practical Farmers of Iowa and Pheasants Forever, where they shared their experience with habitat conversion. Since establishing the prairie, Jerry has noticed measurably less erosion and improved soil health in the adjacent fields.

Read the latest [blog post](#) from PFI about the Ackermans' conservation efforts.

NEWS

Don't miss out on preconference short courses



Three short courses, in addition to the [Midwest Meat Summit](#), will be offered prior to the start of the PFI Annual Conference on Jan. 9-10.

The courses run half days from Thursday afternoon until Friday morning. Topics include:

- Charting the Steps of Farm Succession
- Extending the Rotation: Finding an Effective Third Crop
- Strawberry Production in Iowa

[Register to attend a short course.](#)

Magazine article: Oat growers band together in Minnesota



A growing group of Minnesota farmers is banding together to prove the viability of raising a third crop in rotation at scale.

Members of the group Bryon Area Farmers began pooling their oat crop hoping to have better bargaining power. By the summer of 2023, the group had 35 farm members and had raised 350,000 bushels of oats to sell.

[Read more](#) about the challenges and opportunities faced by these farmers in

our Autumn 2024 magazine.

We are hiring a development director



We're Hiring!

Development Director

practicalfarmers.org/employment

PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

Practical Farmers of Iowa is seeking a skilled **development director** to oversee PFI's funding portfolio, ensuring our funding aligns with our strategic plan to continue to increase positive outcomes for farmers, communities and the Midwestern landscape.

The development director will oversee all fundraising efforts in partnership with development staff, department directors, the board of directors and the executive director. **Apply today.**

Video now available in Spanish: "Beneficios de usar lonas para el control orgánico de la maleza"



PFI's video, "How To Use Silage Tarps on a No-Till Farm," is now available in Spanish on our YouTube channel.

In this video, **Hannah Breckbill** of Humble Hands Harvest in Decorah, Iowa, demonstrates how to set up a silage tarp early in the season to beat the weeds and create a workable no-till vegetable bed.

Watch the **Spanish video** and the **English version.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

Dec. 4: Field Day – Reading Between the Aggregates: What

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

Your Soil Can Tell You About Farm Management

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

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.

Alex Udermann of Sartell, MN, was featured on the [Ear to the Ground](#) podcast: **Ear to the Ground 358: Low Input – High Returns**

Doug Adams of Humboldt, IA, was featured in [Wallaces Farmer](#): **Yes, you can grow wheat in Iowa**

Luke Jones of Rushville, IL, and **Emily Heaton** of Monticello, IL, were featured in [Prairie Farmer](#): **Real problems, new solutions for regenerative farmers**

Scott and Catherine Wedemeier of Maynard, IA, were featured in [NE Iowa News](#): **New SWCD commissioners eager to help promote and educate**

Todd Western III of Maple Grove, MN, was featured on [KCRG-TV](#): **Conference unites Iowa farmers of color**

PFI in the News

Liz Kolbe, PFI's farmer-led education director, was mentioned in [Wallaces Farmer](#): **Sign up for Practical Farmers of Iowa conference**

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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