

Practical News - Last call for Labor4Learning trainer applications + 2025 winter webinar schedule

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

Date Thu 1/30/2025 1:07 PM

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



PFI's 2025 Annual Conference is this week, Jan. 10-11! Walk-in registration is available for the annual conference, the Midwest Meat Summit and the preconference short courses. [Explore the schedule and plan your attendance.](#)

January 6, 2025

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Help congratulate Suzanne Castello and Barney Bahrenfuse at our annual conference this week

Each year PFI presents the Sustainable Agriculture Achievement Award to an individual or couple that has shown exemplary commitment to sustainable agriculture. This **year's recipients** are **Suzanne Castello and Barney Bahrenfuse**, longtime PFI members who operate a 500-acre diversified crop and livestock farm near Grinnell, Iowa.

Suzanne and Barney have hosted field days, served as mentors to beginning farmers and attended nearly every annual conference. They even met at PFI's Annual Conference many years ago.

Suzanne and Barney will be presented the award on **Saturday, Jan. 11, at 12:30 p.m.**, at the Iowa Events Center during **PFI's 2025 Annual Conference** in Des Moines, Iowa. The preregistration deadline has now passed, but **walk-in registration will be available at the conference.**

NEWS

Tune in for our winter webinar series



Winter is a perfect time to access farmer-to-farmer learning from the comfort of your home.

Our winter webinars are 60-minute online presentations that are free for everyone.

Our first webinar of the 2025 series, **"Using CRP To Foster Biodiversity on a 160-Acre Iowa Farm,"** will take place on Jan. 21.

[View the full schedule and register.](#)

Grow your business with the Cover Crop Business Accelerator



Are you ready to grow your cover crop business in 2025?

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 to the business accelerator.](#)

Applications close tomorrow: Become a Labor4Learning trainer



Trainer applications for PFI's Labor4Learning program for the 2025 growing season close TOMORROW, Jan. 7.

Labor4Learning is designed to help beginning or aspiring farmers access job training while helping established farmers find a good employee match for their operation early in the season.

Trainer positions are open to farmers in Iowa and surrounding states.

Help train the next generation and **[apply today.](#)**

PFI is hiring a finance director



We're Hiring!

Finance Director

practicalfarmers.org/employment

PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

We are seeking a diligent, respectful and passionate person to serve as **finance director**. This position will lead all financial administration, budgeting, financial reporting, fiscal grant management and financial policies and controls maintenance.

The finance department provides critical organizational support to process, track and manage all organizational income and expenses. **[Apply for the position.](#)**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next shared learning call: "Vertical Integration of Small Grains for a Brewing Business"



Friday, Jan. 17 | Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Adam Wagner and his father, Tim Wagner, started growing barley on their family farm and malting for personal use in the mid-2000s. This eventually led them to start Vertical Malt, which sells malt commercially to local breweries and home brewers.

[Register for our January shared learning call](#) to hear Adam and Tim's process of vertical integration, producing malt from seed to end product.

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

Jan. 9-10: [Workshop – Midwest Meat Summit](#)

Des Moines, IA

***Walk-in registration available**

Jan. 9-10: [Short Courses – Preconference short courses](#)

Des Moines, IA

***Walk-in registration available**

**Jan. 10-11: Conference – PFI
2025 Annual Conference**
Des Moines, IA
***Walk-in registration available**

**Jan. 21: Webinar – "Using CRP To
Foster Biodiversity on a 160-Acre
Iowa Farm,"**
*Hosts: Clarissa Bruns and Bill
Anderson*
Noon- 1 p.m. | **Online**

**Jan. 22: Field Day – Cover Crop
101: Basics of Management,
Profitability and Practicality of
Crop Use**
Host: Chad Petersen
4-6 p.m. | New Liberty, IA

[View our events calendar](#)

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Lee Tesdell of Slater, IA, **Lisa Schulte Moore** of Ames, IA, **Eric Hoien** of Spirit Lake, IA, and **Omar de Kok-Mercado** of Spring Green, WI, were featured in [The Guardian](#): **'The dead zone is real': why US farmers are embracing wildflowers**

John Gilbert of Iowa Falls, IA, was featured in [Chicago Tribune](#): **More
Midwestern wetlands threatened as federal lawsuit targets farm programs**

Mark Schleisman of Lake City, IA, was featured on [Iowa Public Radio](#): **Climate change is making it harder to provide clean drinking water in farm country**

Wendy Johnson of Charles City, IA, and **Sally Worley**, PFI's executive director, were featured in [The Gazette](#): **'There's room for creativity': Farmer, conservationist awarded for sustainable ag practices**

PFI in the News

PFI was featured in [Food Tank](#): **125 Food and Agriculture Organizations to Watch in 2025**

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

Donate today

Join Practical Farmers

Love Practical News? Sign up for our specialty email newsletters. In addition to our weekly email newsletter, Practical News, we also publish five monthly newsletters each focused on a different farming specialty.



© 2023 Microsoft Dynamics. All rights reserved.

1615 Golden Aspen Dr Suite 101

[Unsubscribe](#)