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**Practical News - Nominate a deserving farmland owner + Join a research trial this year**

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

Date Fri 4/11/2025 8:27 AM

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



**Preregister by Feb. 27 for the Midwest Covers & Grains Conference. This event, taking place in Baraboo, Wisconsin, on March 5, will feature two plenaries and multiple breakout sessions on diversifying rotations, integrating livestock and more.**

**February 24, 2025**

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



**Submit your nominees for the Farmland Owner Legacy Award by March 3**

In September 2024, **Tim Kelley** was honored with PFI's Farmland Owner Legacy Award during a field day event on the 800-acre farm he co-owns with his sister **Margaret Kelley**, in northwestern Missouri.

Tim's tenant, **Brent Nold**, raises corn, soybeans, small grains and multispecies cover crops on 400 of those acres. Our winter magazine article, "[Treating the Land Right](#)," details Tim's tenure caring for his land and his efforts to transition stewardship to the next generation through his relationship with Brent.

Created in 2013, PFI's Farmland Owner Legacy Award recognizes landowners who help the next generation get started, advance land stewardship and promote long-term sustainability of farm businesses, environmental quality and rural communities. [Nominate a landowner for the award by March 3.](#)

## NEWS

### Video: "Seeding Rates for Drilling a Winter Wheat Cover Crop"



In this YouTube video, **McKane Wells**, who farms near Milton, Iowa, shares why he prefers winter wheat to cereal rye as a cover crop for grazing and establishing hay.

He discusses different winter wheat seeding rates he uses. He also shows the components of his Great Plains drill and explains how adding a weigh bar has improved his seeding rate accuracy.

[Watch the video.](#)

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### Research report: "Mizuna Variety Trial"



Farmer **Carmen Black** of Solon, Iowa, noticed that some varieties in the mizuna mix she grew in her high tunnel were bolting early, making them unmarketable.

Unable to pinpoint which varieties they were, Carmen did a research trial to hone in her mizuna growing practices and variety selection.

**Learn which varieties she tested and what she learned in this research report.**

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## Put your soil health to the test with on-farm science



While it may not feel like it, spring will be here before we know it!

If you're thinking about the growing season ahead and want to use on-farm research to find out if your soil health practices are paying off, sign up for one of our field crop research trials:

- Can We Reduce N Rates to Corn and Improve ROI?
- Do Cover Crops Increase the Number of Days Suitable for Field Work?

**Both trials are compensated. Enroll today.**

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## Learn greenhouse skills through our Labor4Learning program

# Mike Salama

Labor4Learning  
Trainer

Boone, IA



Are you interested in learning the ins and outs of a greenhouse business?

**Mike Salama** is looking for a greenhouse intern through PFI's Labor4Learning program.

Salama Greenhouse is located in Boone, Iowa. They are a full garden center selling ornamental plants, seasonal bedding plants, house plants, seasonal flowering plants, trees and shrubs, perennials and cut flowers.

**[Apply for this position and explore other opportunities.](#)**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Two more chances to join a Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up this winter



Join fellow fruit, vegetable and flower farmers to chat about the season ahead at our final two **[Horticulture Farmer Meet-Ups](#)** of the year:

Feb. 28 | 3-5 p.m. | Osage, Iowa

Hosted by: **Steve Strasheim**

March 6 | 3-5 p.m. | Logan, Iowa

Hosted by: **Danelle Myer**

To RSVP, email Jacqueline at **[jacqueline.venner.senske@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:jacqueline.venner.senske@practicalfarmers.org)**.

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### Webinar: "Building Partnerships for Conservation: A Farmer-Tenant Collaboration in Northeast Iowa"



**Tuesday, March 4 | Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)**

Join **Mary Damm**, owner of Prairie Quest Farm near McGregor, Iowa, as she discusses her successful partnership with her current tenant farmer, who practices rotational grazing with beef cattle.

Mary will share how open communication, respect and helping one another has aligned her conservation goals with those of her tenant, resulting in mutually beneficial projects for the farm's future. [Register for the webinar.](#)

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## More upcoming events

*All events listed are in Central time.*

### **[March 7: Shared Learning Call – Managing Soil Health for Better Quality Crops](#)**

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

[View our events calendar](#)

## IN THE NEWS

### Members in the News

*Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.*

**Brent Swart** of Spencer, IA, **Aaron Lehman** of Polk City, IA, **Jeri Thornsberry** of Waterloo, IA, **Matt Russell** of Lacona, IA, and **Sally Worley**, PFI's executive director, were featured in [Des Moines Register: \*\*Trump spending freeze sticks Iowa farmers with millions in bills for conservation work\*\*](#)

**Hannah Bernhardt** of Finlayson, MN, was featured in [Successful Farming: \*\*Farmers, Food Banks Describe 'Chaos' of USDA Grant Suspensions\*\*](#)

**Jill Beebout** of Chariton, IA, was featured in [Agri-View: \*\*Non-profit offers organic alternative\*\*](#)

**Ruth McCabe** of State Center, IA, **Aaron White** of Carlisle, IA, and **Brian Dougherty** of Fitchburg, WI, were featured in [Atlantic News Telegraph: Southwest Iowa Soil Health Winter Conference is March 5th in Atlantic](#)

**Ryan Gibbs** of Hopkinton, IA, and **Andy Linder** of Easton, MN, were featured in [Owatonna People's Press: Soil health workshop in Owatonna encourages more sustainable farming](#)

**Wendy Mariko Johnson** of Charles City, IA, **Loran Steinlage** of West Union, IA, and **Sally Worley**, PFI's executive director, were featured in a [Sand County Foundation news release: Iowa Leopold Conservation Award Seeks Nominees](#)

## PFI in the News

**Sarah Carlson**, PFI's senior programs and member engagement director, was featured on [Iowa Public Radio: Trump's freeze on federal funds leaves some farmers waiting in the cold](#)

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**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](mailto:elizabeth.wilhelm@practicalfarmers.org)

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