
Practical News - View the 2024 trial results on reducing nitrogen rates + Grazing consultations

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

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



April 7, 2025

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



PFI farmers are using multi-year research to improve profitability and decrease nitrogen use

According to farmer **Alec Amundson**, "Nitrogen is a moving target. It is always good to test and adjust." Through PFI's research program, farmers have been working to find out if they can reduce nitrogen rates in their corn while staying

profitable and reaping the economic and environmental benefits of fertilizer reduction.

In 2024, the third year of this trial, 19 farmers in Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois performed 22 replicated strip trials testing their typical nitrogen rate against a reduced rate of their choosing.

The trial is set to continue in 2025. Participant **Don Putz** emphasizes, "We will be running this same scenario for at least two more years to get a clearer picture of the results." **See what they've found so far.** **If you are curious about reducing your nitrogen rate this growing season, our N Rate Risk Protection Program is enrolling until April 30.**

This program offers support from a PFI agronomist on reducing your nitrogen rate and protecting your bottom line. It also offers a risk protection payment of \$35 per acre if your yield drops after reducing your typical rate. **Enroll today.**

NEWS

Improve your grazing plan with a PFI consultation



PFI's livestock viability manager, **Margaret Chamas**, offers free grazing consultations for established or aspiring livestock farmers.

Consults will vary depending on the situation; participants can expect one to two phone calls of 30 minutes or more and possibly a site visit. Margaret will work with you to identify some goals and outcomes to achieve.

Schedule your grazing consultation.

Magazine: "Learning Sin Pelos en la Lengua"

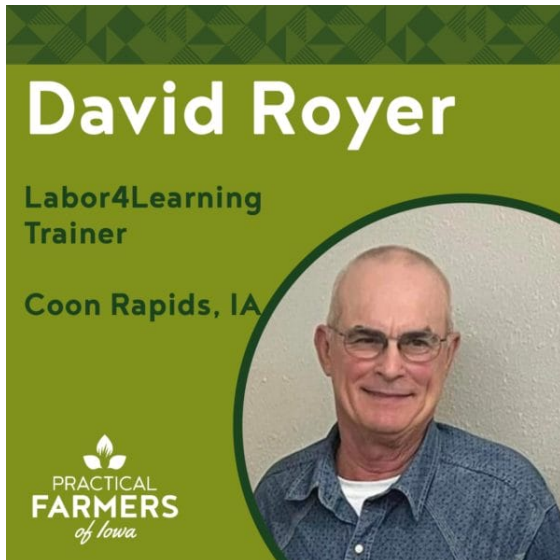


Valeria Cano Camacho Tidemann, PFI's senior Latino engagement coordinator, first connected with beginning farmers **Jenny Horner** and **Emilio Moreno** after putting out a call for Spanish-speaking goat farmers.

With an ethos of sharing, Jenny and Emilio agreed to serve as hosts of PFI's "Year in a Life" series in 2024. The series featured field days presented entirely in Spanish – a new milestone for PFI's Agricultores Latinos program.

[Read the full magazine article.](#)

Meet a Labor4Learning trainer: David Royer



David Royer farms row crops, beef cattle and wean-to-finish hogs in Coon Rapids, Iowa. Join him as a farmhand for the 2025 season.

Work activities may include fixing, maintaining and operating farm equipment, caring for and monitoring of the cow-calf herd and managing the land. The trainee may also learn numerous trade skills that could transfer to other careers.

[Explore this and other Labor4Learning opportunities.](#)

Revisit the annual conference with presentations available online



Did you miss a session at PFI's 2025 Annual Conference, or are you interested in revisiting an informative session you attended?

Conference session PowerPoint presentations are now available on our website.

Session topics range from growing broccolini and building a year-round forage chain to starting a cover crop business, and many more.

[Review conference presentations.](#)

MEMBERSHIP

Join fellow PFI members on email discussion groups



PFI's greatest asset is the knowledge and ideas generously shared among our community of members.

Our email discussion groups are a [members-only](#) email platform. Signing up lets you easily connect with that network from anywhere you can access your email.

Stay informed, get advice, share events and get the support you need to make practical decisions for your farm.

[Access this member benefit.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

More upcoming events

All events listed are in Central time.

April 8: Webinar – [Getting Going With Grazing](#)

Hosted by: Olivia Pacha

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

April 11: Shared Learning Call – [Preventing and Managing Disease in Oats](#)

Hosted by: Jochum Wiersma

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

View our events calendar

IN THE NEWS

Members in the News

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Emmaly Renshaw of Cedar Rapids, IA, and **Emma Johnson** of Central City, IA, were featured on [Radio Iowa](#): **lowa farmers feel the impact of local food programs being eliminated**

Kate Mendenhall of Okoboji, IA, and **Paul Hoffman** of Earlville, IL, were featured in [Iowa Farmer Today](#): **Organic farmers find profitable niche**

Mari Hunt Wassink of Cedar Rapids, IA, and **Anna Pesek** of Coggon, IA, were featured on [Iowa News Now](#): **Losing that revenue is detrimental, eastern IA farmers react to LFPA, LFSP federal cuts**

The following members were featured in [Corridor Business Journal](#): **Eastern Iowa producers speak out against cancellation of food assistance funding:**

- **Mari Hunt Wassink** of Cedar Rapids, IA
- **Emma and Marcus Johnson** of Central City, IA
- **Aron Brecht** of Hiawatha, IA
- **Emmaly Renshaw** of Cedar Rapids, IA
- **Anna Pesek** of Coggon, IA

Michelle Kenyon of Iowa City, IA, **Jason Grimm** of Williamsburg, IA, **Teresa Wiemerslage** of Dorchester, IA, and **Jan Libbey** of Kanawha, IA, were featured on [WVIK](#): **Local food advocates try to patch supply chain gaps after the USDA cuts programs**

Sean Dengler of Urbandale, IA, wrote an op-ed in [The Des Moines Register](#): **I had to quit my family's fifth-generation farm. Monopolies pushed me out**

Seth Watkins of Clarinda, IA, was featured in [The Des Moines Register](#): **Iowa lawsuit taking aim at longstanding wetlands rule could have sweeping effect**

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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