
Practical News - Meet your 2025 Labor4Learning trainers + Register for the Midwest Covers and Grains Conference

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

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



February 17, 2025

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Meet your 2025 Labor4Learning trainers

Our 2025 Labor4Learning trainers are seeking employees to work on their operations this growing season. In exchange, you'll receive mentorship and extra training, and a chance to attend PFI events.

If you're looking for farm work, you'll find a range of job types to choose from. Gain experience with livestock and fencing for cattle, cut flower production, vegetables, agroforestry, pastured poultry production and more.

The Labor4Learning program pairs beginning farmers looking for farm employment with experienced farmers seeking extra help on their farm. The program is unique because it offers beginners extra training in farm management and production skills.

[Explore the open positions.](#)

NEWS

Submit a nomination for PFI's Farmland Owner Legacy Award



Practical Farmers of Iowa is now taking nominations for our **[Farmland Owner Legacy Award](#)**.

This award was created to call attention to the need for improved landowner partnerships with farmers, and the vital role non-operator landowners play in shaping the agricultural landscape, rural communities and opportunities for beginning farmers. **[Read about last year's recipient](#)**, Tim Kelley.

[Nominate a landowner by March 3.](#)

Enroll in our N Rate Risk Protection Program



Are you thinking of lowering your nitrogen rate in your 2025 corn crop?

With PFI's N Rate Risk Protection Program, you'll consult with a PFI agronomist and receive field-specific advice to help you decide the right reduction rate for your farm.

This program lets you experiment with lower nitrogen rates while saving money and boosting land stewardship.

[Enroll in the program today.](#)

Welcome Kaitlin to PFI staff



Kaitlin Little joined the Practical Farmers of Iowa staff in January 2025 as the senior data and member engagement assistant. In this role, she helps with data management for grant reporting and administering the member engagement program.

She graduated from Iowa State University in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in advertising. Kaitlin has experience in communications and project coordination. [Read more of Kaitlin's bio.](#)

Video: "Winter Wheat and Benefits of Manure Injection Before Corn"



Kevin Prevo of Bloomfield, Iowa, takes a whole-farm approach to his soil health management.

With 10 years of experience in no-till production using cover crops, Kevin has found systems that work for his operation. In this ["Practical Cover Croppers" video](#), he shares how he plants winter wheat in twin rows and injects hog manure in the 20-inch gaps, later planting corn where the manure was applied.

[Watch the video](#) to hear about cost savings, reduced nitrogen loss and other benefits of Kevin's system.

Magazine: "Shifting Gears: Vegetable Farmers Adapt to Their Changing Needs"



Raising vegetables is hard work. It's physically demanding, runs on a rigid schedule and requires endless decisions. These strains lead many farmers to adapt their operations to accommodate changing needs.

In our winter magazine, **Rob and Tammy Faux, Donna Warhover and Laura Krouse** shared their experience with transitions and adaptations they've made on their farms. [Read the full article.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter webinar: "Dying To Start Dyeing? Raising, Processing and Marketing Wool"



Tuesday, Feb. 25 | Noon-1 p.m.

Join our upcoming webinar where farmer **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.

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](#)

Register today for Midwest Covers and Grains Conference



Wednesday, March 5 | Great Wolf Lodge, Baraboo, WI

Consider taking a trip to Wisconsin to connect with other farmers interested in the benefits of small grains in rotation at the Midwest Covers and Grains Conference.

The conference will include:

- Plenary and breakout sessions and time for networking
- Delicious locally sourced food
- A farmer social immediately following the conference

[Register now.](#)

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

Feb. 18: Meet-Up – Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up

Hosted by: Jill Beebout
2-4 p.m. | Knoxville, IA

Feb. 18: Webinar – Soil Studies: Exploring Creative Residue Management and Soil Amendments in a Four-Crop Rotation

Hosted by: Norm Lamothe
Noon-1 p.m. | **[Online](#)**

Feb. 19: Meet-Up – Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up

Hosted by: Hannah Scates Kettler & Kurtis Kettler
Noon-1 p.m. | **[Online](#)**

View our events calendar

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Nathan Paulsen of Exira, IA, was featured in [Atlantic News Telegraph: Sweetheart Market Success: Honey-Themed Market Abuzz](#)

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

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