
Practical News - Beneficial insects cost-share benefits a flower farm + A year in small grains blog

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

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



January 27, 2025

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Beneficial insects cost-share supports resiliency on a flower farm

After learning about Practical Farmers' beneficial insects cost-share program at the 2024 Annual Conference, **Tricia Engelbrecht** applied and was accepted into the program.

Tricia raises flowers at Engelbrecht Farm near Waverly, Iowa, and says she wanted to sign up to help increase the food and habitat supply for native beneficial insects in her area. Tricia also aims to use beneficial bugs to mitigate pest pressure in two high tunnels she uses as part of her suite of growing methods.

Read the [full blog post](#) to learn how Tricia used the cost-share to plant a pollinator strip on her farm.

Think you could benefit from more pollinators? [We're currently accepting applications for the next round of our beneficial insects cost-share program.](#)

NEWS

Blog: "Small Grains News: 2024 Year in Review"



It's time to get inspired for the upcoming growing season through farmer-to-farmer learning.

Our new blog post shares perspectives on planting and harvesting small grains in 2024 on 10 different farms.

The blog highlights a range of farmer experiences. Learn about operations that are growing and milling diverse food-grade grains, producing seed, raising their own livestock feed and bedding and more.

Video: "Summer Cover Crops for Winter Grazing Cattle"



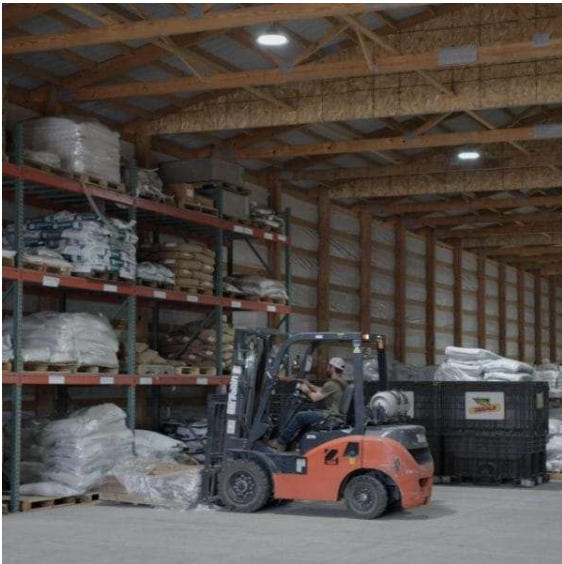
For farmer **Kevin Prevo** of Bloomfield, Iowa, extending the grazing season makes economic and ecological sense.

In [this new video](#), Kevin shares how he manages his three-crop rotation, uses cover crops to expand his grazing operation and fertilizes for forage production.

Learn how Kevin grazes from November until spring calving in March. [Watch the full video.](#)

Learn more about how Kevin successfully integrates livestock with small grains and cover crops on his century farm in our [blog post](#) from last spring.

PFI can help you start or grow your cover crop business



Deciding to start a business can feel like an overwhelming endeavor.

PFI's [Cover Crop Business Accelerator](#) program, in partnership with the Iowa Soybean Association, is here to help support your growth.

When you sign up, you'll receive business growth consulting, technical support, capital investment funds and incentive payments for custom seeding and seed production. [Apply now.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up in Decorah, Iowa

PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

**Horticulture Farmer
MEET-UPS**

Jan.-March 2025

Join fellow fruit, vegetable and flower farmers in your area for conversation and refreshment - on PFI!

RSVP with jacqueline.venner.senske@practicalfarmers.org

Dates, locations and speakers can be found at practicalfarmers.org/calendar

Thursday, Jan. 30 | 5-7 p.m.

Join us for a potluck at Pulpit Rock Brewing Company in Decorah, Iowa, for our first **Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up** of the year!

These meet-ups help farmers establish local connections and generate community among horticulture farmers within each region of the state.

To RSVP, email **Jacqueline** at **jacqueline.venner.senske@practicalfarmers.org**.

Winter webinar: "How Do Small Grains Grow and Develop? Harnessing This Knowledge To Improve Management"

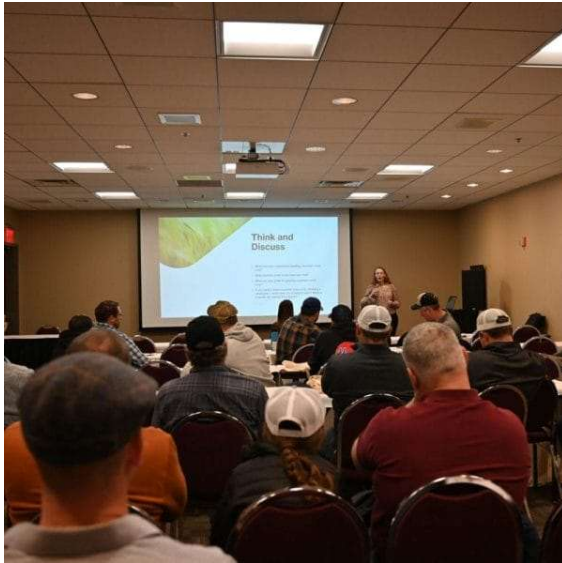


Tuesday, Feb. 4 | Noon-1 p.m.

Join farmer **Margaret Smith** to discuss the possibilities of adding small grains to your rotation.

This webinar will help you get oriented with the agronomic essentials. You will also learn about small grains physiology, growth and development and learn how to identify growth stages that are key for management interventions. **[Register for this webinar.](#)**

Register now for the Midwest Covers & Grains Conference



Wednesday, March 5 | Great Wolf Lodge, Baraboo, WI

The Midwest Covers & Grains Conference brings together Midwestern farmers, supply chain buyers and researchers to promote successful farming with extended rotations and cover crops.

Attend the conference to hear directly from farmers about their experiences growing cover crops and small grains, as well as incorporating livestock.

[Explore the conference schedule.](#)

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

Jan. 28: Workshop – Commercial Apple Growers Workshop

8 a.m.-4 p.m. | Cumming, IA

***Walk in-registration available**

Jan. 28: Winter Webinar – Farmers and Food Hubs: A How-To Guide for Getting Started

Hosted by: Matt Johnson, Tommy Hexter & Nicole Jonas

Noon-1 p.m. | **Online**

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Mark Peterson of Stanton, IA, was featured on [Brownfield Ag News: Iowa farmer says raising oats could be profitable](#)

Nathan Anderson of Aurelia, IA, was featured on [Brownfield Ag News: Adjusting your nutrient management plan](#)

Ryan Marquardt of Van Meter, IA, was featured on [KCCI: Bird flu outbreak blamed for rise in egg prices within grocery stores](#)

The following members were featured in [Independence Bulletin Journal: Seven farmers honored as master researchers by Practical Farmers of Iowa:](#)

- **Jill Beebout** of Chariton, IA
- **Jack Boyer** of Reinbeck, IA
- **Rob and Tammy Faux** of Tripoli, IA
- **Dave and Meg Schmidt** of Exira, IA
- **Dick Sloan** of Rowley, IA

Suzanne Castello and **Barney Bahrenfuse** of Grinnell, IA, were featured on [Talk of Iowa](#): [It was love at first PFI conference for this Grinnell farming couple](#)

Zack Smith of Lake Mills, IA, and **Sheldon Stevermer** of Easton, MN, were featured on [WVIK](#): [lowan farmer talks sustainable agriculture at the Figgie](#)

PFI in the News

PFI was mentioned on [Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network](#): [Collecting financial data for flower farms](#)

Sally Worley, PFI's executive director, was featured in [Iowa Farmer Today](#): [PFI leader aims to boost message and membership](#)

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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