
Practical News - Welcome our next Savings Incentive Program class + Read new row crop research

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

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



Today is the final day to nominate someone for our Farmland Owner Legacy Award! This award recognizes landowners who help the next generation get started and advance land stewardship. **[Submit your nomination.](#)**

March 3, 2025

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Welcome Terri Speirs to PFI staff



Terri Mork Speirs joined the Practical Farmers of Iowa staff in February 2025 as the development director.

Terri is excited to steward and grow Practical Farmers' donor base, with a focus on increasing unrestricted gifts. She enjoys fundraising because it connects her with interesting, generous folks who care about the Earth and one another.

Terri has extensive previous experience supporting a variety of sectors. [Read Terri's full bio.](#)

Research trial: "Strip-Till Versus No-Till Following Cover Crops"

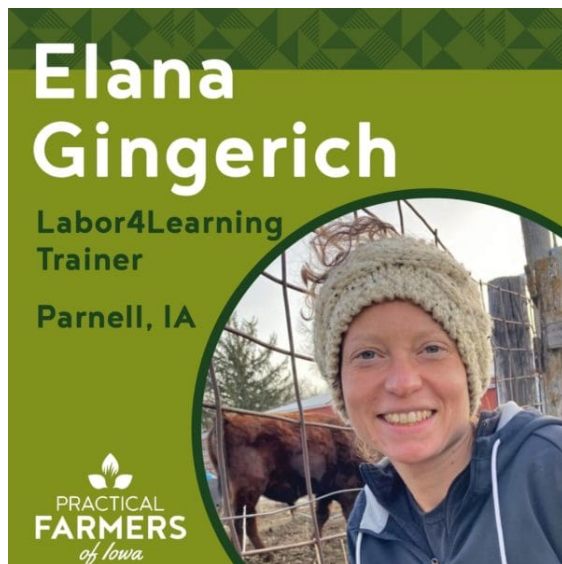


Many farmers use strip-till or no-till methods to plant corn and soybean crops to reduce soil disturbance, minimize planting costs and plant green into standing cover crops.

In 2024, farmers **Landon Brown and Keaton Krueger** looked at how strip-till versus no-till planting affected their crop yields using replicated trials.

Landon hoped to use the trial data to back a potential decision to quit strip-tilling his corn. Keaton had a similar desire for soybean production. [Read the full research report.](#)

Meet a Labor4Learning trainer: Elana Gingerich



Join 2025 Labor4Learning trainer **Elana Gingerich** as an agriforestry assistant at Olivia's Orchard in Parnell, Iowa.

Elana grows chestnuts, pawpaws and other tree crops, and grass-finishes beef. The farm is guided by the values of growing food while being able to build soil and leave habitat for wildlife.

[View our full list of 2025 Labor4Learning positions.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Small grains shared learning call: "Managing Soil Health for Better Quality Crops"



Friday, March 7 | Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

In our next small grains shared learning call, **Amy Bruch** will talk about how Cyclone Farms manages soil health using various methods to understand what inputs are needed and where. She will also touch on how the farm markets its small grains.

Cyclone Farms grows a variety of organic crops, including hard red winter wheat, yellow field peas, oats and alfalfa. They have cover crops in the rotation, as well as food-grade corn and soybeans. [Register today.](#)

Webinar: "Optimal Nitrogen Fertilizer Rates for Corn"



Tuesday, March 11 | Noon-1 p.m. | Online

This webinar will be a great prelude to the growing season ahead. Iowa State University professor **Sotirios Archontoulis** will discuss the results of new research on the optimal nitrogen fertilizer rate for corn.

He'll also discuss how plant population, hybrids, soil and weather can all affect the optimal rate, and what that can mean for corn and grain yields. **Register for this webinar.**

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

March 4: Winter Webinar – A Farmer-Tenant Collaboration in Northeast Iowa

Hosted by: Mary Damm
Noon-1 p.m. | **Online**

March 5: Conference – Midwest Covers and Grains Conference

8 a.m.-4 p.m. | Baraboo, WI
****Walk-in registration will be available!**

March 6: Meet-Up – Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up

Hosted by: Danelle Myer
4-6 p.m. | Logan, IA

View our events calendar

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Alec and Rachel Amundson of Osage, IA, **Wade Dooley** of Albion, IA, **Brice Hundling** of Breda, IA, and **Natasha Wilson** of West Chester, IA, were featured on [Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network](#): **Four farmers elected to Practical Farmers of Iowa's board of directors**

Hannah Bernhardt of Finlayson, MN, was featured in [Farms.com](#): **Enhancing Business Skills of MN's Next Generation of Farmers**

Jeff Hafner of Panora, IA, was featured in [The Wall Street Journal: The U.S. Plans to Import More Eggs. Will That Help Tame Rising Prices?](#)

Steve Riggins of Cambridge, IA, and **Martha McFarland**, PFI's senior farmland viability coordinator, were featured in [Public News Service: Veteran Iowa farmers teach 'up and comers'](#)

Wendy Mariko Johnson and **John Rafkin** of Charles City, IA, were featured in [Farm News: A return to her roots](#)

Wendy Johnson of Charles City, IA, **Carmen and Maja Black** of Solon, IA, **Jason Grimm** of Williamsburg, IA, and **Emma and Marcus Johnson** of Central City, IA, wrote an opinion piece featured in [Iowa Capital Dispatch: Iowa farmers are relying on now-frozen regional food infrastructure grants](#)

PFI in the News

Sally Worley, PFI's executive director, was featured on [KCAU 9 News: Proposed federal spending freeze affecting Iowa farmers](#)

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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