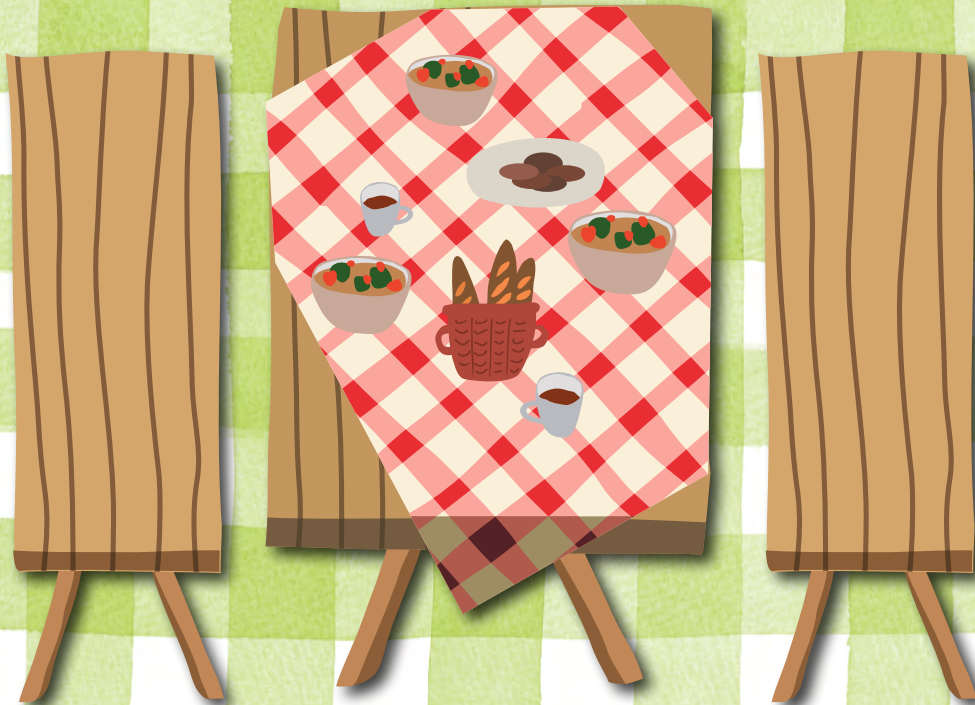


PRACTICAL FARMERS OF IOWA

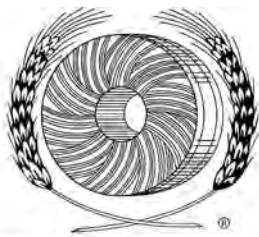
# 2021 FIELD DAY Guide

## PART 2: ADDITIONAL IN-PERSON EVENTS



  
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# WELCOME!

## WELCOME TO PRACTICAL FARMERS' 2021 FIELD DAY SEASON!

Welcome to July! Though July is an unusual time to receive your PFI field day guide, as vaccination rates climb and COVID-19 cases have fallen, we have worked with farmers to build this additional line-up of field days. These field days do not require pre-registration or RSVPs, and there are no caps on attendance – but some event hosts have requested RSVPs to help with meal planning, and all events have an option to RSVP if you want to let us know you'll be attending.

The field days listed here are in addition to our two on-going summer events series, for which you can find schedules and more information at [practicalfarmers.org/field-days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days):

- “Catching Up” – our intentionally small, invitation-based on-farm gatherings (See the list of events and sign yourself up on PFI's website). Over 50 “Catching Up” events are occurring across Iowa this summer!
- “Live From the Farm” – our new version of virtual field days, streamed live on Tuesdays, on PFI's YouTube Channel. Miss a “Live From the Farm” episode? Re-watch on PFI's YouTube page!

## FARMER-LED EVENTS

At Practical Farmers of Iowa, we have a unique learning model: Our events are led by our farmer members. We know that farmers are the experts on their farming systems, decisions, challenges and solutions, and we are thankful so many farmer-leaders believe that sharing their knowledge, discoveries, mistakes and successes benefits everyone. Be prepared to explore topics that span the agricultural spectrum. We offer summer-season event topics on production, land stewardship, conservation, local foods and more.

## OPEN TO EVERYONE

Field days, like our other summer events, are all free and open to everyone. At Practical Farmers, we take pride in our big tent that includes farms of all sizes and a diversity of production practices. This big tent extends to the many non-farmers who support our work, values and the sense of community created in PFI. You don't need to be a member or farmer to attend: We welcome and invite anyone to attend and learn from our field days.

PFI is committed to the long-term work of racial equity in Iowa's food and farming system. As such, we are working to ensure that welcoming everyone includes creating welcoming spaces for farmers of color at our events and in our gathering spaces.

## CIVILITY COMMITMENT

Our commitment is to learn from each other. We acknowledge differences in beliefs, values, politics, culture, interests and experiences.

### WE COMMIT TO:

- Listening respectfully to each other
- Recognizing and respecting different levels of understanding
- Actively seeking common ground
- Creating an environment free from language and symbols that are hostile, intimidating or abusive of others

## LOGISTICS

**All PFI events occur rain or shine.** All of our field days and 2021 summer events are free. When traveling to our field days, look for directional field day signs with our logo on it.

RSVPs are accepted for all events at **[practicalfarmers.org/field-days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days)**, or by calling the office at **(515) 232-5661**. Events where RSVPs are specifically requested are noted throughout.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact the PFI office at **[info@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:info@practicalfarmers.org)** or **(515) 232-5661**.

## SPANISH SUMMER EVENTS GUIDE

To receive our Spanish summer events guide, please contact Celize Christy at **[celize@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:celize@practicalfarmers.org)** or call **(515) 232-5661**.

Para recibir nuestra guía de eventos del verano en español, comuníquese con Celize Christy a **[celize@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:celize@practicalfarmers.org)** o llame **(515) 232-5661**.

## LOOKING FOR MORE EVENTS OR INFORMATION?

In addition to the events listed in this guide, Practical Farmers organizes events and workshops all year long. Be sure to check our website often (**[practicalfarmers.org](https://practicalfarmers.org)**) for the most up-to-date schedule, visit us on social media or become a PFI member to get notified about upcoming events.



# Relay-Cropping Rye and Soybeans

**Tuesday, July 13 | 2-4 p.m.**

**Host:** Alec Amundson | *Green Country Farms*

**Address:** 3386 Hickory Ave. | Osage, Iowa 50461

Alec planted cereal rye in the fall and then planted soybeans into the rye in the spring. We'll meet at Alec's homeplace and then board a hay rack to travel to a nearby field to get a look at the cereal rye and soybeans just prior to rye seed harvest. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

**The Farm** | **Alec Amundson** operates Green Country Farms in Mitchell County, Iowa, where he raises corn, soybeans and rye. The Amundsons use cover crops, no-till and have been relay cropping since 2018.

**Topics** |  
• Equipment for relay-cropping



# Organic Crops and Cover Crops

**Thursday, July 22 | 4-6 p.m.**

**Host:** Sam Bennett | *Bennett Farms*

**Address:** 1673 Market Ave. | Galva, IA 51020

**Field Address:** 1658 Pioneer Ave. | Schaller, Iowa 51053

Join Sam to talk about transitioning to organic cropping systems and general cover cropping strategies. We'll meet at Sam's home (Market Avenue) before travelling to a nearby organic corn field (Pioneer Avenue). Drinks and snacks will be provided.

**The Farm** | **Sam Bennett and his wife, Danielle**, raise corn, soybeans and small grains with Sam's family on a 2,000-acre operation in Ida County, Iowa. They use cover crops, no-till and strip-till to work toward their goals of improving soil health, conservation, nutrient management and water quality, and creating habitat.



**Topics** |  
• Organic corn  
• Weed management  
• Soil fertility for organic cropping

# Realizing a Vision for Habitat Restoration

**Thursday, July 22 | 5-7 p.m.**

**Host: Don Eyerly | Eyerly Farm**

**Address: 1671 Fox Trail | Winterset, IA 50263**

## Speakers:

**Kelsey Fleming** - private lands biologist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

**Nate Schmitz** - wildlife specialist, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

When it comes to restoring and managing native habitat on private lands, knowing where to start can be a daunting prospect. Join landowner Don Eyerly and biologists from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to explore some of the habitat restoration work that Don and his family have undertaken on their Madison County, Iowa, farm. You'll also learn about programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Iowa Habitat and Access Program (IHAP) that provide technical and financial assistance to landowners interested in conservation.

**The Landowner** | **Don Eyerly** is a landowner from Madison County, Iowa. Don has experience using a range of conservation programs to restore different types of habitat on his property. He has worked closely with conservation professionals from several agencies and organizations to shape and implement a vision for his property that includes a diverse mosaic of native habitat.



## Topics

- Habitat
- Conservation programs
- Wildlife

# Compost Management, Interplanting and No-Till Vegetable Production at Brun Ko Farm

**Friday, July 23 | 3-5 p.m.**

**Hosts: Emily & Nathan Paulsen | Brun Ko Farm**

**Address: 2920 Falcon Ave. | Exira, IA 50076**

Nathan and Emily Paulsen combine a spirit of innovation, passion for local food and pride in their Danish heritage and Iowa roots to guide their vision for Brun Ko Farm (Brun Ko is Danish for "brown cow"). For this field day, we will tour their farm to see how their livestock and horticulture systems interact. Manure and garden waste contribute to compost that is eventually formed into production beds (using a bed shaper of Nathan's own creation!) that are interplanted with vegetables to maximize productivity and keep living roots in the soil as often as possible. This event will highlight the rhythm of these on-farm processes for a family that values their land and community.

**The Farm** | **Nathan and Emily Paulsen** own and operate Brun Ko Farm, located 3 miles east of Elk Horn, Iowa. They raise pastured beef and pork, in addition to eggs, honey and a wide variety of vegetables. They sell their products through the Elk Horn Farmers Market and direct from the farm.



## Topics

- Compost management
- No-till vegetable production
- Intercropping

# Benefits of Companion Planting & Value-Added Enterprises at Walker Homestead

**Sunday, Aug. 1 | 10 a.m.–Noon**

**Hosts: Kristy & Bob Walker | Walker Homestead**

**Address: 3867 James Ave. SW | Iowa City, IA 52246**

*RSVPs appreciated for refreshments following the event by July 28.*

At this field day, Kristy and Bob will walk us through their on-farm research project investigating the benefits of companion planting alongside their vineyards as a solution for pest management. We'll learn about their various enterprises and how they integrate agritourism at the homestead. Light refreshments will be provided, and wine for tasting.

**The Farm** | **Kristy and Bob Walker** started Walker Homestead near Iowa City, Iowa, in 2013, which includes an organic market garden, an orchard and vineyard, pasture and crop ground and a small venue. They're hoping to add winter wheat to their crop ground.



## Topics

- Companion flower planting
- Value-added enterprises
- Agritourism

# Cover Crops From Start to Finish

**Friday, Aug. 6 | 4–6 p.m.**

**Hosts: Anne & Landon Plagge | Plagge Farms**

**Address: 1560 Heather Ave. | Latimer, IA 50452**

*RSVPs appreciated for dinner following the event by Aug. 3.*

Join Anne and Landon Plagge as they walk through the full cycle of cover crop seed production. We'll look at their seed cleaner, which they will be using for oats and rye harvested on their farm this year, as well as their seed mixer. We'll then see how they get cover crops in the ground and check out their air seeder. Later, we'll take a break from equipment and visit a nearby soybean field, where they planted green in the spring. Dinner will be served following the event.

**The Farm** | **The Plagges** operate Plagge Farms near Latimer, Iowa. Together with family, they raise corn, soybeans, oats, rye and hogs, and use cover crops and no-till on all their acres. They started a cover crop business in 2020 and hope their business can help others in their local area adopt cover crops.



Photo courtesy of Anne Plagge

## Topics

- Small-grain seed-cleaning
- Cover crop seed mixing
- Cover crop seeding equipment

# Silvopasture by Subtraction: Using Livestock & Forestry Mowing

**Saturday, Aug. 7 | 10 a.m.–Noon**

**Hosts:** Dayna Burtness & Nick Nguyen | *Nettle Valley Farm*  
Bailey Lutz | *Listenmore Farm*  
Heidi Eger | *Radicle Heart Farm*

**Address:** 23970 County Road 19 | Spring Grove, MN 55974

**Speaker:** Karin Jokela - biologist, the Xerces Society

Join farmers Dayna Burtness, Bailey Lutz and Heidi Eger to talk about how innovative silvopasture systems can benefit both livestock native pollinators while helping with habitat management. Learn how Bailey, Heidi and Dayna are working to control undesirable plants in the woods and reintroduce understory diversity. We'll also hear from Xerces Society biologist Karin Jokela about steps farmers can take to help pollinators adapt to climate change and thrive on the farm. **Note:** This event will involve walking over uneven terrain; we recommend that participants wear pants and walking shoes. If participants are coming from or going to a place that has livestock, biosecurity booties will be required.

## Topics

- Silvopasture
- Timber management
- Using livestock to manage invasive species
- Restoring understory diversity
- Climate change
- Pollinators
- Goats

## The Farms

**Dayna Burtness** (she/her) and her husband, Nick Nguyen (he/him), run Nettle Valley Farm, a 70-acre farmstead near Spring Grove, Minnesota. Together, they finish heritage-breed hogs on pasture and actively work with the Xerces Society to restore and manage habitat on the farm. Dayna also manages the farm's new Incubator Farm Program, which Bailey Lutz and Heidi Eger are part of.

**Bailey Lutz** (they/them) is a young queer farmer motivated by right relationship with land and food ecosystems that work for all. In 2021, Bailey is exploring using their goats in a silvopasture system with multiple potential benefits for livestock, habitat and wildlife.

**Heidi Eger** (she/her) of Radicle Heart Farm raises 100% grass-fed lamb and mutton and pastured, organically fed chicken. Her favorite thing about farming is working to manage her animals in ways that improve the health of the ecosystem.

# Corn and Cover Crops

**Saturday, Aug. 21 | 2:30–4:30 p.m.**

**Hosts:** Nathan & Sarah Anderson | *Bobolink Prairie Farms*  
Shane Susie, Roger Wilcox, John Wilcox | *Wilcox Farms*

**Address:** 3550 170th St. | Correctionville, IA 51016

**Note:** The field day is 1 mile south of the Rock Branch Church and one-half mile east.

**Speaker:** Alison Robertson - plant pathologist, Iowa State University

Join these farming neighbors to learn about their goals for cover cropping, which include soil improvement, grazing forage, primary crop health and yield, and weed control. Alison Robertson, a professor of plant pathology and microbiology at ISU, will also be on hand to discuss her lab team's research on the implications for crop disease management when using cover crops. See planter set-up for no-till planting into cover crops and live cover crop seeding demos.

## The Farms

**Nathan and Sarah Anderson**, PFI lifetime members, own and operate Bobolink Prairie Farms near Aurelia, Iowa, raising corn, soybeans, cattle, small grains and hay.

**Shane Susie, Roger Wilcox and John Wilcox** raise corn, soybeans, and small grains near Correctionville, Iowa. They also operate Wolf Creek Seeds, a corn and soybean seed dealership, and Old 20 Ag, a cover crop seed and seeding business.

## Topics

- Cover crop seeded after small grains
- Cover crop seeding equipment demos
- Corn following rye cover crop
- Grazing cover crops



# Cover Crops & Saturated Buffers: Teaming Up for Better Water Quality

In partnership with Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District

**Monday, Aug. 23 | 10 a.m.–Noon**

**Host: Lee Tesdell | Tesdell Century Farm**

**Address: 300 NW 158th Ave. | Slater, IA 50244**

RSVPs appreciated for lunch following the event by Aug. 18.

Implementing cover crops and conservation practices on your farm takes the right tools – and the right team! During this field day, landowner Lee Tesdell and tenant-farmer Mike Helland will show and discuss in-field and edge-of-field conservation practices they have implemented together over the last 10 years. The field day will feature a demonstration of drone-seeding cover crops, including a multi-species swarm seeding by Rantizo.

Attendees will also see a saturated buffer and learn about ongoing opportunities for implementing conservation measures on their own farms. The field day will conclude with lunch, conversation and a visit from the Heartland Co-op Conservation Trailer. Come early for coffee and rolls!

**The Farm** | **Lee Tesdell** owns Tesdell Century Farm near Slater, Iowa. He works with his farm tenants, Charles and Mike Helland, to address soil conservation, habitat and water quality issues by using edge-of-field and in-field practices. Lee was PFI's 2019 Farmland Owner Legacy Award recipient.

**Note:** Because drones can't be flown in the rain, this event has a backup date of Sept. 3.



## Topics

- Cover crops
- Drone seeding
- Multi-species seeding
- Saturated buffers
- Landowner-tenant collaboration
- Watershed conservation programs

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# Partnering With a Neighboring Cattle Farmer to Graze Cover Crops

**Saturday, Aug. 28 | 9:30–11:30 a.m.**

**Host: John Burger | Burger Farms**

**Address: 17144 298th Ave. | Udell, IA 52593**

Partnering with your neighbors can be a win-win situation. John Burger will discuss his first five years of experience with cover crops and how he's working with his neighbor, Craig Swaby, to graze those cover crops. They'll discuss drilling cover crops, strip grazing, soil health test results, compaction, crop yield and how they work out the financials in this arrangement. Craig will show attendees his fencing and watering set-up.

**The Farm** | **John Burger and his uncle, Richard**, raise row crops near Udell, Iowa, and have been experimenting with cover crops for five years. They have been working with their neighbor, Craig Swaby, to graze cover crops for four years.



## Topics

- Grazing cover crops
- Working with neighbors
- Fence and water
- Soil health
- Economics

# Building a Small, Diversified Farm From Scratch

**Saturday, Sept. 18 | 4-6 p.m.**

**Host:** Phrakhounmany “Air” Philavanh

**Address:** 18204 Quincy St. | Milo, IA 50166

*RSVPs appreciated for dinner following the event by Sept. 14.*

Join Air on a tour of his very diverse farm. Originally from Laos, Air settled in Iowa and purchased a farm in Warren County in 2010. Over the last decade, he's built his operation from scratch, raising diversified livestock and horticulture crops on 11 acres. A self-described “Laotian cowboy,” Air will showcase his Muscovy ducks, goats, veggie garden and livestock guardian dogs. His products are sold to immigrant communities around Des Moines. Following the farm tour, a meal will be shared and music will be played on his newly constructed stage.

**The Farm** | **Phrakhounmany “Air” Philavanh** farms on 11 acres near Milo, Iowa, raising a diversity of livestock and crops. Air immigrated to Iowa from Laos in 1984 and started farming in 2010. He loves to share what he's learned with other immigrant communities in Iowa, his neighbors and his family and friends in Laos. His goal is to re-create a simple Laotian farm, applying lessons from his grandfather, to showcase history and farmer ingenuity.



## Topics

- Running a small, diversified farm
- Goats and ducks
- Vegetables
- Starting from scratch
- DIY projects

# Farmland Owner Legacy Award Celebration + Beginning Farmer Showcase

**Saturday, Sept. 25 | 5-7 p.m.**

**Host:** Rose & Mike Roelf & Practical Farmers of Iowa

**Address:** 3169 Rapid Creek Trail NE | Iowa City, IA 52240

Rose and Mike Roelf are Practical Farmers' 2021 Farmland Owner Legacy Award recipients. This award is granted annually to landowners who help the next generation get started, advance land stewardship and promote long-term sustainability of farm businesses, environmental quality and rural communities. Rose, Mike and their beginning farmer tenants will discuss farmland access and budding farm businesses, and Rose and Mike will receive the Farmland Owner Legacy Award at this field day.

This event will start with a farm walk, where Rosemary's beginning farmer tenants will showcase their diverse enterprises, including pigs, bees and vegetables, and talk about farmland access and starting a farm. The walk will be followed by the Farmland Owner Legacy Award ceremony and dinner crafted by area chefs. The evening will be capped off with a networking reception.

**Beginning farmer speakers and tour leaders include:**  
Corbin Scholz, Joe Klingelutz, Ilsa Dewald and Will Kresse



## The Farm

Singing Goat Farm is just north of Iowa City, Iowa, and has been in Rose's family since the 1960's. Since acquiring the property in 2014, Rose and Mike have built infrastructure and provided affordable access to equipment and land for multiple beginning vegetable farmers.

# Raising 100% Grass-Fed Beef in Row-Crop Country

**Wednesday, Sept. 29 | 4-7 p.m.**

**Hosts: Amanda & Knute Severson | Grand View Beef**

**Address: 1591 Nelson Ave. | Clarion, IA 50525**

*RSVPs appreciated for dinner following the event by Sept. 24.*

Amanda and Knute Severson, owners of Grand View Beef, will tag-team this field day. Knute will discuss grass-finishing, grazing management and the value grass has brought to Grand View Beef and his parent's operation (since converting acres from row crops to pasture). Amanda will speak about direct-to-consumer sales, wholesale partnerships and social media's role in these relationships. We'll end the field day with Grand View Beef burgers on the grill!

**The Farm** | **The Severson family** owns Grand View Beef, raising 100% grass-fed beef from birth to harvest on their century family farm in Clarion, Iowa. The family takes great pride in animal husbandry practices that ensure the cattle lead a calm and humane life. Cows are born and raised on the farm, eating a diet consisting only of their mother's milk (until weaned), grass, alfalfa and hay. The Seversons use intensive rotational grazing to improve soil health and capture carbon. Beef is available by individual cuts, bundles and beef shares, and able to be shipped to most Midwestern states.



## Topics

- Grass-finishing beef
- Grazing
- Direct and wholesale marketing
- Social media

# Meat Marketing Endeavors

**Friday, Oct. 22 | 4-6 p.m.**

**Host: Nick Wallace | Wallace Farms**

**Address: 1531 74th St. | Keystone, IA 52249**

*RSVPs appreciated for dinner following the event by Oct. 18.*

Visit Nick Wallace's farm to hear about his past, present and future endeavors in meat marketing. We'll tour the cooler and freezer space where he stores and packs orders, and discuss the infrastructure and organization it takes to aggregate products from multiple farms. After the tour and discussion, he'll fire up his food truck for dinner!

**The Farm** | **Nick Wallace** is a farmer, entrepreneur and lifetime member of PFI with 15 years of experience in various forms of pasture-raised and grass-fed meat marketing. Nick owns and operates Wallace Farms near Keystone, Iowa, selling his own meat and other farmers' meats over the internet.



## Topics

- Meat marketing
- Aggregation
- Infrastructure

# COMING SOON

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## Livestock on the Land



Join us August through October for outdoor screenings of PFI's first feature-length film, "Livestock on the Land." Each screening will be followed by a discussion and Q&A with farmers from the film.

- Stay tuned to PFI's news and website for exact dates and locations around Iowa -
- All screenings will be free for anyone to attend -

**About the film:** "Livestock on the Land" is a story by Practical Farmers of Iowa about the ways that farmers are building a regenerative agriculture by centering their operations around the animals they care for. Whether it's through rotational grazing, cover crops or fertility for crop fields, livestock hold the key to protecting our soil, cleaning up our water and even providing habitat for wildlife. But most importantly, livestock give farmers a chance to get started, grow businesses, provide for their families, work together and, ultimately, bring back the next generation to continue the tradition.

**Learn more about the film**

[practicalfarmers.org/programs/livestock/livestock-on-the-land](https://practicalfarmers.org/programs/livestock/livestock-on-the-land)

► To see PFI's full summer events roster, visit [practicalfarmers.org/field-days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days) ◀

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PRACTICAL **FARMERS** *of Iowa*

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