
The Monthly Feedstuff - A webinar sampler platter + Resources for winter management

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

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Winter webinar season is upon us

The song "In the Bleak Midwinter" is about Christmas, but I find myself humming its titular line this time of year, because I think it better describes the endless grey

days at the end of January. The PFI Annual Conference is behind us – what a joy to see you all there – and the warmth and green of spring is far off.

In the meantime, there is the gentle flicker of hope that this grey winter of our discontent can't last forever that keeps us sustained. That and chores. **[This fact sheet](#) from the University of Minnesota Extension can act as a checklist of things to watch in the cold, including water access, windbreaks and bedding.**

You can also tune in, while you're warming up during lunch on Tuesdays, to **[PFI's winter webinar series](#).**

The summer is a long way off, but in anticipation that the sun continues to rise, and pastures will grow again, I'm starting to plan already. **If you have any field day ideas, or know someone who should host, feel free to reply to this email or call the office.**

PROGRAM UPDATES

Upcoming livestock webinars



Feb. 25: Webinar – "[Dying To Start Dyeing? Raising, Processing and Marketing Wool](#)"

Noon-1 p.m. | **[Online](#)**

In this webinar, **Emily Tzeng** will discuss the value chain for wool, the benefits and potential difficulties of producing natural dye crops, and ways to market these items. Tune in to learn how small-scale farms can add value to their wool by processing the fibers into roving, yarn and finished goods and by dyeing those products. **[RSVP](#)**



April 1: Webinar – "Watering Systems for Graziers"

Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Access to water can be a barrier to grazing – but installing watering systems can seem daunting. In this webinar, **Dave Schmidt** will share his experiences with different types of watering systems. Over the years, he has experimented with a range of fixed and mobile water sources. Tune in to learn from an experienced grazer, learn about your options and gain a clearer view of what might work for your grazing system. [RSVP](#)



April 8: Webinar – "Getting Going With Grazing"

Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

It can be overwhelming to start rotationally grazing. **Olivia Pacha** has just reached the end of her "first full-blown year" rotationally grazing cattle, sheep and goats. In this webinar, Olivia will share what she's learned, from what to invest in to navigating rental agreements and contract grazing. Come hear some insights, reflections and how-tos from a beginner who's in the midst of figuring it out. [RSVP](#)

BEYOND THE GATE

Grant funding opportunity



The Lakewinds Organic Field Fund is a grant program dedicated to making an impact on local farming and organic food by furthering the development and sustainability of farms in the region. Grants are for a variety of projects and go up to \$8,000.

Preference is given to farmers located in Minnesota, western Wisconsin and northern Iowa.

Applications are open until Jan. 31 and grants are awarded in mid-March.

What to expect when your livestock are expecting



Birth is stressful for everyone. As a bystander for your livestock, there's a lot to pay attention to and be ready for. In anticipation of winter calving, the University of Nebraska Extension recently published two helpful articles:

- **"Know the Signs of Impending Calving in Cows or Heifers"**
- **"Calving Problems: When to Intervene"**

Lambing and kidding is starting for some as well. Check out this **PFI video** with **Adam Ledvina** on signs that a doe is about to give birth, thoughts on interventions and maintaining a healthy, low-maintenance herd.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friends of PFI events

Jan. 23-25: Conference –
GrassWorks Grazing Conference
Hosted by: GrassWorks Grazing Inc.
Wisconsin Dells, WI
Say hi at the PFI booth!

Jan. 23-24: Conference –
Driftless Area Beef Conference
Hosted by: Iowa State University
Extension
Dubuque, IA

Jan. 28: Webinar – Commercial Targeted Grazing with Goats 101

Hosted by: Food Animal Concerns Trust
2 p.m. | **Online**

Feb. 8: Conference – SFA Annual Conference

Hosted by: Sustainable Farming Association
8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. | St. Joseph, MN
Say hi at the PFI booth!

Feb. 20-22: Conference – Marbleseed Organic Farming Conference

Hosted by: Marbleseed
La Crosse, WI
Say hi at the PFI booth!

[View our events calendar](#)

[Contact our team](#)

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