
The Monthly Feedstuff - Registration is open for PFI's Annual Conference + An amuse-bouche of livestock sessions

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

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You're invited to PFI's 2025 Annual Conference

Registration is officially open for **Practical Farmers of Iowa's 2025 Annual Conference**, which will be held **Jan. 10-11 in Des Moines, Iowa**, at the Iowa

Events Center.

This keystone event brings together farmers, aspiring farmers, landowners and agricultural professionals to share knowledge and learn together. This year's conference has over 70 sessions planned on a range of agricultural topics, including grazing covers, planting native perennials, incorporating small grains into feed, pasture farrowing, castration timing and more.

The inaugural **Midwest Meat Summit** will also precede PFI's conference. Learn more about the summit in next month's Monthly Feedstuff newsletter.

PROGRAM UPDATES

PFI 2025 Annual Conference: Livestock session sampler



Incorporating Hybrid Rye Into Hog Feed

Speaker: Tom Frantzen

Hybrid rye is a high-fiber, lower-energy grain commonly fed to pigs in Europe. To test how well hybrid rye worked as a feed for organic pigs, the Frantzens raised hybrid rye on their farm and then used it to replace half of the corn in their standard ration. Hear Tom share what he learned as part of this five-year on-farm research trial, which involved multiple cooperators.



Making Pasture Pencil Out

Speaker: Zach Knutson

It's a big decision to convert row crop to pasture ground. Before diving headfirst, you'll want to know some numbers. In this session, Zach will discuss the costs and benefits of three conversion approaches. He'll also share the hay and grazing yields he's experienced in drought and heavy rainfall seasons on fields ranging from 60-75 CPI to 90-95 CPI to give you an idea of what you can expect post-conversion.



All Things Poultry Feed

Speaker: Anna Pesek

As some of the smallest livestock on the farm, poultry can have big reactions to small changes in their diets. Come hear from Anna as she shares the results of multiple on-farm research trials she's participated in, along with years of experience feeding birds on pasture. In this session, Anna will discuss chickens, turkeys and ducks, so be prepared to learn fast and ask questions.



The Bottom Line of Grazing: Crunching the Numbers on Cover Crops

Speaker: James Holz

Curious about why folks grazing cover crops think it's worth the work? Join **James Holz** as he shares why the economics of getting livestock on the land make sense. Whether you're looking to cut feed costs, improve land efficiency or boost overall profitability, James will share real-world numbers and practical examples showing why grazing cover crops is an investment worth making.



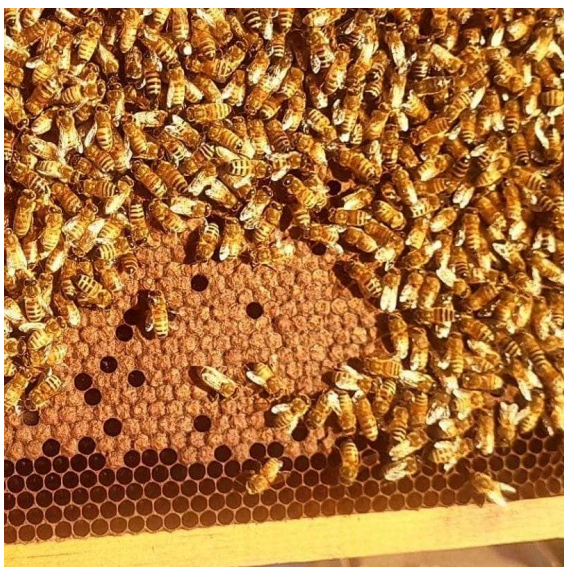
Grazing Resilience With Warm-Season Perennials

Speaker: Gene Schriefer

As drought, floods and other extreme weather continues to be more common, it's important that your farm has the resiliency to adapt. Join **Gene Schriefer** as he shares the experiments he has done on his own farm to incorporate warm-season native perennials. He'll explain the benefits he's seen from his stand of pure big bluestem, as well as the difficulties it poses and how these plants fit into the larger context of his farm.

BEYOND THE GATE

Options for overwintering bees



With cold weather fast approaching, apiarists are preparing their colonies for the winter months. The Des Moines Backyard Beekeeper's Club recently hosted [this webinar](#) with **Peg DeSanto**. She talks through overwintering pros and cons of vented hives, condensing hives and the Hive Hugger Insulation system.

Read "[Oh, for a Bee's Experience](#)" from the summer magazine to learn more about the challenges and successes of beekeepers in Iowa.

Avoid prussic acid poisoning in grazing using a quick test



Annual forages like sorghum, sorghum x sudangrass and sudangrass can contain prussic acid, also known as cyanide, which can be lethal if ingested. Prussic acid poisoning can occur following a frost, so it's important to be conscientious of the risk as temperatures swing daily.

This article from the University of Nebraska Extension gives more information about prussic acid and a quick test farmers can use to check the safety of their forage.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friends of PFI events

Dec. 2: Webinar – Could it happen here? Preparing Your Farm, Family, and Livestock for Disaster

Hosted by: Food Animal Concerns Trust

1 p.m. | **Online**

Dec. 7: Workshop – MDA Grants

101 Hosted by: Sustainable Farming Association

1-3 p.m. | Wyoming, MN

Dec. 3: Workshop – Cow Clinics: Keys to successful calving and breeding seasons

Hosted by: UNL Extension

10 a.m.-2 p.m. | Fullerton, NE

Dec. 10: Workshop – Cattle Feeders Day

Hosted by: ISU Extension

9 a.m.-Noon | Lewis, IA

View our events calendar

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