

PRACTICAL FARMERS OF IOWA

2021

SUMMER EVENTS

Guide



PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

practicalfarmers.org

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► *Visit pages 16-17 to see the rest of our major sponsors!*

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PFI’s summer event sponsors can be found on pages 2–3 and 16–17, as well as on individual event pages.

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) for the most up-to-date schedule, visit us on social media or become a PFI member to get notified about upcoming events.



WELCOME!

WELCOME TO PRACTICAL FARMERS' 2021 SUMMER EVENTS SEASON!

We've all shared in the past year's long, strange and challenging journey of isolation, distance and sacrifice, with gatherings postponed, rituals upended and connection confined to screens.

But as we start to see light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, our thoughts turn to journeys of a more joyous kind.

We've had plenty of time away from one another. Now, it's time to get out of our homes and catch up with friends and neighbors, farm fellows and family near and far. We can once again enjoy a summer of sharing knowledge in fields and pastures, the sound of insects buzzing under hot Iowa skies as we rekindle the spirit of in-person learning and connection.

After a year of virtual-only events, Practical Farmers of Iowa is pleased to offer a summer events season with a mix of in-person and virtual events.

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

Our 2021 summer events are free, and you don't need to be a member to attend! At Practical Farmers, we take pride in our big tent that includes farmers with operations of all sizes and production practices, as well as many non-farmers who support our work, values and the sense of community that membership brings.

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

QUESTIONS?

Contact the PFI office at 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 or call (515) 232-5661.

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



In-Person Events

REGISTER TODAY!

This year, we've planned a series called "**Catching Up**," an ever-growing line-up of small, energizing, in-person gatherings on farms across Iowa. To keep our farmers, staff and attendees safe, each "Catching Up" event is limited to 15 attendees.

We believe these smaller events will allow hosts and attendees to have richer conversations, and will catalyze new friendships and networks among farmers and friends of farmers.

Because the line-up will expand on a rolling basis throughout the summer – and because these gatherings will be by invitation only and not advertised publicly – individual "Catching Up" events are not listed in this guide. **But we want to make sure there's a place for everyone who wants to come.**

By signing up on our website at practicalfarmers.org/field-days, you'll have a chance to share your location and the topics you're interested in learning about. We will find or plan an event that best suits you, and invite you personally.

We believe these invitation-only events can be more locally relevant, diverse and welcoming for first-time attendees. Over the years, we've learned that just because it's public, doesn't mean everyone feels invited. This year, we want to make sure you feel welcomed, informed and safe attending PFI in-person events.

SO HOW DOES IT WORK?

- To get on the invitation list for "Catching Up" events, register at practicalfarmers.org/field-days
- When we have an event that suits your interests and location, we'll get in touch via email or phone. You might not hear from us right away, but you will receive an invitation at least two weeks ahead of the event.
- "Catching Up" events are two hours long, and because of their limited attendance, will be more conversation-based than large field days can accommodate. Come ready to engage!

INTERESTED IN HOSTING A "CATCHING UP" EVENT?

For the first time, PFI staff are planning summer events on an ongoing basis. These are "low-fuss" events, and it's likely you'll gain as much knowledge as you share. If you are interested in hosting an event on your farm (or want to recommend a friend!), sign up as an attendee at practicalfarmers.org/field-days and complete the "interested host" portion.

We are excited to give more farmers the opportunity to host a small PFI event on their farm!



YouTube Live Virtual Events

During 2020, we found many people enjoyed the opportunity to attend field days virtually, so we're improving our virtual engagement options with a weekly series called "Live From the Farm." This series builds on our 2020 virtual field day season, but with improved video and streaming quality.

Most Tuesdays from June through September, we will stream live from a member farm, aiming to showcase important farm activities that are interesting to see but harder to show and make engaging to in-person visitors, such as planting, harvest, cultivating, processing and delivery days.

You'll see things up close, be able to ask questions and have a chance to rewatch your favorite parts. These live events are interactive on YouTube Live, with chat enabled for attendees and the host, and will be available as recorded videos on PFI's YouTube channel as soon as the live event ends.

Flip through this summer events guide to learn more about each episode in the series. Like an old "TV Guide," you can preview the roster and see what episodes are coming up next on "Live From the Farm." To view the live event, visit PFI's YouTube channel at youtube.com/user/pfivideos.

To get reminders about the "Live From the Farm" events you're most excited about, RSVP on the PFI website at practicalfarmers.org/field-days. We'll send you reminders (*and direct links!*) specific to the events you choose.



Sheep and cattle graze on Ortrude Dial's farm near Williams, Iowa.

COVID-19 POLICY

PFI's Safety Protocols for In-Person Events

(Updated May 12, 2021)

At all in-person PFI events, we expect staff, hosts and attendees to comply with the following safety protocols until further notice. Individuals should not attend an in-person event if they, or someone in their household, are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. These symptoms may include:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Please note: People with COVID-19 have reported a wide range of symptoms.

Learn more at cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html

At all in-person PFI events, please observe the following:

- Attendees should maintain at least 6 feet of distance from other attendees (*except those in their household*).
- When 6 feet of distance cannot be maintained, attendees must wear a mask covering their mouth and nose. This includes all persons ages 5 and older, except those who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons.
- At events where social distancing may be more difficult, or to protect higher-risk hosts on their own farm, masks may be required for all attendees at some events. We will let attendees know in the event invitation if masks will be required.

To further minimize risk and improve safety at in-person events, we are taking several other precautions, including:

- Limiting gatherings to a maximum of 15 attendees
- Making additional cloth and disposable masks available at all events
- Providing hand sanitizer at all events
- Holding PFI events outdoors only
- Serving any food in individual portions
- Providing bottled water
- Postponing an event if the host, or anyone in their household, suspects (*or confirms through testing*) that they have COVID-19 within two weeks of the event. If that happens, we will notify invited attendees immediately.

As the COVID-19 pandemic situation continues to evolve, we will regularly evaluate our in-person event protocols and update them as needed. For updated information, visit practicalfarmers.org/events/field-days or call the PFI office at (515) 232-5661.



Bees, Beetles & Broccoli: Establishing & Managing Native Habitat for Beneficial Insects

Tuesday, June 8
10-10:45 a.m.

Hosts: Jake Kundert & Sarah Nizzi

Partner: Xerces Society



Did you know only 2% of insects are pests? The rest are beneficial insects that contribute to the farm ecosystem by preying on pest insects, eating weed seeds, recycling nutrients, aerating and building soil structure, providing pollination services and supporting other wildlife in vast food webs.

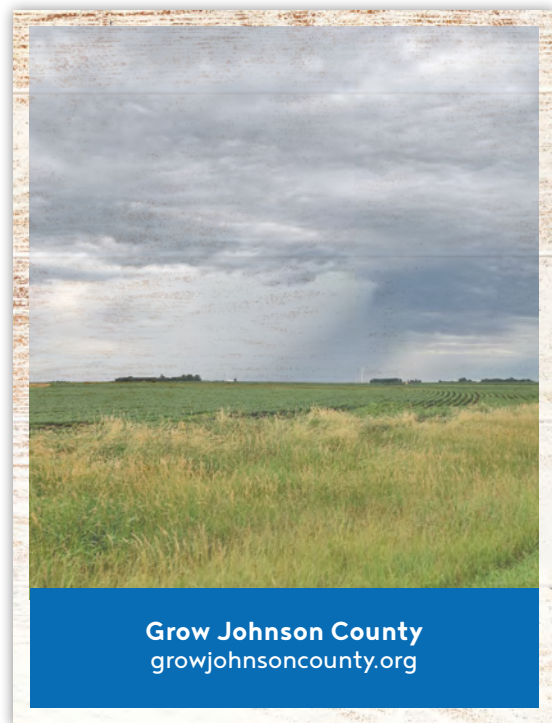
Join PFI member and farmer Jake Kundert and Xerces Society biologist Sarah Nizzi to hear about the decisions Jake and his colleagues have made on the Grow: Johnson County farm to benefit these native beneficial insects and other wildlife. You will also learn about strategies and resources you can use to establish and manage many types of habitat to foster communities of beneficial insects.

Topics

- Beneficial insects
- Establishing and managing
- Beetle banks
- Conservation programs

Jake Kundert is a farmer and food systems director at Iowa Valley RC&D. He works with a team of growers to manage Grow: Johnson County, a 5-acre farm that produces organic vegetables for hunger relief agencies and offers farm-based education. Since 2018, Grow: Johnson County has partnered with the Xerces Society to establish native beneficial insect habitat.

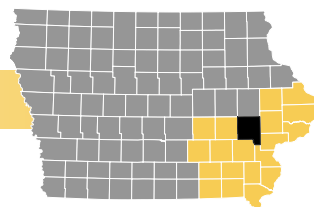
Sarah Nizzi is a farm bill pollinator conservation planner and Natural Resources Conservation Service partner biologist with the Xerces Society. Sarah works across Iowa to offer technical assistance to landowners interested in pollinator habitat. She also provides pollinator-related training to NRCS staff and partners.



Sponsored by:



LOCATION: Southeast Region, Johnson County



The “Practical Farrowing Box”: DIY Sow Nesting Boxes

Tuesday, June 15
2-2:45 p.m.

Host: Tom Frantzen

Tom Frantzen has used many styles of pasture farrowing huts over the years, and he keeps experimenting. Last winter, Tom built a new style of farrowing hut that combines all the best elements from huts of his past, dubbing it the “practical farrowing box.”

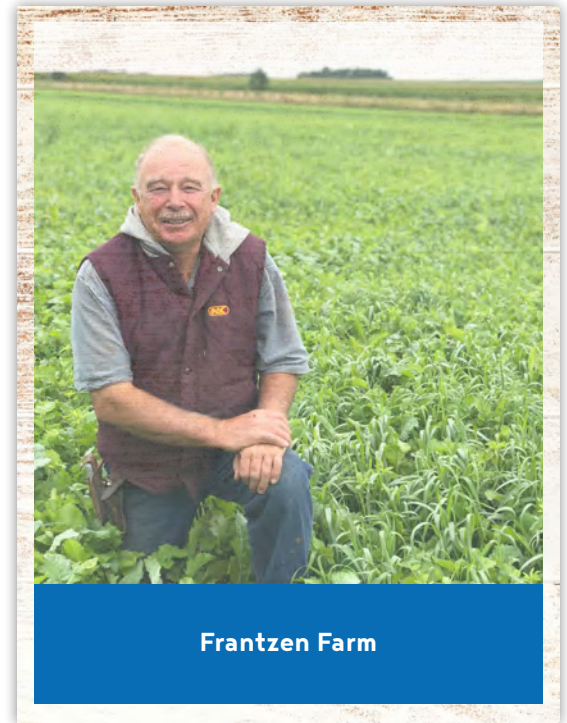
In this virtual tour, Tom will describe the process of building the box, the materials required and the cost, and we’ll see a completed box from all angles. As a bonus, viewers will also get to see sows on pasture. Building blueprints and a materials list will accompany this virtual experience.

Topics

- DIY construction
- Pasture farrowing

Tom and Irene Frantzen farm on 320 certified organic acres north of New Hampton, Iowa, raising corn, soybeans, winter annual hybrid rye, small grains, hay and pasture, as well as 40 brood cows and 40 brood sows that they farrow-to-finish. They also recently installed a 15.3 kW solar unit on the farm.

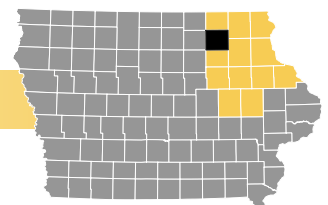
The Frantzens are longtime members of PFI with years of experience conducting on-farm research. They are recipients of PFI’s Master Researcher Award, and have shared their experiences at numerous field days throughout the years. Tom is also a past president of PFI.



Sponsored by:



LOCATION: Northeast Region, Chickasaw County





Extended Rotations With Red Clover

Tuesday, June 22
2-2:45 p.m.

Host: Ben Dwire

Red clover might just be Ben Dwire's favorite crop to grow. During this episode, we'll talk with Ben about all things red clover and how this nitrogen-fixing cover crop can help other parts of his extended rotations and his livestock operation. We'll take a peek at the red clover he's underseeded with his oats and discuss how he manages his cover crop together with his small-grain crop. Then we'll hop over to the other side of the road and take a look at corn that followed last year's red clover, where Ben is experimenting with taking nitrogen credits and cutting nitrogen by roughly 40 units.

Topics

- Establishing and managing red clover
- Nitrogen credits to corn
- Extended rotations
- Cost-share opportunities

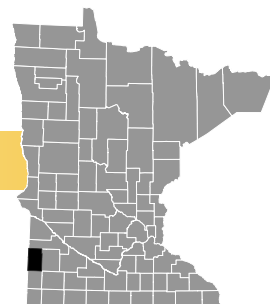
Ben Dwire farms near Arco, Minnesota, with his wife, Kristi, and two daughters. The Dwires grow soybeans, corn, oats, wheat and annual forages on 550 acres, and are 100% no-till and non-GMO. They have an additional 150 acres of hay and pasture where they raise cattle, pigs and chickens. Ben is chairman of the board at the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition.



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LOCATION: Minnesota, Lincoln County





Clarion Locker Tour

Tuesday, June 29
9-9:45 a.m.

Hosts: Elmarie & Manie Nel

In this episode, you'll have a chance to tour Clarion Locker, a newly expanded state-inspected facility that processes beef, deer, pork, lamb, goat and bison. Owners Elmarie and Manie Nel will take us on a tour of the plant and we'll check out meat-cutting while discussing meat quality. We'll also see their new roll stock machine and hear how they package and label their customers' meats. The Nels also operate a mobile slaughter unit to offer on-farm harvesting, and we'll hear how they plan to continue to expand their operation in the future.

To learn more, visit: clarionlocker.com.

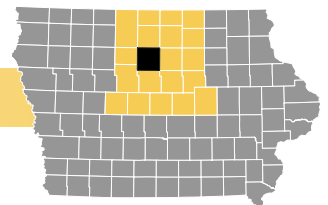
Topics

- Meat processing
- Meat quality
- Packaging
- Labeling
- Locker expansion
- On-farm mobile slaughter unit

*After moving to the United States from South Africa and owning a locker in Ventura, Iowa, **Elmarie and Manie Nels** were interested in expanding. When the opportunity arose in 2009 to re-open the locker in Clarion, Iowa, they took it. Their main goal is to work directly with farmers to achieve the best processing outcome.*



LOCATION: North Central Region, Wright County





Sheep Production With a First-Generation Farmer

Tuesday, July 13
5:30–6:15 p.m.

Host: Ortrude Dial

Ortrude started farming shortly after buying an acreage, which quickly grew into a sheep and field crop operation. At this event, she will share what it was like getting started as a woman with no prior farming background. Starting with 25 ewes, Ortrude's sheep enterprise has since grown to managing 400 ewes. We will see how she is using rotationally grazed sheep to improve soil health and production. We will also discuss pasture management, water access and sheep breeds.

Topics

- Sheep infrastructure
- Rotational grazing
- Livestock watering system

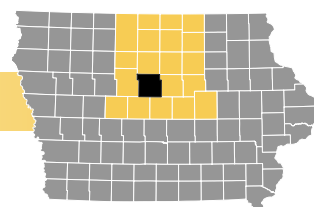
Ortrude Dial and her husband have been operating Three Sisters Farm in Williams, Iowa, since 2007. A full-time hired hand and two daughters are also involved with the farm. The Dials raise commercial sheep for meat, and they raise field crops using non-GMO as well as organic practices.



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LOCATION: North Central Region, Hamilton County





New and Favorite Equipment in the Field and Pack Shed for Vegetables

Tuesday, July 20
6–6:45 p.m.

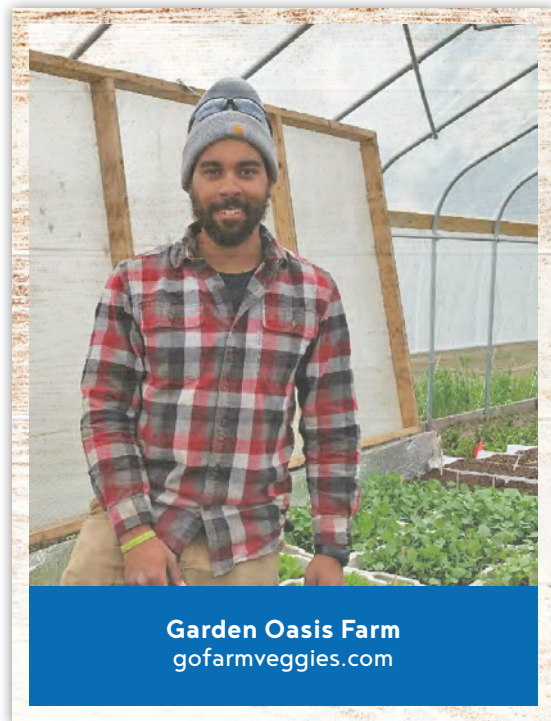
Host: T.D. Holub

Having the right equipment and systems to get your vegetable crops started, planted, ahead of the weeds and cleaned up for customers makes the job more enjoyable from start to finish. During this event, T.D. will demo a few of his favorite and newest tools and equipment, and how he came to find his best uses for each of them for a variety of crops (and eggs!).

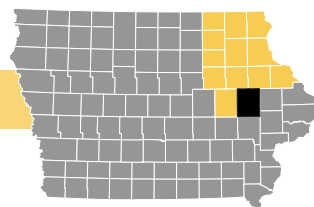
Topics

- Vacuum-seeder
- Egg washer
- Crop washer
- Tine weeder
- Mulch spreader

T.D. Holub owns and operates Garden Oasis Farm with his wife, Sarah, near Coggon, Iowa. The 8-acre vegetable farm, with pastured poultry and eggs, markets through CSA, farm-side pick-up, grocery stores and restaurants.



LOCATION: Northeast Region, Linn County





Small-Grain Harvest and Post-Harvest Handling in the Little Sioux Valley

Tuesday, July 27
6:30–7:15 p.m.

Host: Roger Wilcox

For this episode, Roger will discuss combine settings and the conditions he looks for to harvest cereal rye and oats. We will also look at post-harvest handling, such as seed cleaning and storage of small grains. Because the small-grain crops Roger raises are mostly sold as cover crop seed, he will discuss best practices for raising, harvesting and handling cover crop seed. If timing allows, we will view the cover crop drilling process.

Roger Wilcox operates Wilcox Farm with his brother, John, between Pierson and Correctionville, Iowa. Together, they raise corn, soybeans, alfalfa, oats and rye. Farming in the rolling hills of the Little Sioux River drainage area, they have been using no-till practices for many years. Roger sells Beck's seed with Wolf Creek Seed and offers cover crop custom drilling, seed and advice through Old 20 Ag Supply.



Wilcox Farm

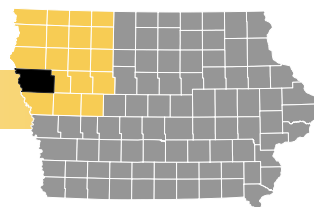
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LOCATION: Northwest Region, Woodbury County



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Expanding Agritourism on the Farm

Tuesday, Aug. 3
5:30–6:15 p.m.

Host: Anna Geyer

Over the last 15 years, agritourism has helped Anna and Dave Geyer expand their farm and bring the community together. Anna will take us on a tour of the farm and share how and why she and Dave started these business ventures, and the struggles they faced in getting started. Some of the topics she will discuss include navigating county regulations, leveraging time and resources and managing unexpected growth.

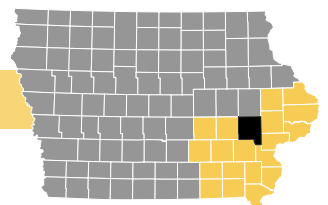
*Farming on the 120-acre farm that Dave grew up on near Iowa City, Iowa, **Anna Geyer** and her husband Dave have developed a farm for their community. In addition to raising traditional row crops, hay and grass-fed beef, Anna has created agritourism enterprises that include Geyer's Oven, Crust & Crumb, Anna's Cutting Garden and Land Alliance Folk School and Retreat Center.*



Sponsored by:



LOCATION: Southeast Region, Johnson County





Packhouse Set-Up and Packing Vegetable CSA Boxes at Blue Gate Farm

Tuesday, Aug. 10

11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Host: Jill Beebout

Tuesday is CSA delivery day at Blue Gate Farm. Typically a “no-visitor day” for any farm, this episode will offer a real-time glimpse of Jill and her crew on their most important day of the week. We’ll join in as they finish up harvesting herbs – the last item of the morning harvested – and see their techniques for plant health and harvest efficiency. We’ll follow Jill into the pack shed to see how the tomatoes, greens, beans and other vegetables are stored and staged for packing. She’ll then set up the packing line and share tactics for ensuring quality, accuracy and speed of the packing process.

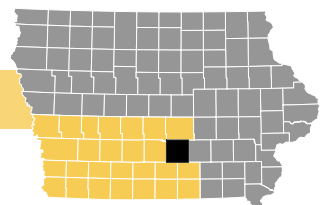
Topics

- Culinary herb harvest technique
- Tomato harvest and storage
- Pack shed set-up
- CSA box packing

Jill Beebout runs Blue Gate Farm with her husband, Sean Skeehan. They steward 40 acres of family land in southern Marion County, Iowa, where they raise Certified Naturally Grown produce, laying hens, hay and alpacas, and marketing through CSA and VegEmail.



LOCATION: Southwest Region, Marion County





Benching & Boulders: Restoring Stream Hydrology and Habitat for Wildlife and Water Quality

Tuesday, Aug. 17
10–10:45 a.m.

Hosts: Brian Cuperus & Darrick Weissenfluh

Partners: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Dickinson County Conservation Board



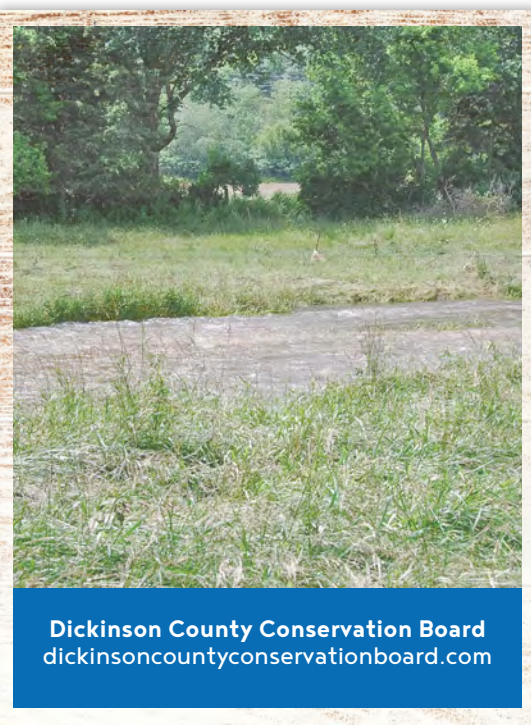
Join us to learn about stream restoration goals, strategies and benefits on the Little Sioux River. Hear from Brian Cuperus and Darrick Weissenfluh about a recent stream restoration and mussel habitat enhancement project completed at the Dickinson County Conservation Board's Horseshoe Bend property that benefits both wildlife and water quality. Also learn more about how landowners can use conservation programs to implement similar restoration projects on their own properties.

Topics

- Stream restoration
- Mussels
- Aquatic habitat
- Flood & erosion control
- Conservation programs

Brian Cuperus is the natural resource manager for the Dickinson County Conservation Board. He works to restore and manage habitat on conservation areas to benefit people and wildlife.

Darrick Weissenfluh is a private lands biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program. Through voluntary agreements and by working with conservation partners, Darrick provides technical and financial assistance to restore fish and wildlife habitat throughout the Des Moines Lobe region.

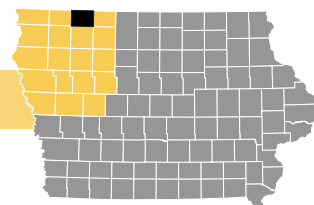


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LOCATION: Northwest Region, Dickinson County





Diverse Forages for Dairy Operations

Tuesday, Aug. 24
1:30–2:15 p.m.

Hosts: Joshua Hiemstra & Becky Wagner

Join Josh Hiemstra as he discusses the many ways he integrates annual and perennial forages into his farming operation for feeding dairy cattle. We'll take a look at trials where Josh is co-seeding and interseeding forages with silage corn, as well as testing different nitrogen application rates. We'll also see a diverse cover crop cocktail mix sown after wheat harvest. To top things off, we'll check out an establishing alfalfa-grass hay field that was seeded with a nurse crop following last year's forage mix.

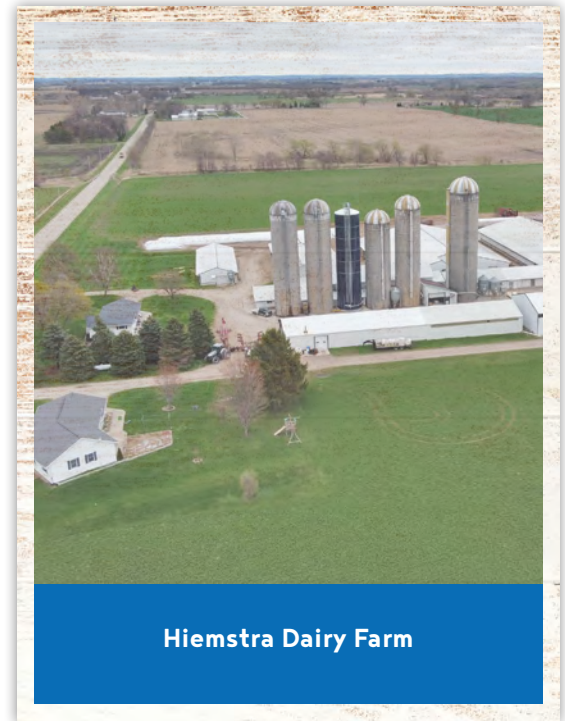
Josh will be joined by Becky Wagner, agronomist for Fond du Lac Land and Water Conservation Department. Becky will describe how the county is helping farmers like Josh implement soil health-building practices with cost-share opportunities.

Topics

- Feed value of forages
- Diversified crop rotations
- Alfalfa and clover establishment
- Silage corn

Josh Hiemstra operates Hiemstra Dairy Farm with his wife, children and father near Brandon, Wisconsin. The Hiemstras farm 790 acres, growing corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa and other forage mixes. In addition to milking 180 Holsteins, they also finish 120 head of Angus cross-bred beef cattle.

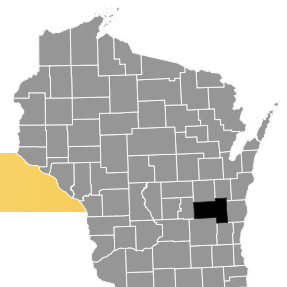
Becky Wagner is an agronomist for Fond du Lac County Land and Water Conservation Department based in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. She previously worked as a fertilizer plant manager and agronomist for farm cooperatives.



Sponsored by:



LOCATION: Wisconsin, Fond du Lac County



Designing Diversity: Climate-Smart Habitat Management for Pollinators

Tuesday, Sept. 7
10-10:45 a.m.

Host: Gregg Pattison & Erik Sessions

Partner: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



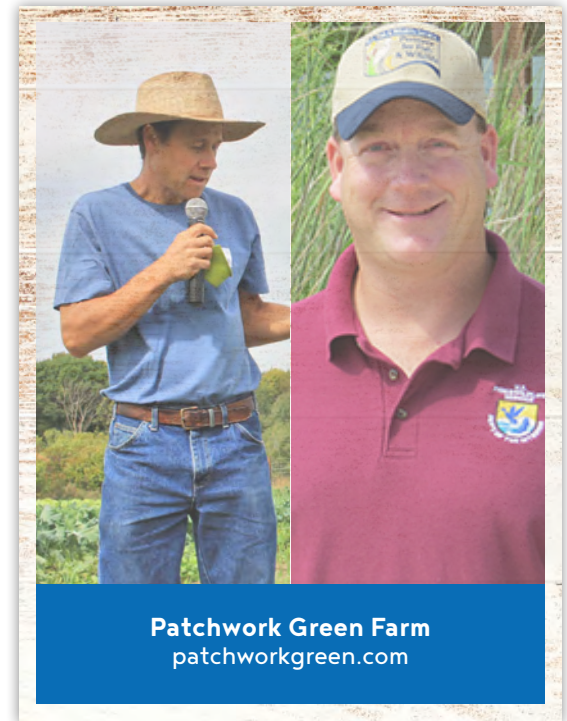
Join Erik Sessions to learn about the work he and his family are doing to increase the diversity of their farm and the surrounding property. Learn about strategies and approaches for habitat management to maximize diversity, and hear more about their long-term vision for the land. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Gregg Pattison will discuss the importance of diverse and connected habitats for wildlife in the Driftless Region.

Topics

- Prairie
- Pollinators
- Habitat
- Maximizing diversity
- CRP management
- Prescribed fire

Erik Sessions is a PFI member, farmer and landowner from Decorah, Iowa. He and his family own and operate Patchwork Green Farm, a diversified vegetable farm. Among other projects, Erik is currently working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture to increase the diversity of several acres of grassland enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program.

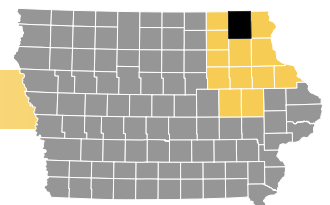
Gregg Pattison is a private lands biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program based in Decorah, Iowa. Gregg works with landowners and conservation partners to deliver technical and financial assistance for fish and wildlife conservation in northeastern Iowa.



Sponsored by:



LOCATION: Northeast Region, Winneshiek County





Apple Harvest, Cider Varieties and Pressing at Wilson's Orchard

Tuesday, Sept. 14
10:30–11:15 a.m.

Host: Paul Rasch

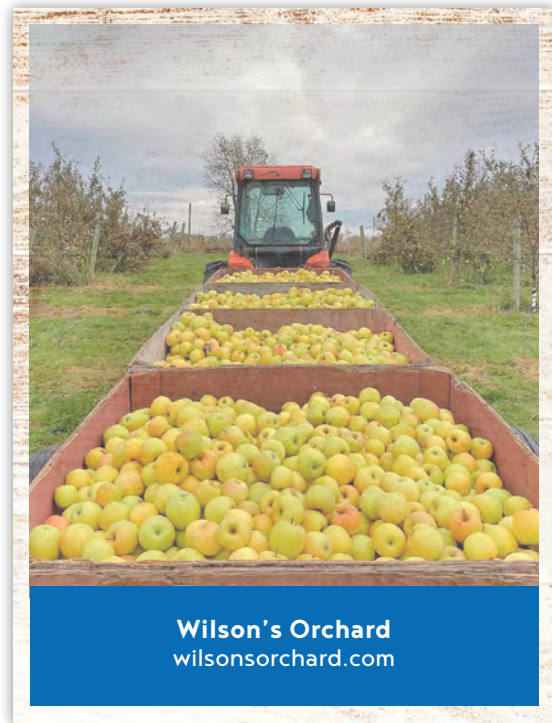
Running an apple orchard and pressing cider is a year-round job, but the peak of harvest season tests the mettle of even the most experienced growers. During this “Live From the Farm” episode, we’ll meet Paul in his main production orchard. He’ll show how the farm’s harvest is coming along and explain some of his favorite harvest tools and processes. He’ll also highlight some favorite cider apple varieties in his orchard, and we’ll tour through the cider pressing and canning facility.

Topics

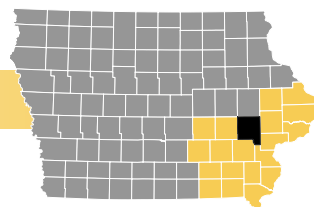
- Apple harvest tips
- Cider-specific varieties
- Field-to-cider press process
- Cider pressing
- Hard cider

Paul Rasch and Sara Goering took ownership of Wilson’s Orchard north of Iowa City, Iowa, in 2009. Traditionally a U-pick orchard with over 100 apple varieties to choose from, the orchard has diversified its business enterprises to meet customer demand in the Iowa City area. Paul began crafting hard cider in 2015, which is sold at the on-site cidery (Rapid Creek Cidery) and at grocery stores across the state.

Other orchard enterprises include the Smokehouse, Bakery and Farm Market, which offers products from Wilson’s Orchard and other nearby farms. Paul and his team also grow strawberries, pumpkins and flowers and they manage a flock of sheep, which frequently enjoy apple pomace from the cider press.



LOCATION: Southeast Region, Johnson County



MORE PFI SUMMER EVENTS

• LANDOWNER BOOT CAMP SERIES

Owning and managing farmland can be a complicated process with few, if any, one-size-fits-all solutions. From communicating with renters, to understanding stewardship practices, to knowing how to write a farmland lease, non-farming landowners face many barriers that keep them from realizing their visions for their land.

Join Des Moines Water Works, Heartland Cooperative, Peoples Company and Practical Farmers of Iowa for a multipart virtual boot camp designed to share the why, what, when and how of successful and intentional farmland management. Learn from landowners, farmers and conservation professionals about successful strategies for implementing conservation and stewardship practices on rented farmland, and hear why responsible landownership is so important to building a better agriculture in Iowa and across the Midwest.



Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) is a regional drinking water utility that protects public health by delivering outstanding quality water in reliable quantities. The utility's mission is to supply 500,000 central Iowans – one-sixth of Iowa's population – with clean, safe and reliable drinking water.



Heartland Cooperative provides agronomic products and services to farmer members at 71 locations across central Iowa, eastern Nebraska and northwestern Texas. The cooperative currently serves more than 5,800 members and strives to offer value-added and innovative solutions to its customers.



Peoples Company Peoples Company is a full-service, national farmland management and transaction company with Iowa roots. With a rural heritage that is core to its brokerage, appraisal, management and investment business, Peoples Company believes that "everything starts with land."

Workshop #1: Every Farm Matters

Friday, July 30 | Noon – 1:30 p.m.

With more and more landowners owning smaller and smaller farms, it can be easy to think that your farmland doesn't matter in the grand scheme of things. During this workshop, learn why that's not true and what it means to be part of a watershed. Hear from fellow landowners about why we should all care about intentional and thoughtful farmland management that prioritizes stewardship.

Workshop #2: Rhythms of Agriculture

Friday, Aug. 6 | Noon – 1:30 p.m.

The day-to-day business of running a farm can be mysterious to those who aren't directly involved with agriculture. During this workshop, hear from farmers and ag professionals about a year in the decision-making life of a farmer. Learn more about what research tells us about the priorities of both farmers and landowners, and gain an understanding of the resources, experts and services that farmers use to help make decisions on the farm.

Workshop #3: Strategies & Next Steps

Friday, Aug. 13 | Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Taking an active hand in managing farmland can be daunting for many landowners. In this workshop, learn more about how to build healthy and robust relationships with farmland tenants. Landowners and conservation professionals will highlight best practices for communicating with renters, explore different types of and approaches to farmland leasing and discuss why building equitable partnerships leads to better farm stewardship.

Workshop #4: Strategies & Next Steps for Women Landowners

Friday, Aug. 20 | Noon – 2 p.m.

Managing farmland can be daunting, and women landowners in particular face specific and gender-driven barriers. In this workshop, learn more about how to overcome these barriers to build healthy and robust relationships with farmland tenants. Learn about best practices for communicating with renters, explore different approaches to farmland leasing and hear more about how and why to build equitable farm partnerships.

This workshop is intended for women landowners. Content will overlap with Workshop #3, but will also feature content addressing gender-specific barriers to effective farm management and includes an additional 30 minutes for discussion and Q&A.



Landowner Lee Tesdell's Slater, Iowa, farm as seen from a drone's eye view in 2020.

● REDUCED-TILLAGE VEGETABLE PRODUCTION WEB SERIES

Thinking about ways to reduce tillage in your vegetable operation? Have you heard about “no-till” or “low-till” methods and are curious to see them in action? Join fellow low-till (and low-till-curious) growers for this summer web series!

Presented in four sessions over four weeks, this series includes virtual tours, demonstrations and presentations from researchers and farmers in Iowa and Wisconsin. Learn what they do (and don't do anymore!), how they do it and how they are expanding their use of reduced-tillage practices at their vegetable farms.

These virtual events are free and open to everyone. Visit practicalfarmers.org/reducedtillveg to register.

Week 1: Reduced-Tillage Research at the University of Wisconsin Wednesday, Aug. 4 | 6-7 p.m.

Presenters: Rue Genger & Claire Strader

Researcher Rue Genger from University of Wisconsin-Madison will introduce the Climate Resilient Organic Vegetable Production (CROVP) research project and community of practice exploring cover crop-based reduced-tillage methods. The CROVP group brings together farmers and researchers in the Upper Midwest to explore reduced tillage and cover crops as a way to build resilience to extreme weather events. CROVP is committed to farmer-led research and experimentation and farmer-to-farmer learning, especially to support communal development and refinement of best practices for cover crop-based reduced-tillage systems.

This session will include short demonstrations from the CROVP research project comparing reduced-tillage approaches to cover crop termination, planting methods and weed control, followed by Q&A. Among the methods discussed, you will see a demonstration of a two-stage walk-behind crimper designed by the USDA, which the CROVP group is testing.

***Rue Genger** is a researcher in the Urban and Regional Food Systems group at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Through collaborative networks, the group works with organic and direct-market growers to select vegetable varieties adapted to the Upper Midwest region, build a seed system that serves regional needs and test strategies for sustainable organic vegetable production. Rue's research focuses on regional seed systems and reducing tillage in organic vegetable production.*

***Claire Strader** is the organic vegetable educator for Dane County Extension and FairShare CSA Coalition. In this shared position, Claire works with organic vegetable farmers serving direct markets. Her key projects include on-farm research on cover crops and reduced-tillage techniques for organic vegetables; UW-Madison's Organic Vegetable Farm Manager Registered Apprenticeship; and the annual Organic Vegetable Production Conference serving farmers in Wisconsin and surrounding states.*

Week 2: Cover Crop-Based Reduced-Tillage Practices in Wisconsin Tuesday, Aug. 10 | 6-7 p.m.

Presenter: Dylan Bruce

This week, see demonstrations and learn about practices related to cover crop-based reduced-tillage vegetable production from Wisconsin farmers. Farmers will share their practices and experience with cover crop-based reduce-tillage methods, such as living aisles, crimped or mowed rye and more.

***Dylan Bruce** works with the UW-Madison Organic and Sustainable Research and Extension lab managing vegetable trials and conducting research to understand and develop environmentally sustainable methods of farming, such as reduced-tillage vegetable production. Dylan also owns and operates Circadian Organics, a certified organic fresh market vegetable and vegetable seed farm. The farm's mission is to grow delicious, organic produce using methods that support the local ecosystem and community.*

Week 3: Mulch-Based No-Till Practices

Thursday, Aug. 19 | 4-5 p.m.

Presenters: Mark Quee & Jon Yagla

The Millet Seed is a multi-site urban farm in Iowa City, Iowa, that produces vegetables supplying 20-30 CSA shares each year with no tillage. Mark Quee, farm manager at Scattergood Friends School and experienced organic vegetable farmer, will interview Jon Yagla, farmer at The Millet Seed, about the use of mulch as part of a no-till system.

Jon will lead us through his production spaces to demonstrate how he uses leaf mulch in combination with winter-kill cover crops to create a soil rich in organic matter, nutrients and moisture capacity. With a carefully planned production schedule, each space supports multiple crop cycles, as well as cover crops, over the course of the season, maximizing both soil health and productivity.

***Mark Quee** has managed Scattergood Friends School Farm near West Branch, Iowa, for 16 years and is an at-large member of PFI's board of directors. Mark's job at Scattergood allows him to nurture his many selves: teacher, lover of books and films, outdoors explorer, organic farmer and one who appreciates living in community.*

***Jon Yagla** operates The Millet Seed, an urban farm in Iowa City, Iowa. Since 2016, he has been operating a CSA that supplies a diversity of fruits and vegetables, mushrooms, fermented products, vinegar, cider and other specialty items throughout the season. His vision is to have an urban farm that is truly sustainable and provides a model for others interested in farming without going into debt or relying on heavy machinery and fossil fuels.*

Week 4: Reduced-Tillage Practices at Humble Hands Harvest and Middle Way Farm

Thursday, Aug. 26 | 6-7 p.m.

Presenters: Hannah Breckbill, Emily Fagan & Jordan Scheibel

In this final event of the series, Hannah Breckbill and Emily Fagan of Humble Hands Harvest, and Jordan Scheibel of Middle Way Farm, will share methods, demonstrate practices and give early results of their on-farm research on reduced-tillage methods funded by a Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE) grant.

Each farm is testing different soil treatments to assess impacts on soil quality, management practices and crop health. At Middle Way Farm, Jordan is testing three treatments: rototilling with regular amendments, compost-only application and a combination of rototilling and compost. The Humble Hands Harvest team is comparing rototilling and compost treatments. Each farm will provide virtual tours of their fields and demonstrate techniques for flipping beds from one crop to another.

***Hannah Breckbill** has been farming since 2009 and started Humble Hands Harvest in Decorah, Iowa, in 2013. In 2018, Emily Fagan joined as a partner. The farm sells primarily at farmers markets and through a CSA. Hannah and Emily are developing a perennial polyculture system and incorporating livestock.*

***Emily Fagan** farms at Humble Hands Harvest in Decorah, Iowa, with her cousin, Hannah Breckbill. The 2-acre, organic vegetable farm sells to local restaurants, farmers markets and through a CSA. Emily is also a participant in PFI's Savings Incentive Program.*

***Jordan Scheibel** runs Middle Way Farm near Grinnell, Iowa, on the Lacina family farm, where he raises 2 acres of chemical-free vegetables sold primarily through CSA shares and online sales to Grinnell-area residents (population 9,300). Having built his farm reputation through the Grinnell farmers market, in 2020 he chose not to sell at farmers market due to COVID-19, and worked to transition his customers to farm-direct online ordering.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“Live From the Farm” events are supported by the following grants:

Bees, Beetles & Broccoli: Establishing & Managing Native Habitat for Beneficial Insects & Designing Diversity: Climate-Smart Habitat Management for Pollinators

These events are made possible by a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Adaptation Fund, supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Benching & Boulders: Restoring Stream Hydrology and Habitat for Wildlife and Water Quality

This event is supported by U.S. Department of Agriculture State Conservation Innovation Grant Program, under agreement number NR196114XXXXG003.

Packhouse Set-Up and Packing Vegetable CSA Boxes at Blue Gate Farm; Sheep Production With a First-Generation Farmer; New and Favorite Equipment in the Field and Packshed for Vegetables; & Expanding Agritourism on the Farm

These events are supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, project 2020-03788.

Diverse Forages for Dairy Operations & Small-Grain Harvest and Post-Harvest Handling in the Little Sioux Valley

These events are supported by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, under agreement number NR193A750008G004.

Clarion Locker Tour

This work is supported by USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Local Food Promotion Program, under agreement No. AM200100XXXXG188.

“Catching Up” events are supported by the following grants:

IDALS Water Quality Initiative



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF
**AGRICULTURE &
LAND STEWARDSHIP**



Ceres Trust

Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under agreement number NR186114XXXXG002

U.S. Department of Agriculture, under agreement number NR196114XXXXG003

Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under number NR193A750008G004

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service, Local Food Promotion Program, under agreement No. AM200100XXXXG188

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USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, project 2020-03788

U.S. Department of Agriculture, under agreement number NR203A750001C038

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MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

	MEMBERSHIP FOR	ANNUAL FEE
STUDENT	Individuals enrolled in coursework	\$20
INDIVIDUAL	Individuals	\$50
FARM / HOUSEHOLD	Whole farm families and any employees	\$60
ORGANIZATION	Businesses, agencies, departments	\$110
LIFETIME	Individuals or families that would like to make a lifetime commitment (Excludes businesses)	One-time fee of \$1,000

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- A subscription to “the Practical Farmer,” PFI’s quarterly magazine
- Access to the lively, members-only email discussion groups
- Eligibility for special Practical Farmers programs, such as the Cooperators’ Program, Savings Incentive Program and Labor4Learning Program
- Receive steep discounts to all of PFI’s annual events, including the annual conference
- Opportunities to find new markets for your farm products or business
- ***The chance to be part of a vibrant organization that has been making farmers a top priority for 35 years!***

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MEMBER INFORMATION

Contact Name(s)*: _____

Farm or Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ County: _____

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

Email 1: _____ Email 2: _____

* For Farm or Household membership, please list names of all persons included. For Organization membership, please list up to three company contacts.

JOIN OR RENEW

1. I AM JOINING OR RENEWING AS:

☐ An Aspiring Farmer

☐ A Beginning Farmer

☐ A Farmer

☐ A Friend of Farmer

☐ A Non-Operating Landowner

2. I AM JOINING AT THE LEVEL OF:

☐ Student – \$20

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** See details at bit.ly/PFI-lifetime*

3. HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT PFI?

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When you join our email discussion groups, you can network, build community and exchange ideas from anywhere, at any time. Sign up for as many groups as you'd like (and be sure to include your email address above)!

☐ Announcements ☐ Perspectives ☐ Horticulture ☐ Livestock ☐ Field Crops

SUSTAIN PRACTICAL FARMERS WITH AN ADDITIONAL DONATION

For the sake of the long-term health and vitality of Practical Farmers of Iowa, we ask you to consider making a donation above and beyond your membership fee. Practical Farmers of Iowa is a 501(c)3 organization. Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

I would like to make a one-time, tax-deductible donation to PFI in the amount of:

☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$ _____

Or, make a recurring monthly or annual donation. Automatically charged to your credit card on the date of your first transaction each subsequent month or year.

☐ Yes, I would like to give \$ _____ ☐ per month OR ☐ per year

PAYMENT

Membership Level\$ _____ per year for _____ year(s) = \$ _____

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TOTAL AMOUNT = \$ _____

☐ Check or money order is enclosed (Please make payable to "Practical Farmers of Iowa.")

☐ Credit card (Visa, MasterCard or Discover only)

Name on card _____ Number _____

Exp. Date _____ CVC# (3 digits) _____ ☐ Please automatically charge this credit card annually for membership

Office Use Only: Check # _____ Check date _____ Total amount _____ Notes _____



A field day at Berry Patch Farm near Nevada, Iowa, in 2013.



Attendees ride hay racks at Green Iron Farms near Keota, Iowa, at this field day in 2014.



Attendees view cows at Radiance Dairy near Fairfield, Iowa, during a 2013 field day.

PRACTICAL **FARMERS** *of Iowa*

1615 Golden Aspen Drive, Suite 101
Ames, IA 50010

