

PRACTICAL FARMERS OF IOWA

2025

FIELD DAY

Guide



PRACTICAL
FARMERS
of Iowa

practicalfarmers.org

Welcome to Practical Farmers of Iowa's 2025 Field Day Season!

Over 60 farms across Iowa, as well as Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and Wisconsin, are opening their farm gates, inviting you to join PFI for another summer of farmer-to-farmer learning.

Whether you're new to PFI field days or a yearly attendee, you'll find a welcoming atmosphere, a spirit of curiosity, a culture of mutual respect and farmers openly sharing their knowledge and experience. At PFI, we have a unique learning model: Our events are led by farmers – we know they are the experts on their specific farming systems. At PFI field days, farmers believe in sharing their knowledge, discoveries, mistakes and successes so you can learn and grow your own operation.

Please join us – we look forward to seeing you at a field day this season.

See you on the farm,

Liz Kolbe

Farmer-Led Education Director



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PFI Membership
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Field days are free
and open to everyone!

Looking for more events or information?

- Find events, resources and more on our website at practicalfarmers.org.
- Connect with us on social media.
- Sign up for our free weekly email newsletter or one of our specialty email newsletters at bit.ly/subscribetopfi or **scan the QR code** here to get the latest news, resources and information delivered right to your inbox.



Field Day Policies & Logistics

Open to Everyone

All PFI field days are **free for anyone to attend**; PFI membership is not required or expected. Our goal here is simple: We want farmers to visit with and learn from one another. Not a farmer? That's okay, you're invited too! If you're an eater, consumer, researcher, friend-of-farmer, policymaker, neighbor or simply curious to learn about agriculture – everyone has a role to play in supporting resilient farms and communities. We hope you'll join us.

RSVPs Appreciated

RSVPs are appreciated for PFI field days. To RSVP, find the RSVP button for each field day at practicalfarmers.org/field-days (or use the QR code throughout the guide), or call our office at **(515) 232-5661**.

Getting to Field Days

For most field days, online maps are accurate. In certain circumstances, additional directions are included on the field day webpages. To help you find your way, directional signs with the PFI logo will be placed near the last few turns.



What To Bring

All PFI events occur rain or shine. Please dress for the weather and the terrain. Many field days include walking through tall grasses or fields, around equipment and in a range of weather conditions. We recommend that you bring:

- **Closed-toe shoes**
(comfortable for walking)
- **Sun protection**
(cap or hat, sunscreen)
- **Water bottle**
(we will provide refills!)
- **Rain jacket or poncho**
(depending on the forecast)
- **Camp chair or stool**
(especially if there's a meal!)
- **Personal snacks**
(Particularly if you have a food allergy or other dietary restrictions, please bring personal snacks in case the provided meal or refreshments do not meet your needs.)
- **Your family**
(Children are welcome to attend with parents! Please be mindful of the dangers on a working farm, including electric fence, difficult terrain, animals and equipment.)

What Not To Bring

- **Dogs or other pets are not permitted** (service dogs, as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, are permitted)
- Professional camera or recording equipment, unless you are a member of the news media or have prior approval from PFI – see more at practicalfarmers.org/resourcesformedia
- Exhibitor or promotional materials or solicitations, unless you are an official field day sponsor



Special Instructions for Visiting Farms With Livestock

We ask that all attendees at field days where livestock are present observe the following biosecurity practices. While biosecurity is important on all farms, clean shoes and clothes are particularly important due to the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI).

When visiting farms with livestock, we ask that attendees:

- **Wear clean shoes or boots** that have not been worn on other farms with livestock or livestock buildings, or around a dense population of wild birds. If shoes or boots were worn around livestock or birds, they must be cleaned and disinfected.
- **Wear clean clothes** that have not been worn around other livestock.
- Upon request of the farmer host or PFI staff during the field day, you may be asked to:
 - Disinfect shoes or boots in a phenol or similar solution.
 - Wear disposable plastic boot covers over your shoes (*provided by PFI*).

Civility Commitment *By attending a field day, you agree to our Civility Commitment.*

Our commitment is to learn from each other. We acknowledge differences in beliefs, values, politics, culture, interests and experiences.

We Commit To:

- Listening respectfully to each other
- Recognizing and respecting different levels of understanding
- Actively seeking common ground
- Creating an environment free from language and symbols that are hostile, intimidating or abusive of others

Notice of Photography & Filming

By attending this event, you agree to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded and for PFI to use this content in future communications and marketing, including (*by way of example only*) on social media and in media coverage, publications and advertising. This includes children and dependents attending the event with you.

PFI staff will do their best to accommodate the requests of individuals who do not wish to be photographed.

Questions?

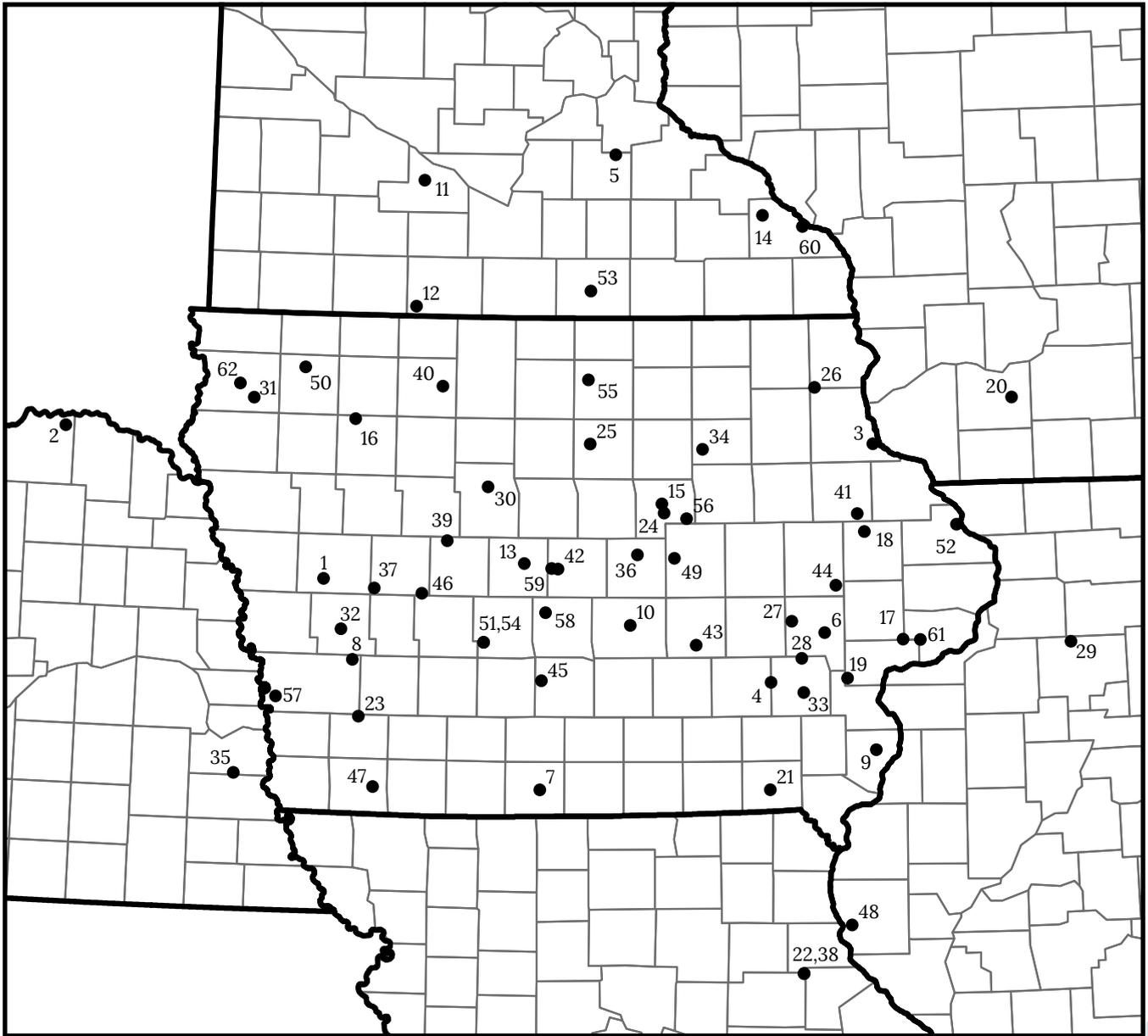
Contact the PFI office at info@practicalfarmers.org or (515) 232-5661.

Field Day List: June–July

(Please note: The map ID corresponds to the event's location on the map on page 7.)

- June 10 · Arion**p.10 | Map ID 1
Exploring Alternative Practices: Successes and Challenges in Pursuit of Sustainability
- June 11 · Crofton, NE**p.10 | Map ID 2
Cover Crops and Compost in Nebraska
- June 11 · Guttenberg**p.11 | Map ID 3
Automated Season Extension and Diverse Production at Phelps Farm
- June 14 · Keota**p.11 | Map ID 4
From Field Crops to Organic Cherries: Farming for Soil Health and Diversity
- June 15 · Northfield, MN**p.12 | Map ID 5
Calf Care 101: Hands-On at W.T. Farms
- June 16 · Iowa City**p.12 | Map ID 6
Raw Milk: Easily and Safely
- June 17 · Leon**p.13 | Map ID 7
Stewarding Soil Through Relay Cropping
Small Grains and Soybeans
- June 18 · Walnut**p.13 | Map ID 8
Time Management and Nitrogen Reduction for Cover Crop Success
- June 19 · Sperry**p.14 | Map ID 9
Cover Crops, Carbon and Conservation: Balancing Farm Productivity With Soil Health Practices
- June 20 · Newton**p.14 | Map ID 10
Binding Off: The Intentional Transition of a Sheep Farm
- June 20 · Sleepy Eye, MN**p.15 | Map ID 11
Economically Working With Nature at Sleepy Bison Acres
- June 21 · Dunnell, MN**p.15 | Map ID 12
Mindful Change for a Row Crop Farm: Cover Cropping, Crimping and Composting
- June 24 · Boone**p.16 | Map ID 13
Covering All Enterprises: Cover Crops for Corn, Soy and Pumpkins
- June 25 · Altura, MN**p.16 | Map ID 14
Bringing Cattle Back to Crops, and Other Pasture Ideas
- June 26 · Holland**p.17 | Map ID 15
From Field to Wetland: Protecting Soil, Water and Wildlife
- June 26 · Linn Grove**p.17 | Map ID 16
Farm Synergy: Partnering To Diversify Rotations, Build Resilience and Improve Efficiency
- July 1 · Durant**p.18 | Map ID 17
Evolving Cover Crop Management in a Row Crop and Cow-Calf Operation
- July 7 · Monticello**p.18 | Map ID 18
Researching Relay Crops and Nutrient Management + Renewable Energy With Hog Production
- July 10 · Conesville**p.19 | Map ID 19
Melon Production and Marketing at Scale
- July 10 · Ridgeway, WI**p.19 | Map ID 20
From Field to Flour: Growing, Milling and Marketing Food-Grade Grains
- July 11 · Keosauqua**p.20 | Map ID 21
A Medley of Cover Crop Management: Seed Mixes, Drones and Roller-Crimping
- July 17 · Monroe City, MO**p.20 | Map ID 22
Building Farm Resilience With Summer Annuals and Native Prairie
- July 22 · Elliott**p.21 | Map ID 23
Health and Happiness With Pastured Farrowing
- July 23 · Grundy Center**p.21 | Map ID 24
Grundy County Workshop: Crop and Pest Management
- July 23 · Latimer**p.22 | Map ID 25
RAGBRAI at the Plagge Farm
- July 24 · Postville**p.22 | Map ID 26
Making the Most of Cover Crops With Fall Grazing and Beyond
- July 25 · Oxford**p.23 | Map ID 27
Elderberries To Nourish People and the Land
- July 26**p.23 | **VIRTUAL**
VIRTUAL: The Business of Raising Turkeys for the Direct-to-Consumer Market, Part 1
- July 27 · Kalona**p.26 | Map ID 28
Processing, Storing and Aggregating Local Vegetables for Schools
- July 29 · Walnut, IL**p.26 | Map ID 29
Using On-Farm Research To Guide Nutrient Reduction and Soil Health Strategies
- July 29 · Fort Dodge**p.27 | Map ID 30
Jumping In With Both Feet at The Community Orchard
- July 30 · Orange City**p.27 | Map ID 31
Reducing Inputs and Increasing Resilience Through Cover Crops and Building Soil Health
- July 31 · Harlan**p.28 | Map ID 32
Operating a Cover Crop Business:
The Do's and Don't's of Application and Seeding Rates

Field Day Locations Map



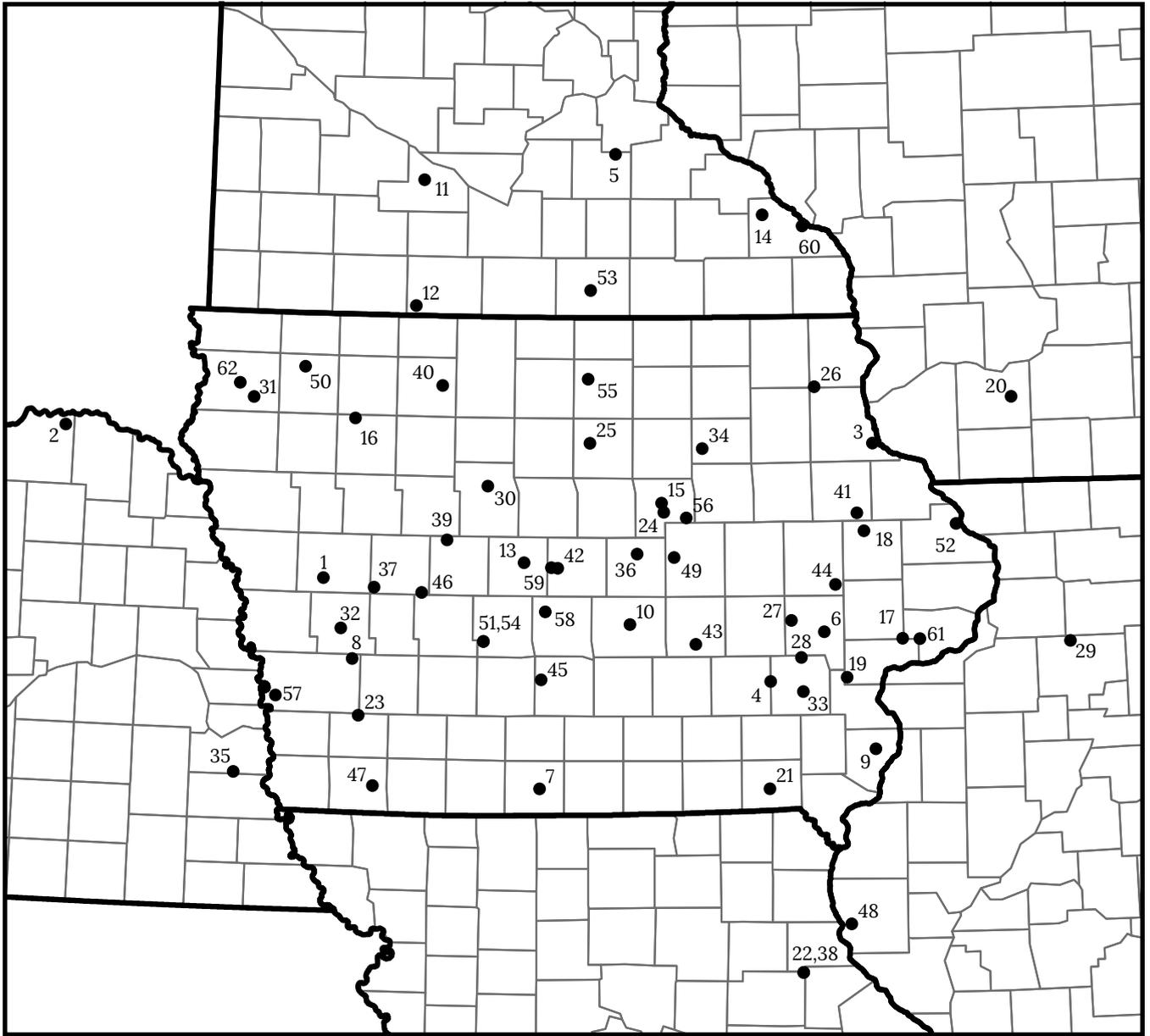
Field day list continued on next page (and map copied for easy viewing).

Field Day List: August–November

(Please note: The map ID corresponds to the event's location on the map on page 9.)

- Aug. 2 · Washington**p.28 | **Map ID 33**
Cultivating Pollinators and Produce: Establishing Beneficial Insect Habitats + Local Food in a Community Garden
- Aug. 5**p.29 | **VIRTUAL**
Virtual Cover Crop Workshop
- Aug. 5 · Waverly**p.29 | **Map ID 34**
Supporting Beneficial Insects on a You-Pick Farm by Installing Native Plugs
- Aug. 7 · Avoca, NE**.....p.30 | **Map ID 35**
Why Plant Rye? Benefits of Adding Rye To Your Rotation
- Aug. 7 · Albion**p.30 | **Map ID 36**
Adding Horticulture To a Cover Crop Enterprise at Glenwood Century Farm
- Aug. 12 · Manning**p.31 | **Map ID 37**
Diversifying an Organic Farm: Row Crops, Small Grains and Holstein Heifers
- Aug. 14 · Monroe City, MO**.....p.31 | **Map ID 38**
Fitting Cover Crops Into a Northeast Missouri Farm
- Aug. 16 · Churdan**p.32 | **Map ID 39**
Owls, Oxbows and Oaks: Water Quality, Wildlife, and Habitat Restoration on a Central Iowa Farm
- Aug. 19 · Cylinder**p.32 | **Map ID 40**
Farming for Bushels, Bees and Birds: Profitably Integrating Cropland and Habitat
- Aug. 19 · Hopkinton**p.33 | **Map ID 41**
Transitioning Lango Dairy To the Next Generation
- Aug. 20 · Ames**p.33 | **Map ID 42**
Midwest Mechanical Weed Control Field Day
- Aug. 25 · Montezuma**p.34 | **Map ID 43**
Drones, Management-Intensive Grazing and Cover Crops in Southeast Iowa
- Aug. 28 · Mt. Vernon**p.34 | **Map ID 44**
Dialing-In On No-Till and Conservation Practices With Precision Technology
- Aug. 30 · Martensdale**p.35 | **Map ID 45**
Enhancing Cover Crops Through Technology
- Sept. 3 · Coon Rapids**p.35 | **Map ID 46**
Small Grains, Diverse Cover Crops + Livestock at Whiterock Conservancy
- Sept. 4 · Clarinda**p.36 | **Map ID 47**
Planting Trees and Grazing for the Future
- Sept. 6 · Quincy, IL**p.36 | **Map ID 48**
Underneath the Canopy: Exploring Interseeding, Cover Crop Mixes and Soil Health
- Sept. 9 · Garwin**p.37 | **Map ID 49**
Organic Management Strategies for Flourishing Fields and Nutritious Crops
- Sept. 10 · Sanborn**p.37 | **Map ID 50**
Partnering To Graze Cover Crops and Improve Soil Health
- Sept. 11 · Redfield**p.38 | **Map ID 51**
Integrating Wildlife and Agriculture: Creating Sustainable Habitat on Working Farms
- Sept. 13 · Bellevue**p.38 | **Map ID 52**
Observing Cattle and Forage for Success
- Sept. 13 · Albert Lea, MN**p.39 | **Map ID 53**
All Things Oats + Oat Mill Site Tour
- Sept. 16 · Redfield**p.39 | **Map ID 54**
Strength in Straw: Making the Most of a Rye Crop
- Sept. 16 · Clear Lake**p.40 | **Map ID 55**
Lard-Based Value-Added Products
- Sept. 18 · Reinbeck**p.40 | **Map ID 56**
Layering Land Management: Combining In-Field and Edge-of-Field Practices for Water Quality and Soil Health
- Sept. 18 · Council Bluffs**p.41 | **Map ID 57**
Agritourism, Infrastructure and Collaboration at Long Walk Farm
- Sept. 23 · Polk City**p.41 | **Map ID 58**
Conservation Practices To Create and Steward Critical Bird Habitat
- Sept. 27**p.42 | **VIRTUAL**
VIRTUAL: The Business of Raising Turkeys for the Direct-to-Consumer Market, Part 1
- Sept. 28 · Ames**p.42 | **Map ID 59**
Hands-On Irrigation: Building a Low-Flow System That Can Adapt to Your Rotation
- Oct. 7 · Winona, MN**p.43 | **Map ID 60**
Making Grass Work
- Nov. 4 · Walcott**p.43 | **Map ID 61**
Roles of Rye in Seed Production and Manure Management
- Nov. 13 · Sioux Center**p.44 | **Map ID 62**
Year-Round Production of Leafy Greens and More

Field Day Locations Map



**Thank you for attending
a PFI field day this year!**

Exploring Alternative Practices: Successes and Challenges in Pursuit of Sustainability



Tuesday, June 10 | 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

2590 220th St. | Arion, IA 51520

See driving directions on web.

HOST: Eric Mahaney | BioCovered

MEAL: A light meal will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Over the past decade, Eric has transformed his farming operation in western Iowa, with a focus on improving water quality, weed management and overall efficiency. He has adopted practices such as cover cropping and adding small grains to rotations. Eric also plants into living cover (known as planting green) to manage weeds, reduce erosion and promote soil health.

In pursuit of greater financial viability for his farm, Eric launched Graz'n, a value-added pet food business. He also started BioCovered, which specializes in cover crop application and equipment sales. He's eager to show how he has optimized efficiency on his farm through the innovative use of a rotary hoe equipped with an air seeder and computer system. Join us to discuss and see first-hand Eric's pursuit of sustainability on his organic farm operation.

See & Discuss

- Corn planted green into alfalfa to reduce cultivation, control weeds and reduce nitrogen inputs
- Cereal rye to be harvested as cover crop seed
- Reducing field passes with a custom-designed rotary hoe mounted with an air seeder
- Steps to purifying water quality on the farm
- Focusing on return on investment rather than yield in an organic system

Sponsors: **Farming for Public Health, Iowa State University Organic Agriculture Program, OCIA Chapter 1 of Iowa**

Cover Crops and Compost in Nebraska



Wednesday, June 11 | 1–3 p.m.

89312 548th Ave. | Crofton, NE 68730

HOSTS: Doug & Traci Steffen

MEAL: Water will be available at the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Doug and Traci Steffen farm in northeastern Nebraska. They practice no-till and plant cover crops on their 425 acres, and also raise cattle and hogs. Their goal is to reduce the inputs needed for the farm by using the resources they have. To do this, Doug and Traci grow a polyculture of cover crops for livestock feed. They also bale the cover crops for animal bedding and compost waste from the hoop barn.

To get more out of their compost, they inoculate it with farm-grown beneficial microbes, which they apply to fields and use to create extract for seed treatments or foliar sprays. Join the Steffens at this field day to learn more about their approach to compost. You'll also hear about the role cover crops play in supporting their livestock operation and improving soil health.

See & Discuss

- A windrow of compost inoculated with fungal compost
- A compost-derived seed treatment applied to seeds before planting
- A compost extract foliar spray used for plant health in the fields
- How livestock are integrated to improve soil health and profitability
- Cover crop species planted and used for livestock feed and bedding, including rye, oats, barley, peas, turnips and flax

Sponsors: **Green Cover, Ward Laboratories, Inc.**

Automated Season Extension and Diverse Production at Phelps Farm



Wednesday, June 11 | 4–6 p.m.

33127 Kiln Road | Guttenberg, IA 52052

See driving directions on web.

HOSTS: Andrew & Amy Phelps | Phelps Farm

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

At Phelps Farm, Andrew and Amy Phelps grow a lot of food. They're also on their way to becoming a small-scale, year-round local food processor. On their 79-acre farm, Andrew and Amy raise hops, goats, ducks, honeybees and maple syrup, but their main focus is vegetables. Phelps Farm includes an acre of outdoor production and 15,000 square feet in five caterpillar tunnels and two Harnois high tunnels. The high tunnels are built for extreme weather and equipped with Orisha automation systems for dynamic environmental controls.

Using such technology is where their innovation – and Andrew's IT background – shines brightly. An extensive wash-pack, kitted out with secondhand equipment, rounds out Andrew and Amy's operation. With innovation and resourcefulness, they're growing toward their goal of year-round local food availability.

See & Discuss

- Dynamic high tunnel automation for environmental controls by Orisha
- Designing and equipping an FSMA-compliant wash-pack space with four walk-in coolers, knee-operated sinks, an AZH rinse-conveyer and a freeze drier for value-added product development

Sponsors: Choose Iowa | Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Johnny's Selected Seeds

From Field Crops to Organic Cherries: Farming for Soil Health and Diversity



Saturday, June 14 | 1–3 p.m.

17844 330th Ave. | Keota, IA 52248

HOST: Levi Lyle

MEAL: Cherry pie, ice cream and bluegrass music will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Levi Lyle and his family farm near Keota, Iowa. They grow both organic and conventional corn and soybeans, as well as aronia berries, tart cherries and other fruits. Levi has worked an organic inspector and now consults on the topic of organic transition. In his community, he has been a local conservation leader. To protect his soil and sequester carbon, Levi no-tills, uses cover crops and roller-crimps the covers.

At this field day, you'll have a chance to see a roller-crimped rye field planted with conventional soybeans. Next to the field is the certified organic tart cherry orchard where Levi will discuss his use of Johnson-Su extract. Levi will also show some of the tools he uses for organic weed control and discuss building his soil organically.

See & Discuss

- Soybeans planted into roller-crimped rye
- Growing conventional and organic crops
- Using Johnson-Su extract in an organic cherry orchard
- Tools for organic weed control

Sponsor: Iowa State University Organic Agriculture Program

Beginning Beef: First-Generation Experiences



Sunday, June 15 | 1–3 p.m.

HOSTS: Tessa & Wyatt Parks | *W.T. Farms*

MEAL: Refreshments will follow the field day.

Due to the hands-on nature of this event, attendance is limited to 25 participants and registration is required. Complete event details will be provided upon registration.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit [practicalfarmers.org/field days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days)

First-generation beginning farmers Tessa and Wyatt Parks own and operate W.T. Farms, a direct-to-consumer beef and hay operation. They graze steers on certified organic pasture at Sharing Our Roots Farm in Northfield, Minnesota. In the past, they've raised Holstein steers from calf to butcher. This year, due to Holstein calf prices, they'll pivot to purchasing older steers and collaborating with nearby farmers to meet the needs of their customers.

Join Tessa and Wyatt to learn how they assess finances to make big decisions like this shift on their farm. They'll tell their farm story and share some ways they've had to be flexible and change strategies. They'll also offer a range of hands-on simulations to give you an idea of what it means to start a calf-to-butcher, grass-finished operation. Finally, they'll help you decide what you can do on your own versus when it's time to call a veterinarian.

See & Discuss

- Budgeting for a calf-to-butcher operation and assessing financial viability year to year
- Livestock handling while checking for digestive issues, hoof and joint health, growth, and general wellness
- Basic wound care for steers and what should live in your first-aid kit
- Feeling ears and navigating the cartilage, followed by simulated ear tagging

Raw Milk: Easily and Safely



Monday, June 16 | 10 a.m.–Noon

2625 Iowa Route 1 SW | Iowa City, IA 52240

HOST: Susan Young | *Lucky Star Farm*

MEAL: Lunch will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit [practicalfarmers.org/field days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days)

Susan and Rich Young own Lucky Star Farm, a 20-acre farm on the outskirts of Iowa City, Iowa. In 2011, Susan and Rich moved to the farm and began developing enterprises that would produce food for the community and extra income for the family. Since Iowa passed a law permitting raw milk, Susan has been selling raw goats' milk directly to consumers.

Come learn about Susan's milking routine that keeps cleanliness and safety at the forefront. She'll walk through procedures to manage health and hygiene on her farm, including goat prep and techniques to quickly chill the milk. She'll also discuss cleaning and sanitizing equipment and how to test samples in her affordable on-farm lab. Whether you plan to milk by hand or with a machine, or if you want one animal or many, Susan's approachable methods will help you safely produce raw milk.

See & Discuss

- Iowa's raw milk law
- Assembling an on-farm lab
- A daily milking routine

Sponsor: **American National Insurance**

Stewarding Soil Through Relay Cropping Small Grains and Soybeans



Tuesday, June 17 | 10 a.m.–Noon

26577 180th St. | Leon, IA 50144

See driving directions on web.

HOSTS: Laban & Lori Miller

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day (*sponsored by Mad Capital*).

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

After growing up farming with his father and brother, Laban Miller started working his own field near Leon, Iowa, 12 years ago. Over time, he noticed terraces were not effectively reducing erosion in the rolling fields. He began incorporating cover crops and small grains into his rotations to improve soil retention and nutrient load. Today, Laban and his wife, Lori, grow corn, soybeans, rye, wheat and clover. They also partner with Laban's father, Omar, and brother, Lyndon, to share equipment and graze cattle on pasture, cover crops and marginal acres.

The Millers have been active in PFI's Cooperators' Program in recent years, doing on-farm research to better meet soil health goals. They are excited to share their latest practices of relay cropping small grains with soybeans and stock cropping with livestock.

See & Discuss

- Rye and wheat fields relay-cropped with soybeans
- Stock cropping with pigs and chickens
- Data from soil samples taken from the farm
- Opportunities to graze low-yielding areas

Sponsors: **FDC Enterprises–Stark Technology, Mad Capital**

Time Management and Nitrogen Reduction for Cover Crop Success



Wednesday, June 18 | 4–6 p.m.

52763 Whippoorwill Road | Walnut, IA 51577

HOSTS: Grant & Aubrey Stuart

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Grant and Aubrey Stuart farm over 1,400 acres outside of Walnut, Iowa. They plant cover crops on all their acres and like what it does for their soil health. Grant manages his time and equipment to use soil health practices, like cover crops and no-till. He has also been able to reduce his nitrogen inputs with the help of Dan Hansen, a local Pivot Bio dealer who builds Grant's fertility recommendations. Mike Pellett, a technology and agronomic consultant, helps Grant fully use his technology and equipment investment to achieve his goals.

Attend this field day to learn how Grant and Aubrey have managed to cut back fertilizer inputs without experiencing a yield drag. They'll also discuss how they manage their time and data to get cover crops planted in all their farm fields.

See & Discuss

- Use of biological products
- Technology use on the farm
- Time management and spring planter setup
- Recording data for better decision-making
- Emergence and stand consistency in corn and soybean fields planted into cover crops

Cover Crops, Carbon and Conservation: Balancing Farm Productivity With Soil Health Practices

Supported by ADM re:generations



Thursday, June 19 | 5-7 p.m.

18597 Iowa City Road | Sperry, IA 52650

See driving directions on web.

HOST: Michael Fosdick

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day.



For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Michael Fosdick grew up on his family's farm in Sperry, Iowa, and had the chance to move back in 2013. In 2014, he began his farming journey renting back the family farm piece by piece. Today, Michael farms 470 acres of corn and soybeans while working full-time for Pioneer as an agronomist. His family began no-tilling in the mid-90s, which he has continued. He has also introduced cover crops and strip-till ahead of corn. Soil health and conservation are values passed down from his family that continue to shape Michael's decisions today.

See & Discuss

- Fundamentals of adopting and managing cover crops
- Cover crop and carbon programs available to farmers
- Equipment used in spring and fall, including a planter and drill

At this field day, Michael will discuss management strategies, including why he uses cover crops, and what he's learned so far. He'll also discuss strip-tilling before corn and on-farm trials, including a PFI trial studying return on investment when reducing nitrogen rates to corn.

Sponsors: Des Moines County Soil & Water Conservation District - Big Hollow Watershed Project, Iowa Corn, Iowa Soybean Association

Binding Off: The Intentional Transition of a Sheep Farm



Friday, June 20 | 10 a.m.-Noon

4546 N 83rd Ave. E | Newton, IA 50208

HOSTS: Regina & Tessa Frahm

MEAL: Lunch will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Regina Frahm's farm has been in her family since the mid-1800s. During that time, the farm has been through a few generational transfers, each with its own successes and difficulties. Now, Regina is in the midst of the process herself. As she transitions the integrated crop and livestock farm to her daughter-in-law Tessa, she wants to avoid some of the challenges she faced when the farm passed down to her.

See & Discuss

- Parasite management
- Sharing failures and finances
- Producing feed on the farm
- Repurposing infrastructure
- A new sorting system design (Regina wants your input!)

Come learn how this sheep farm is changing and adapting as the transition unfolds. Regina and Tessa will share how they're systematically reducing flock size and shifting production priorities. They'll also discuss ways they're creatively recycling infrastructure to minimize inputs. Throughout the process, this pair is focusing on intentional communication and cooperation.

Economically Working With Nature at Sleepy Bison Acres

In partnership with Pheasants Forever



Friday, June 20 | 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

15463 257th Ave. | Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

HOSTS: Craig & Elizabeth Fischer

MEAL: Lunch will follow the field day.



For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Craig and Elizabeth Fischer operate Sleepy Bison Acres, a 255-acre farm in Brown County, Minnesota. On 100 of those acres, they manage a 100-head bison herd. They also operate Sleepy Bison Grill, a food truck featuring pastured bison from their herd that are sometimes fed hay and grain from their farm. In their management, the Fischers emphasize economic efficiency, low-input livestock and high-value products they can sell to their customers. By working with nature, Craig and Elizabeth have upped the nutrient density of their soils and farm products while increasing their quality of life.

Join the Fischers, as well as Pheasants Forever staff, as they discuss how integrating conservation into your farm management plan can help you create a more resilient, sustainable farm while providing critical habitat to wildlife.

See & Discuss

- Drip irrigation for sustainable water use
- Rotationally grazing bison to promote pasture health
- Adaptive grazing for precision conservation
- Haying plans on conservation lands
- Establishing pollinator habitat with livestock
- Cover crops for soil health and habitat

Mindful Change for a Row Crop Farm: Cover Cropping, Crimping and Composting



Saturday, June 21 | 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

437 40th Ave. | Dunnell, MN 56127

HOSTS: Bailey & Mike Hobbs | Sunsprout Farm

MEAL: Light refreshments will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

After several years of livestock and horticulture experience in Pennsylvania and Hawaii, Bailey and Mike Hobbs returned to Bailey's family farm in 2021. In the following years, they and their three kids have worked hard to meld Sunsprout Farm's established row crop rotation of corn and soybeans with pastured pigs, microgreens and garlic to echo their past farming experiences. This year, they are also experimenting with a small test plot of oats and field peas.

Bailey and Mike are excited to show how they are diversifying the farm with cover crops and multiple composting methods in an effort to end chemical use while maintaining crop and soil quality. Come learn how they use a roller-crimper to tame their perennial cover crop as corn grows, and take a close look at the microbial activity in their compost.

See & Discuss

- A perennial cover crop mix of Dutch white clover, Boston plantain and oats
- Roller-crimping to minimize perennial cover crop competition with cash crops
- Compost produced on-farm using a bioreactor, vermicompost and thermophilic methods
- Microbial activity in the soil using a microscope
- Diversifying a row crop farm with pastured pigs and vegetables

Sponsor: Grain Millers

Covering All Enterprises: Cover Crops for Corn, Soy and Pumpkins



Tuesday, June 24 | 9–11 a.m.

886 T Ave. | Boone, IA 50036

HOST: Jeremy Gustafson

MEAL: Doughnuts and drinks will be provided at the start of the field day. We'll end with cake to celebrate PFI's 40th anniversary!



For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Jeremy Gustafson is a lifetime member of PFI who farms just outside of Boone, Iowa, raising corn and soybeans and cover cropping extensively with cereal rye. He also has a pumpkin enterprise called Gustafson Family Pumpkin Patch. Jeremy plants cover crops on corn, soy and pumpkin ground to minimize soil loss. At this field day, Jeremy will show his planter set-up to highlight how you can adapt your current machinery for planting cover crops. You'll also see how cover crops are used in the pumpkin, corn and soybean fields, and how the practice benefits all three crops.

See & Discuss

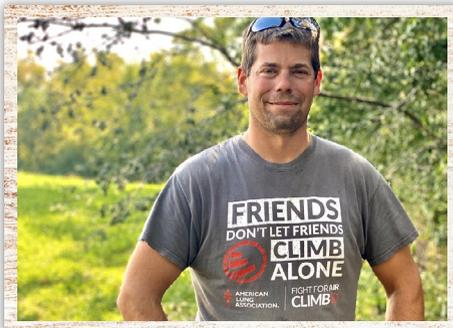
- Cover crops in row crops and a pumpkin patch
- Cover crop mixes with camelina, radish, turnips and rapeseed
- Running a cover crop seed business

Sponsors: Boone Soil & Water Conservation District, Iowa Cover Crop, Sunderman Farm Management Co.

Join the PFI board of directors and staff for PFI's 40th anniversary celebration!

Bringing Cattle Back to Crops, and Other Pasture Ideas

Supported by ADM re:generations



Wednesday, June 25 | 2–5 p.m.

15998 County Road 26 | Altura, MN 55910

See driving directions on web.

HOSTS: Eric & Michelle Heins | Hoosier Ridge Ranch

MEAL: A meal featuring Hoosier Ridge Ranch burgers will follow the field day.



For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Over the last 50 years, livestock have left many farms. Eric Heins is doing the reverse: bringing cattle – and their poop, pee and hooves – back to his land. Come see how Eric is using his Normandeshorthorn crosses in a variety of grazing situations. You'll view permanent pasture, where Eric (like everyone) is battling the cool-season grass takeover. You'll also learn how Eric is using his cattle in cover crop mixes, prairie and woodlands.

Since purchasing the farm in 2020, Eric has converted the cropland to pasture. He also custom-farms a diverse rotation of crops, covers and small grains on neighboring farms, including an established prairie on Minnesota Department of Natural Resources land. A possible bonus: Eric is hoping to have virtual fence collars by the time of the field day, but no guarantees!

See & Discuss

- Cash-flowing the conversion to pasture on owned versus rented cropland
- Stockpiling pasture for winter grazing
- Mechanical buckthorn clearing for silvopasture
- Grazing agreements on DNR prairie and neighboring cropland
- A sudangrass mix after a canning pea crop
- An extended rotation with oats, barley and Kernza

Sponsor: Land Stewardship Project

From Field to Wetland: Protecting Soil, Water and Wildlife



Thursday, June 26 | Noon–3 p.m.

20902 J Ave. | Holland, IA 50642

HOSTS: Fred & Vicki Abels

MEAL: The field day will start with a light lunch.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit [practicalfarmers.org/field days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days)

Fred Abels and his wife, Vicki, own and operate K&A Acres Inc., a 400-acre farm in Grundy County, Iowa, specializing in corn and soybeans. Since the 1970s, when Fred inherited the farm from his uncle, he has emphasized sustainable farming practices such as no-till, strip-till and cover crops. In 2020, Fred established a 5-acre wetland on his farm to protect the farm's soil and water quality, and to provide critical habitat for Iowa's wildlife.

Join Fred and Vicki – along with Shane Wulf of IDALS and Mary Beth Stevenson, manager of the City of Cedar Rapids' Watersheds & Source Water Program. Together, they'll discuss the process and multiple benefits of re-establishing wetlands on working farms.

See & Discuss

- Surveying and preparing a site to establish wetlands
- The effects of naturally filtered water from farm fields on towns and cities downstream
- The benefits of saturated buffers along farm waterways
- How wetlands support Iowa's wildlife, such as migratory birds

Sponsor: **Center for Rural Affairs**

Farm Synergy: Partnering To Diversify Rotations, Build Resilience and Improve Efficiency



Thursday, June 26 | 4–6 p.m.

677 480th St. | Linn Grove, IA 51033

See driving directions on web.

HOSTS: Nick Sennert, Jessob Steffen and Neil Krummen

MEAL: A light meal will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit [practicalfarmers.org/field days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days)

A few years ago, northwest Iowa farmers and childhood friends Nick Sennert, Jessob Steffen and Neil Krummen decided to help each other out with harvests. That experience went so well, they started doing all harvests together. Eventually, they sold their smaller machinery to collectively purchase larger equipment. Today, though each has his own farm, they work together to farm regeneratively using diversified rotations, cover crops, reduced tillage, decreased nitrogen and other synthetic inputs, and livestock integration.

Join Nick, Jessob and Neil as they share their story of partnership and working collaboratively to build resilience on their farms. You'll learn the benefits of extending your rotation as you examine oats and buckwheat in the field and view a shared air seeder and combine with a pick-up head.

See & Discuss

- Steps to incorporating regenerative practices across multiple farms
- Technical practices for growing, harvesting and marketing oats
- Opportunities to double-crop and support pollinators with buckwheat
- Cooperative farming through co-owned equipment and shared labor
- Starting a cover crop business to boost income

Sponsors: **Buena Vista Co. Soil & Water Conservation District, Cherokee Soil & Water Conservation District, Grain Millers, Iowa Cover Crop**

Evolving Cover Crop Management in a Row Crop and Cow-Calf Operation

Supported by ADM re:generations



Tuesday, July 1 | 4-6 p.m.

1388 Vail Ave. | Durant, IA 52747

HOST: Wayne Braun | 3 B Ag Solutions

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day.



For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Wayne Braun farms near Durant, Iowa, raising corn, soybeans, sudangrass and a cow-calf herd. Amidst farming, he also owns and operates 3 B Ag Solutions, a biosecurity solutions provider for livestock and crop producers. Wayne introduced cover crops into his operation in the early 2000s and continues to learn and try new things, like his plan to take triticale to seed if the stand looks good this spring. Most of the cover crops on his farm are used for grazing, silage or hay. The remaining acres are terminated and followed by soybeans planted with his no-till drill.

Come join Wayne for a look into how he's incorporating cover crops throughout his farm, and how his management practices have evolved over 20 years of cover cropping.

See & Discuss

- Cover crops and their uses in livestock operations
- Successes and lessons learned from cover cropping over the years
- A Krause no-till drill used for soybeans and cover crops
- Triticale to be harvested for seed, or baled and followed by sudangrass
- Drones and their use in cover crop seed applications

Researching Relay Crops and Nutrient Management + Renewable Energy With Hog Production

Supported by ADM re:generations



Monday, July 7 | 4-6 p.m.

234 Prairie Main Road | Monticello, IA 52310

HOSTS: Jason & Sarah Russell | Big Boulder Farms

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day.



For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Jason and Sarah Russell farm near Monticello, Iowa, where the family farming roots trace back to the Civil War era. There, they grow corn, soy, rye and diverse forage mixes, and raise cattle, sheep and pigs. They have been using cover crops and no-till since 2010, and use renewable energy with their hog operation with the goal of improving soil health and financial sustainability. Jason has five years of experience relay-cropping rye and soybeans. This year, he's trialing winter wheat as a relay crop.

Come learn about the new crops Jason is trying, including camelina and canola, in addition to his work on relay-cropping rye and wheat. Jason will also discuss his sustainable hog production, using hog manure as a fertility source and overall nutrient management while increasing yields.

See & Discuss

- A relay crop of winter wheat and beans
- Winter camelina, and spring and winter canola
- Strip-till corn
- Hog manure as fertility source
- Wind and solar energy with hog production

Sponsors: Iowa Soybean Association, Sentinel Ag, Welter Seed and Honey Company

Melon Production and Marketing at Scale



Thursday, July 10 | 10 a.m.–Noon

1051 250th St. | Conesville, IA 52739

HOSTS: Jordan Lyon and Rich & Irene Buser | *Buser's Produce*

MEAL: Lunch will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Jordan Lyon partners with Rich and Irene Buser at Buser's Produce, a farm near Conesville, Iowa, where they raise up to 60 acres of melons and pumpkins and 30 acres of sweet corn. At the height of the season, the farm sells these crops through area grocery stores, farmers markets, roadside stands and on-farm sales. To grow and market melons profitably at this scale takes careful management.

On the production side, Jordan pays attention to fall cover crop planting, spring termination, vertical tillage practices, disease management and harvest. Successful marketing requires consistent weekly calls, timely harvest and coordinated deliveries across southeast Iowa. At this field day, learn from Jordan and Rich about production and marketing at this scale, and hear Jordan's vision for specialty crops in Iowa.

See & Discuss

- Practices for melon production at scale
- Using cover crops to control erosion
- Supporting habitat for native bee populations and early-season pollination services
- Selling melons through area grocery stores and farm stands

From Field to Flour: Growing, Milling and Marketing Food-Grade Grains



Thursday, July 10 | 3–5:30 p.m.

3630 Ridgeway Road | Ridgeway, WI 53582

HOSTS: John & Halee Wepking | *Meadowlark Farm & Mill*

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day (sponsored by Mad Capital).

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

John and Halee Wepking own Meadowlark Organics and Meadowlark Community Mill in Ridgeway, Wisconsin. Together with their team, they manage 1,000 acres of diversified field crops and cattle. They also operate a stone mill. As part of the business, they source grain from area farmers, which they process and distribute regionally. Creating direct grain markets is a central part of John and Halee's business focus. They also aim to help farmers maximize profitability and keep their grains within the foodshed.

Halee and John are excited to welcome guests to their vertically integrated farm to connect the dots from field to flour. Attendees will view ridgetop fields of small grains, then return to the farm center to learn about the equipment needed for organic, food-grade production. The day will end with a tour of the mill.

See & Discuss

- Contour strips, polycropping, underseeding and diversification in ridgetop fields
- Meadowlark's right-sized equipment for John and Halee's production needs
- Grain-cleaning specifications and storage needs for organic, food-grade processing
- Meadowlark Community Mill, which houses six mills serving a variety of grains

Sponsors: Albert Lea Seed House, Artisan Grain Collaborative, Farming for Public Health, Iowa State University Organic Agriculture Program, Mad Capital

A Medley of Cover Crop Management: Seed Mixes, Drones and Roller-Crimping



Friday, July 11 | 5-7 p.m.

1301 Front St. | Keosauqua, IA 52565

HOST: Ryan Wolf | Iowa Missouri Seed

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Ryan Wolf raises corn and soybeans with his family near Keosauqua, Iowa. Ryan, his father and his brother all share a passion for learning about cover crops and regenerative farming practices and figuring out what works best in their operation. Over the past few years, the Wolfs have increased cover crop acres, and they use a roller-crimper to terminate.

Come join Ryan in an open discussion at this field day where he'll showcase and discuss fitting cover crops into your operation, roller-crimping, drone-seeding and how soil health can benefit from planting cover crops. He'll also show a field of corn that was planted following a diverse, 13-way cover crop mix made up of triticale, hairy vetch, clover, buckwheat and more.

See & Discuss

- Corn following a diverse 13-way cover crop mix
- Roller-crimping cover crops
- An NRCS slake test demonstration and rainfall simulator
- A drone demonstration

Building Farm Resilience With Summer Annuals and Native Prairie

Supported by ADM re:generations



Thursday, July 17 | 10 a.m.-Noon

Field Location: West Border Street

Monroe City, MO 63456 See driving directions on web.

HOSTS: Kody & Dahrea Karr | Karr Family Farm

MEAL: Lunch will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days



Kody and Dahrea Karr farm near Monroe City, Missouri, where they began row-cropping in 2021. They are raising children, sheep, cattle and row crops on nearly 600 acres. They practice no-till, and incorporate summer annual cover crops behind wheat to help during drought conditions and provide green forage for their livestock in the summer slump.

The Karrs have also found that cover crops and grazing help break persistent pest cycles and restore diversity and fertility back into corn and soybean acres. Elsewhere on the farm, Kody and Dahrea are converting crop ground back to native grassland to have pasture species better adapted to local weather cycles. Come see these practices in action and learn how the Karrs are hoping to build resilience through an integrated crop and livestock farm.

See & Discuss

- Summer annual cover crops following wheat
- Grazing summer annual cover crops
- Stockpiled milo for winter forage use
- Native prairie restoration on the farm

Sponsor: Farmers Elevator and Exchange Co.

Health and Happiness With Pastured Farrowing



Tuesday, July 22 | 10 a.m.–Noon
54808 Youngstown Road | Elliott, IA 51532
HOSTS: Ron, Denise & Michael Mardesen
MEAL: Lunch will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

The Mardesens began selling pigs to Niman Ranch in 2002. In a pasture-based farrow-to-finish pig operation, following precise health procedures is essential. Ron will speak about managing vaccine protocols, record-keeping and preventive health measures for your swine herd. Learn how the Mardesens pasture-farrow and incorporate livestock into their field crop rotations. You'll also see the cover crops Ron planted as part of a trial comparing finishing pigs on a diverse cover crop mix versus in a barn.

See & Discuss

- Pasture-farrowing infrastructure
- Farrowing schedules
- Pastured pig health
- Pig-finishing research

Sponsors: Golden Hills RC&D, Niman Ranch

Grundy County Workshop: Crop and Pest Management



Wednesday, July 23 | 8 a.m.–Noon
1308 4th St. | Grundy Center, IA 50638
HOSTS: Fred Abels and Megan Koch
MEAL: Breakfast starts and lunch will follow the workshop.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

This workshop held at the Grundy County Fair brings farmers together to learn about and discuss different field crop topics. This year, the workshop will be led by Fred Abels, farmer and Grundy Soil Water and Conservation District chair, and Meghan Koch, Grundy SWCD conservation assistant. Various speakers will discuss topics spanning crop outlooks, pest management and more.

See & Discuss

- Soil health and corn rootworms (*Ann Journey*)
- A new triangle opener and how it aids in high-residue planting environments (*Jayson Ryner*)
- Climate-related issues that affect agriculture (*Madelyn Wuestenberg*)
- Drone imagery technology and operating a drone legally (*Ryan Huffman*)
- What's new with ISU Extension and Outreach (*Terry Basol*)

Sponsor: Sunderman Farm Management Co.

RAGBRAI at the Plagge Farm



Wednesday, July 23 | 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

562 190th St. | Latimer, IA 50452

HOSTS: Landon & Anne Plagge | Plagge Farms Inc.

MEAL: Local veggies, snacks and water refill will be available.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

If you're joining the Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa this summer, plan for a break at Plagge Farm! The Plagges, located 45 miles into your ride from Forest City, Iowa, will have farm equipment on display, a water refill station and Gucci the cow, who will be available for photos from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Locally produced snacks (including fresh veggies) will also be available for you to sample and buy from PFI member farms and businesses, including Grand View Beef and Seven Sundays.

Anne and Landon Plagge operate Plagge Farms Inc. near Latimer, Iowa, and Green Acres Milling in Albert Lea, Minnesota. Together with family, they raise oats, corn, soybeans, livestock and a variety of cover crops. They use cover crops and no-till on all of their acres with a focus on reducing synthetic inputs. The Plagges also run a manure handling operation that involves writing environmental plans, brokering and applying manure as natural fertilizer. Green Acres Milling is focused on bringing sustainable, economically viable third crops to the region.

Making the Most of Cover Crops With Fall Grazing and Beyond Supported by ADM re:generations



Thursday, July 24 | 4-6 p.m.

13162 Concord Ave. | Postville, IA 52162

HOSTS: Eric & Tina Meyer and Conner Meyer

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day (sponsored by Mad Capital).



For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Eric and Tina Meyer, along with their son Conner, farm 850 acres of corn, soybeans and rye for seed near Postville, Iowa. They also have a 100-head beef cattle herd with a cow-calf operation, and background cattle up to 700 pounds. Eric and Tina have been experimenting with no-till and cover crops for the last decade.

About five years ago, they transitioned to 100% no-till and cover crops – and have seen the soil health benefits. The Meyers graze their cattle on cover crops, often using a summer-planted multi-species grazing mix. Occasionally, they graze on rye in the spring. Join Eric and Tina at their field day to learn more about cover crop species, grazing covers, incorporating livestock with row crops and extending rotations.

See & Discuss

- Grazing cover crops in the fall and spring
- Corn and bean fields after a rye cover crop
- Chopping rye for forage followed by corn silage
- A cover crop test plot featuring a multi-species mix

Sponsors: Mad Capital, Trout Unlimited, Inc.

Elderberries To Nourish People and the Land



Friday, July 25 | 1-3 p.m.

1259 Rohret Road SW | Oxford, IA 52322

HOST: Anna Geyer | Land Alliance: Farm, Folk School & Retreats

MEAL: Light refreshments will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit [practicalfarmers.org/field days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days)

For Anna Geyer, the journey toward sustainability begins with awareness that human health is tied to the health of the land. Anna and her husband, Dave, raise row crops, hay and grass-fed beef. But Anna also produces table food and offers land-based classes, lodging and retreats on the farm.

Anna has also made space for perennial agriculture, which she describes as an opportunity to shift our relationship with the environment. In addition to raising hazelnuts and chestnuts, Anna has added 3,000 elderberry bushes to their land since 2022. She is eager to share what she's learned about elderberry production, processing and packaging. She'll also discuss how she's working toward long-term ecological health with a transition toward perennials.

See & Discuss

- Perennial agriculture for conservation and food
- Elderberry production and handling
- Developing and marketing value-added elderberry products
- A destemmer demonstration

VIRTUAL FIELD DAY: The Business of Raising Turkeys for the Direct-to-Consumer Market, Part 1



Saturday, July 26 | Noon-12:30 p.m.

HOSTS: Anna & Shae Pesek | Over the Moon Farm

Due to biosecurity concerns, this field day is being held virtually.

Zoom registration required. Sign up on the field day page at practicalfarmers.org/field-days

Turkeys, more than most livestock, are raised with a single date in mind: Thanksgiving. That hyper-specificity requires a business and production model tailored to fit perfectly, which can come with some unique challenges. Anna Pesek and her partner, Shae, own Over the Moon Farm, a diversified direct-to-consumer livestock farm in Delaware County, Iowa. Since 2019, Anna and Shae have been serving their community through a CSA and a la carte sales through their online farm store.

Join this virtual field day to learn how they raise turkeys for this singular holiday. They'll share their turkey timeline and how they deal with preorders. They'll also discuss the infrastructure set-up needed to raise turkeys on pasture.

See & Discuss

- Raising turkeys from poult to pasture
- Production decisions around breeds, and more
- Managing preorders and pricing
- Infrastructure for start to finish, from brooders and feed to pasture prep

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Sunday, July 27 | 2-4 p.m.

2316 133rd St. | Kalona, IA 52247

HOST: James Nisly | Organic Greens

MEAL: Light refreshments will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Organic Greens owner James Nisly is passionate about local food and has built his complex business around it. From raising vegetables and operating a mid-range food hub to piloting processing techniques that make local table food more accessible to schools, James continually seeks to solve the problems facing Iowa's local food system.

He started with growing microgreens in a rented trailer in 2008. Since then, he has purchased land, added greenhouses and constructed handling facilities. He has also purchased equipment to serve more than 25 farms, 50 retail customers and up to 20 schools each week. Join us to see how James moves food from area farms through his doors to schools, retailers and other customers around the state.

See & Discuss

- A commercial food processor for shredding cabbage and cubing sweet potatoes and butternut squash
- A 33-by-103-foot root cellar for commercial produce storage
- Aggregating, processing and distributing local produce through on-farm facilities
- Working with schools to grow crops and process them in ways that suit their needs

Sponsors: Center for Rural Affairs, Iowa Farmers Union, Iowa State University Organic Agriculture Program, Iowa Valley RC&D, Wheatsfield Cooperative

Using On-Farm Research To Guide Nutrient Reduction and Soil Health Strategies

Supported by ADM re:generations



Tuesday, July 29 | 9 a.m.-Noon

29053 1500 East St. | Walnut, IL 61376

HOSTS: Chris & Julie Von Holten | Von Holten Farms

MEAL: A light lunch will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days



Chris Von Holten operates a 100% no-till corn and soybean farm covering 1,900 acres near Walnut, Illinois. In 2008, Chris started experimenting with cover crops in his rotation. In the past six years, he added wheat to the rotation, taking it to grain while also saving some for cover crop seed. Recently, soil health tests and nitrogen trials have led Chris to cut back on his nitrogen rates. On-farm research has always helped Von Holten Farms move toward farm goals of reducing inputs and farming sustainably.

At this field day, Chris will present on a multiyear tile drainage monitoring project on the farm. He'll also share how similar on-farm research has shaped his management decisions. Finally, you'll have a chance to view tile monitoring equipment and Chris' twin-row planter used for wheat.

See & Discuss

- Multiyear results from the Bureau County Nutrient Stewardship Project
- Trials and results related to tile drainage, soil health and water quality
- Agri-Drain equipment used for on-farm tile monitoring
- Farm management changes from trial results
- PFI's nitrogen application trial
- A planter used for twin-row wheat and early-planted beans

Sponsor: Sentinel Ag

Jumping In With Both Feet at The Community Orchard



Tuesday, July 29 | 3-5 p.m.

2237 160th St. | Fort Dodge, IA 50501

HOSTS: Denny & Emily Stucky | *The Community Orchard*

MEAL: Refreshments will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit [practicalfarmers.org/field days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days)

When first-generation farmers Denny and Emily Stucky bought The Community Orchard in 2022, they had no background in agriculture or the hospitality industry, but they have jumped in with both feet. The Community Orchard sits on 100 acres, with 5,500 apple trees in traditional and high-density plantings, along with sweet corn, pumpkins, ornamental corn, sunflower and zinnia fields, a corn maze – and, new in 2025, cut flowers. It also features a farm store and boutique, a bakery and a year-round cafe.

Throw in school tours, rental events, weekend festivals and more than 60 seasonal staff and the operation's complexity starts coming into focus. As Denny says, they are learning to walk before they run. Come hear from the Stuckys about all they've learned in their first three years of running this complex business.

See & Discuss

- Transitioning owners at an orchard and complex agritourism business
- Learning about apple production and a diverse business
- Evaluating future land use options to support production, ecology and profitability
- Trying out cut flowers as an additional enterprise
- Managing various public events on the farm

Sponsor: **American National Insurance**

Reducing Inputs and Increasing Resilience Through Cover Crops and Building Soil Health



Wednesday, July 30 | 3-5 p.m.

4449 Hickory Ave. | Orange City, IA 51041

HOSTS: Dave & Jon Kiel | *A.C.E. Farms*

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day (*sponsored by Mad Capital*).

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit [practicalfarmers.org/field days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days)

Dave Kiel has been using biologicals in his farming practices since the 1980s. When his son, Jon Kiel, started farming with him, they added cover crops and no-till to the mix. They farm 420 acres of corn, soybean, small grains and forage crops. Together, Dave and Jon have improved water infiltration and decreased perennial weed pressure. They've also been able to decrease their chemical inputs. Recently, they started integrating livestock into their fields to help build soil health and reduce fertilizer inputs.

Join Dave and Jon to learn about building soil health with cover crops. They'll share how covers improve resiliency in variable weather conditions and the benefits of integrating livestock with row crops. You'll also hear from a panel of farmers talking about their cover crop experience and alternative forage options.

See & Discuss

- Improving soil health with cover crops and no-till
- Using cover crops and diverse rotations to build resiliency to flash floods and droughts.
- Fields of corn and soybeans both planted after rye covers
- Integrating livestock with row crops
- Diversifying forages
- Reducing off-farm inputs

Sponsor: **Mad Capital**

Operating a Cover Crop Business: The Do's and Don'ts of Application and Seeding Rates



Thursday, July 31 | 5-8 p.m.

610 U.S. 59 | Harlan, IA 51537

HOST: Dan Miller | Millermatic Seed

MEAL: A social hour and meal will begin at 5 p.m., leading into the field day presentation starting at 6 p.m.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Dan Miller runs Millermatic Seed, a seed application business that custom-seeds cover crops, forages, pastures, alfalfa, native grasses, turfs and more using airplanes, custom ground rigs and broadcast spreading. What started out as an experimental alternative revenue source in 2015 quickly became a thriving operation. Today, the business establishes upwards of 10,000 acres of native grass and seeds more than 600,000 pounds of covers crops per year in counties across southwest Iowa and into Nebraska.

Though Dan didn't start out with a business plan, he has learned many lessons along his hard-knock path to success. At this field day, he is excited to share what has worked and what hasn't in the growth of his seeding business. Attendees will also view and learn about the seeding equipment Dan and his pilot contractors use.

See & Discuss

- Technical tips for seed selection and seeding rates
- A partnership with Iowa Cover Crop, now supplying all of Millermatic's seed
- Airplane seeding specifics, from calibration to metering with pilot Dathan Pettis
- Mentoring and support through PFI's Cover Crop Business Accelerator Program

Sponsors: Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance, Iowa Cover Crop

Cultivating Pollinators and Produce: Establishing Beneficial Insect Habitat + Local Food in a Community Garden

In partnership with Xerces Society



Saturday, Aug. 2 | 10 a.m.–Noon

803 S. Ave. D | Washington, IA 52353

HOST: Kerrie Willis

MEAL: Lunch will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days



Kerrie Willis is one of the founders of PLANT Washington, a young community garden and orchard in Washington, Iowa, conceived as a space to build community and fight hunger through local food production. Thanks to collaboration and financial support from local groups, PLANT broke ground in fall 2024. In time, the orchard will be a free you-pick site, as well as a place for learning and community gardening.

This summer, Kerrie and the volunteers of PLANT Washington will add pollinator habitat to the space, thanks in large part to the help of Xerces Society and PFI. Join Kerrie, PLANT volunteers and Xerces Society's Sarah Nizzi as they share how beneficial insects help urban gardens. Kerrie will also share how she started PLANT Washington, connected with collaborators and built community along the way.

See & Discuss

- Creating habitat for beneficial insects in small and urban areas
- Supporting human and beneficial insect populations through healthy food
- Potential funding options for planting pollinator habitat
- How beneficial insects can help reduce pesticide use

VIRTUAL Cover Crop Workshop



Tuesday, Aug. 5 | 2-5 p.m.

HOST: Practical Farmers of Iowa

NEBRASKA FARMER SPEAKERS: Jason Regier, Daryl Obermeyer, Kent Brown, Vance McCoy, Ruth Ready, Clay Govier

Zoom registration required. Sign up on the workshop page at practicalfarmers.org/field-days

This virtual workshop offers an afternoon of sessions for farmers who are currently using cover crops in their farm practices, as well as those considering it. All are welcome to attend! You'll hear about grazing cover crops and how to manage cover crops in extreme weather conditions. We'll also share the basics of how to get started planting cover crops. The workshop will end with a panel of farmers who will offer insights on reducing your inputs using cover crops.

See & Discuss

- Managing cover crops in drought and flood years
- Getting started with cover crops
- Grazing cattle on cover crops
- Reducing your inputs using cover crops

Supporting Beneficial Insects on a You-Pick Farm by Installing Native Plugs

In partnership with Xerces Society



Tuesday, Aug. 5 | 4:30-6 p.m.

1167 240th St. | Waverly, IA 50677

HOSTS: Seth & Tricia Engelbrecht | Engelbrecht Farms

MEAL: Dinner will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days



Engelbrecht Farms is a you-pick flower farm owned and operated by Tricia and Seth Engelbrecht. The farm began in stages, starting with their first home, where the pair began growing perennials as a hobby. In 2017, they expanded to a rented lot from the city of Waverly, Iowa, before moving to their farm in 2021. Today, Engelbrecht Farm is a thriving location with event spaces, workshops, a farm stand and tours.

In 2024, Engelbrecht Farm partnered with Xerces Society to plant permanent native perennial habitat. These plants help the beneficial insects on the farm. The habitat also supports the vital services these insects can provide, such as pollination and natural pest control in the farm's cash crops. Join Tricia and Sarah Nizzi of Xerces Society as they discuss the ways beneficial insects can support your urban farm.

See & Discuss

- Fostering synergy between pollinators and crops
- Potential funding opportunities for adding pollinator habitat
- How beneficial insects can help farms reduce pesticide use



Why Plant Rye? Benefits of Adding Rye To Your Rotation



Thursday, Aug. 7 | 10 a.m.–Noon

1530 N 36th Road | Avoca, NE 68307

HOST: Lee Buchholz

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Lee Buchholz farms outside of Avoca, Nebraska. He started planting cereal rye as a cover crop 11 years ago with the goals of weed control and preventing soil erosion. He harvests the rye for seed to plant the following year and plants a diverse mix of high-carbon cover crops for grazing cattle after the rye. Lee has experimented with different ways to terminate the rye, including roller-crimping, chemicals and planting green. He's also changed rye varieties to help with the crimping. Join Lee at this field day to learn from his challenges and successes in using cereal rye as a cover crop.

See & Discuss

- Rye for weed control in front of soybeans
- Roller-crimping and chemical termination strategies for rye
- Diverse cover crops planted after a cereal grain
- Growing and harvesting rye for seed
- Grazing high-carbon cover crops

Adding Horticulture To a Cover Crop Enterprise at Glenwood Century Farm



Thursday, Aug. 7 | 5–7 p.m.

2162 Stanley Mill Road | Albion, IA 50005

HOSTS: Wade & Jenna Dooley | Glenwood Century Farms

MEAL: Refreshments will be available following the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Wade Dooley's background is mostly in field crops and livestock, but he has dabbled in growing horticultural crops for years. After college, Wade worked in seed research, focusing on melon production. This led to him growing up to 4 acres of melons commercially when he returned to the family farm in Marshall County, Iowa – though he eventually dropped melons as a crop.

Today, with his primary farm production shifted to cover crop seed and custom seeding, Wade is once again trying out a horticulture enterprise: seasonal ornamentals. He now raises and markets pumpkins and ornamental corn, with a few flowers thrown in. Join Wade on this romp through a conventional farmer's journey toward greater sustainability and the role of horticulture production on his farm.

See & Discuss

- Adding a horticulture enterprise to field crop and cover crop production
- Cover crop selection, root structures, timing and management
- Timing pumpkin planting into rye
- Variety selection, production and marketing for ornamental pumpkins
- Special equipment for small-scale specialty crop production

Sponsors: Iowa Farmers Union, Iowa State University Agronomy Department

Diversifying an Organic Farm: Row Crops, Small Grains and Holstein Heifers



Tuesday, Aug. 12 | 9–11 a.m.

3964 Y Ave. | Manning, IA 51455

HOST: Bryce Irlbeck | B&B Irlbeck Farms

MEAL: Light refreshments will be offered throughout the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit [practicalfarmers.org/field days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days)

Bryce Irlbeck owns and operates B&B Irlbeck Farms near Manning, Iowa, where he and his family grow 4,000 acres of organic corn, soybeans, peas, barley, canola, rye and alfalfa. Bryce is also the founder of AgriSecure, a platform that aims to support other farmers interested in organic transition. Bryce has found interesting markets for his organic products, including a local distillery for his organic rye and a corn tortilla chip manufacturer for his organic corn.

He also has alfalfa forage sales, and finds value in the benefits of having hay in organic rotations. Attend this field day to learn about these unique markets and see some of Bryce's current projects, including growing and marketing hay and developing an organic dairy heifer program with Holsteins.

- See & Discuss*
- How regenerative practices lead to unique food-grade market opportunities for corn and rye
 - How oats and rye are used on the farm
 - Growing and marketing alfalfa
 - A Holstein heifer organic dairy program

Sponsors: Agricultural Flaming Innovations (AFI), Iowa Organic Association, Iowa State University Organic Agriculture Program

Fitting Cover Crops Into a Northeast Missouri Farm

Supported by ADM re:generations



Thursday, Aug. 14 | 4–6 p.m.

1819 State Highway C | Monroe City, MO 63456

HOST: Tim Gottman | TJT Gottman Inc.

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit [practicalfarmers.org/field days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days)

Tim Gottman has been farming alongside his brother, Trent, since 1989 on their 2,400-acre row crop operation of soybeans, wheat, corn and cover crops in Marion County, Missouri. He's farming where he was born and raised, and continues to do so with his children and grandchildren. Tim uses cover crops on about 65% of his acres, and he plans to continue doing so. He says cover crops help keep his soil and fertilizer in his fields and improve the farm's bottom line. Land stewardship and beneficial yields help drive cover crop adoption on Tim's farm. But he wants to see each farmer figure out how cover crops work for them and their operation's goals.

Come join Tim for a lively discussion about how and why he uses cover crops on his farm, and the benefits he has noticed in his operation.

- See & Discuss*
- A watershed project monitoring runoff from fields with and without cover crops
 - Cover crops following wheat
 - Soybeans following cover crops

Sponsors: Farmers Elevator and Exchange Co., Missouri Soybean Merchandising Council



Owls, Oxbows and Oaks: Water Quality, Wildlife and Habitat Restoration on a Central Iowa Farm



Saturday, Aug. 16 | 2-4 p.m.

418 D Ave. | Churdan, IA 50050

See driving directions on web.

HOST: Jeff & Nancy Pudenz

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Since buying their farm 15 years ago, Jeff and Nancy Pudenz have worked hard to create large-scale conservation areas. The land is nestled next to the North Raccoon River and hosts a variety of habitats. To broaden their impact, they've established several Conservation Reserve Program plantings and enrolled other land in the Forest Reserve Program. For their efforts, the couple received the Iowa Farm Environment Leadership Award and the Black Hawk Watershed Conservation Award.

Join Jeff and Nancy as they discuss the unique environment and plant life associated with a fen. You'll learn how they've sought to improve water quality by creating oxbows, 12 acres of CRP and 125 acres of mature woodland. You'll also get to see the farm's beaver dams and beehives. Please wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to walk over uneven terrain.

See & Discuss

- Rewilding Iowa's land
- Establishing and preserving mature timber and oak savanna
- Creating wildlife corridors across farmland
- Building oxbows for habitat and water quality
- Supporting local wildlife populations by restoring habitat
- Programs that support on-farm conservation efforts

Sponsors: Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa Soybean Association

Farming for Bushels, Bees and Birds: Profitably Integrating Cropland and Habitat



Tuesday, Aug. 19 | 9 a.m.-Noon

3216 510th Ave. | Cylinder, IA 50528

HOSTS: Ritch & Cynthia Berkland

MEAL: Lunch will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Ritch and Cynthia Berkland's farm in Palo Alto County, Iowa, is a blend of conventional row crops and restored wildlife habitat. Over the decades, the couple has collaborated with nonprofits and agencies to strategically make conservation changes that improve their operation. One way they've done this is by integrating habitat where crop yields were consistently low. Boosting farm profitability has been one goal. The Berklands also have a passion for upland hunting and water quality.

Join Ritch and Cynthia, along with Pheasants Forever, as they share how you can identify and transform marginal acres to boost farm profitability while also improving soil, water and wildlife. You'll get to see established conservation practices and learn from professionals who can help convert lower-yielding cropland into profitable native habitat.

See & Discuss

- Various precision conservation methods
- Using yield and satellite data to implement a conservation plan
- Remaining profitable when removing acres from production
- Improving the quality of water leaving the farm

Transitioning Lango Dairy To the Next Generation

Supported by ADM re:generations



Tuesday, Aug. 19 | 10 a.m.–Noon

2856 Quarter Road | Hopkinton, IA 52237



HOST: Tim Goedken and Sarah, Tara & Courtney Goedken | *Lango Dairy*

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day (*sponsored by Mad Capital*).

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field-days

In 1992, Tim Goedken had the chance to buy a farm and start his own dairy. Today, he and his grown daughters – Sarah, Tara and Courtney – together manage a dairy cattle herd of 200, along with 700 acres of conventional and organic crop ground and pasture. All three bring unique education and work experience, which they're using to help implement new practices while carving out their roles for the long-term.

We'll tour the dairy and crop ground, including their new calf barn. After the dairy tour, we'll caravan a short distance to a field where the Goedkens are double-cropping rye with sorghum-sudangrass. With this practice, they are grossing \$1,400 per acre between the rye seed, rye straw and sudangrass straw. The Goedkens know there is plenty to learn by visiting other farms; come with questions for a day at the dairy!

See & Discuss

- A newly built calf barn, weight gain tracking system and milk taxi
- The dairy barn and Nedap health monitoring collars
- The heifer shed, breeding barn and pasture for breeding heifers
- Different varieties of corn, including silage corn
- Double-cropped rye and sorghum-sudangrass
- How the Goedkens use weekly family meetings, 10-year planning and transition planning

Sponsors: Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance, Mad Capital

Midwest Mechanical Weed Control Field Day

In partnership with Glacial Drift Enterprises, The Land Connection & Iowa State University



Wednesday, Aug. 20 | 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

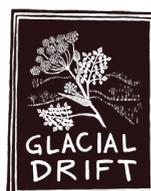
**ISU Horticulture Research Station
55519 170th St. | Ames, IA 50010**

HOSTS: Glacial Drift Enterprises and The Land Connection
in partnership with Iowa State University

Join farmers from across the Midwest for this daylong event. Spend the morning checking out weeding tools up close and speaking with company reps at the trade show. Catch education sessions from experienced farmers and experts and engage with farmers from across the region. After a break at noon for lunch, the afternoon will feature the heart of this event: field demonstrations of weeding and cultivation tools for all scales in row crops and vegetables. Head to the demo plots specially planted with corn, beets and brassicas to see numerous tools in action.

See & Discuss

- Demonstrations of weeding and cultivation tools for row crops and vegetables
- The latest in cultivation equipment and practices, including camera guidance, camera-guided hitches and robotics
- How to mount and adjust cultivators for crop and soil conditions
- Hand-scale and two-wheel tractors and cultivators in walk-behind alley



IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

This field day requires paid registration, which includes lunch. Register at The Land Connection: www.thelandconnection.org/event/2025-mmwcf

Drones, Management-Intensive Grazing and Cover Crops in Southeast Iowa



Monday, Aug. 25 | 9–11 a.m.

Field Location: Across the road from 750 Forest Home Road Montezuma, IA 50171 *See driving directions on web.*

HOSTS: Ben & Katherine De Boef

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Ben and Katherine De Boef operate a corn and soybean farm in Poweshiek County, Iowa. They also raise cattle and graze them on perennial forage and annual cover crops. To help diversify their income streams, Ben and Katherine have invested in a drone to seed their own cover crops and to contract out to plant covers for other farmers. They are doing their own research on management-intensive grazing of annual cover crops to see how much they can push the cattle stocking rates. Join Ben and Katherine at this field day to see a field seeded by a drone, and to find out what they have learned so far in their management-intensive grazing trial.

See & Discuss

- A drone-seeding demonstration
- Owning and operating a drone
- Cattle grazing on a summer annual cover crop grazing mix

Dialing-In on No-Till and Conservation Practices With Precision Technology

Supported by ADM re:generations



Thursday, Aug. 28 | 10 a.m.–Noon

297 Standing Rock Road | Mt. Vernon, IA 52314



HOSTS: Robert Broulik Family

MEAL: A light lunch will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Robert Broulik farms with his son, Luke, and son-in-law, Tim Keegan. Robert is a longtime advocate for no-till and one of the first adopters in his area. No-till and investment in waterway protection are at the core of their row crop operation. To ensure the most accurate use of nutrients, they routinely run on-farm nitrogen and population trials and use precision technology. They also use cover crops, saturated buffers, terraces and a bioreactor.

Most of the field day will focus on where Robert, Luke and Tim invest their time and attention – sensible equipment for no-till, reducing inputs, conserving soil and protecting water. They'll also discuss how they are instilling the importance of conservation in the next generation. Last, we'll visit their new cattle barn completed with federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program funds.

See & Discuss

- Selecting equipment for success with no-till
- Benefits of liquid nitrogen in a no-till system
- Waterway buffer installation and tile outlet testing
- Simple cover crop tactics with no-till
- A new cattle barn for manure capture under a roof and better cow-calf management

Sponsor: Heartland Co-op

Enhancing Cover Crops Through Technology



Saturday, Aug. 30 | 10 a.m.–Noon

Field Location: Southwest corner of Iowa Route 92 and 30th Avenue | Martensdale, IA 50160 *See driving directions on web.*

HOSTS: Devin Davis & Shanon Jamison

MEAL: A light lunch will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Devin Davis and his sister, Shanon Jamison, farm in Warren County, Iowa. They credit advances in technology with letting them use cover crops and no-till practices. Six years ago, when they started incorporating covers into their soybean and corn operation, they had the cover crop seed flown on by plane. Now, after buying a drone, Devin and Sharon seed their own cover crops. The drone represents the latest tech in aerial seeding. They also have two modern tractors for planting into their crop fields, and an older drill for seeding waterways and cover crops.

At this field day, you'll have a chance to observe Devin and Sharon's drone-seeding process. They'll discuss how they select seeds for clay soils. You'll also get to look at planting equipment enabled with the technology they use to navigate their no-till, high-residue fields.

- See & Discuss*
- A drone-seeding demonstration
 - The benefits and challenges of seeding one's own cover crops
 - Equipment and technology for planting into no-till and high-residue fields
 - Cover crop mixes for clay soils

SEPTEMBER •

Small Grains, Diverse Cover Crops + Livestock at Whiterock Conservancy



Wednesday, Sept. 3 | 9–11:30 a.m.

1436 Iowa Route 141 | Coon Rapids, IA 50058

See driving directions on web.

HOST: Tyler Bruck | Whiterock Conservancy

MEAL: Snacks and water will be provided at this field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Tyler Bruck is the land stewardship director at Whiterock Conservancy, a 5,500-acre nonprofit land trust in Coon Rapids, Iowa, that offers outdoor recreation while working to conserve land and showcase sustainable agriculture. During this field day, Tyler will highlight different soil health practices used at Whiterock. The conservancy has been no-tilling and using cover crops for 20-plus years. Recently, they started growing more rye and oats, keeping some seed to plant the next year. The rest is sold to area producers.

The conservancy also bales and sells the straw, then plants a diverse cover crop mix grazed by cattle or sheep in the fall. Past mixes included cowpeas, buckwheat, sunflower, rye, oats, tillage radish and clover. Come visit this Iowa gem while learning about the cost benefits of cover crops and small grains.

- See & Discuss*
- Why Whiterock has increased its small-grain production
 - Growing a diverse cover crop mix for fall grazing
 - What Whiterock has found so far about the benefits of adopting small grains, diverse cover crops and livestock for soil health
 - Harvesting and marketing straw for added profits

Sponsors: Golden Hills RC&D, Home State Bank

Planting Trees and Grazing for the Future



Thursday, Sept. 4 | 4–6 p.m.

2983 230th St. | Clarinda, IA 51632

HOST: Seth Watkins | Pinhook Farm

MEAL: A potluck supper will follow the field day. Bring a dish to share!

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit [practicalfarmers.org/field days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days)

Seth Watkins runs Pinhook Farm, his family’s heritage farm near Clarinda, Iowa. Seth raises alfalfa along with a cow-calf herd, sheep and bees. As part of his management, he has adopted a range of conservation practices like prairies strips, tree planting, integrated pest management and more. He’s also transitioned many acres out of production entirely, transforming those spaces into valuable habitat. Much of his work is guided by his vision of the future for his farm and the Iowa agricultural landscape.

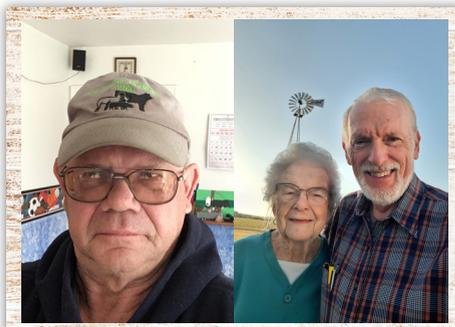
Join Seth to learn how he’s using a permanent agricultural land easement in his transition planning. You’ll hear about tools he’s using to combine nature and farming, such as adding sheep to boost forage use and diversity. He’ll also share the successes and challenges he’s had establishing silvopasture.

See & Discuss

- Making changes without external financing
- Working with nature to increase productivity
- Combining sheep and silvopasture
- Multi-species grazing

Sponsors: Golden Hills RC&D, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Savanna Institute

Underneath the Canopy: Exploring Interseeding, Cover Crop Mixes and Soil Health Supported by ADM re:generations



Saturday, Sept. 6 | 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

6331 Ellington Road | Quincy, IL 62305

HOSTS: Aleen Mittelberg, David & Dean Dedert, Mike Rice

MEAL: Light refreshments will be provided during the field day.



For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit [practicalfarmers.org/field days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days)

David Dedert farms with his father, Dean, raising corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle and sheep near Quincy, Illinois. Part of their operation includes being farm operators at Twin Mill Farm, a 90-acre family farm that has been in the Mittelberg family for over 100 years. The farm has undergone a variety of transitions over time, from raising beef cattle to hogs – and now, solely growing row crops. The Dederts work alongside landowner Aleen Mittelberg and farm manager Mike Rice as they transition the land toward regenerative management using no-till and cover crops.

Come join a lively discussion with David and Mike about their use of regenerative practices at Twin Mill Farm. You will be able to see their cover crops in no-till fields and discuss their use of soil health testing.

See & Discuss

- 60-inch corn with an interseeded cover crop mix
- A cover crop mixture drone-seeded into standing wheat
- Soybeans following a rye cover crop
- Haney soil tests

Organic Management Strategies for Flourishing Fields and Nutritious Crops



Tuesday, Sept. 9 | 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

1684 260th St. | Garwin, IA 50632

See driving directions on web.

HOSTS: Daniel & Emily Sheetz and Family | Barred Owl Organics

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day (sponsored by Mad Capital).

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Daniel and Emily Sheetz farm with their four kids and Emily's parents, Alan and JoAnn Kouba, on 800 acres in Tama County, Iowa. They have been certified organic on a growing number of acres since 2010, and grow corn, soybeans, small grains and hay. Each year, the family experiments with adding cover crops and changing rotations. Aiming to support healthy people and animals, their main focus is on growing food-grade crops and planting prairie strips to support pollinators.

Join them to see clear hilum, a type of high-protein, food-grade soybean. You'll also see a diverse cover crop mix, along with Daniel and Emily's favorite weeding equipment. Finally, they'll offer tips for transitioning to organic and share their plans to support pollinators using prairie strips with help from Natural Resources Conservation Service programs.

See & Discuss

- Growing and marketing clear hilum soybeans
- Tine weeder, weed zapper (no demos due to safety!), GPS technology & other equipment to effectively manage weeds
- Multi-species cover crop mix following small-grain harvest
- Management practices for organic transition
- Plans and programs for establishing pollinator habitat with prairie strips

Sponsors: Albert Lea Seed House, Farming for Public Health, Grain Millers, Iowa State University Organic Agriculture Program, Mad Capital, Middle Iowa WMA, MOSA Certified Organic, OCIA Chapter 1 of Iowa, Welter Seed and Honey Company

Partnering To Graze Cover Crops and Improve Soil Health



Wednesday, Sept. 10 | 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

2861 Pierce Ave. | Sanborn, IA 51248

HOSTS: Aaron Alons & Andy Getting

MEAL: Lunch will be served during the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Aaron Alons and Andy Getting have formed a mutually beneficial farming partnership. On his farm, Aaron raises grass-fed and -finished beef, selling directly to consumers. To extend his grazing season, he partners with Andy to graze cattle on 200-plus acres Andy farms. Andy, meanwhile, raises organic row crops, including corn, soybean, oats and hay – and he plants a cover crop with his oats that Aaron's cattle will graze after oat harvest. This partnership has yielded tremendous benefits for both farmers.

Come learn how they work together to extend Aaron's grazing season. You'll hear how adding cattle to the row-cropped ground helped improve the soil's health, such as boosting microbial diversity, available nutrients and organic matter. The improvements allowed for near-normal yields during a serious drought year.

See & Discuss

- Improving soil health with grazing
- Balancing the fungus-to-bacteria ratio of soil
- Livestock integrated with row crops
- Partnerships between operations
- Organic production

Sponsors: Albert Lea Seed House, Cherokee Soil & Water Conservation District, Iowa State University Organic Agriculture Program, OCIA Chapter 1 of Iowa

Integrating Wildlife and Agriculture: Creating Sustainable Habitat on Working Farms



Thursday, Sept. 11 | 9–11 a.m.

3047 York Ave. | Redfield, IA 50233

HOST: Robert Harvey

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

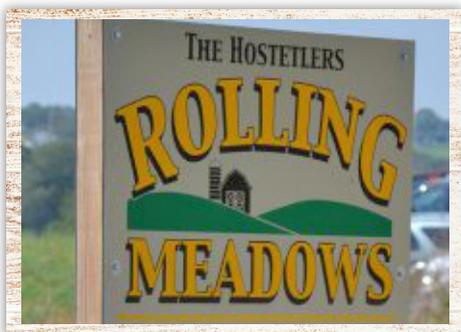
Robert Harvey owns and operates Sunny Crest Farm with his wife, Ruth. They raise cattle, corn, soybeans, hay and cover crops on 420 acres near Redfield, Iowa. Over the past 10 years, the Harveys have worked to establish 100 acres in the Conservation Reserve Program and another 100 acres of woodland. The timber stands comprise shagbark hickories, maples and bur oaks, and are home to a variety of wildlife such as bobcat, owls and bats.

Join Robert and his family as they explore the myriad ways you can add habitat to a working farm – and make it profitable. Robert will discuss the process of transforming agricultural land into native prairie and turning healthy timber into a sanctuary for wildlife. He'll also talk about how to get started with potential funding sources. Wear sturdy shoes and be prepared to walk over uneven ground.

See & Discuss

- Cover crops as a sustainable farming practice
- Creating large-scale wildlife habitat by planting native species
- Starting and maintaining large tracts of CRP native prairie
- The benefits of timber areas for both land and wildlife
- The concept of rewilding Iowa's landscape

Observing Cattle and Forage for Success



Saturday, Sept. 13 | 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

18113 362nd Ave. | Bellevue, IA 52031

HOST: Jamie Hostetler | Rolling Meadows Farm

MEAL: Lunch will be provided during the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Jamie Hostetler and family operate Rolling Meadows Farm in Bellevue, Iowa, where they raise Red Devon cattle for grass-finishing and as seed stock. Jamie pays close attention to cattle genetics. He's also on a personal journey to improve stored forages by making small changes and “without relying on a silver bullet.” At this field day, Jamie will share the importance of observation, including what to look for as forage grows and characteristics of soil health.

We'll also hear talks by Tannon Dvorak and Daniel Olson. Tannon, of Dvorak Brothers Ranches, will speak on female efficiency, hormone balance, higher butterfat and performance in grass-fed genetics. Daniel, with Forage Innovations, will focus on forages. You'll hear about defining high quality, harvesting and storage, soil fertility and understanding a forage test.

See & Discuss

- Maternal intelligence in cows
- Soil fertility experiments with Sea-90 treatment
- Factors affecting forage quality
- The performance of grass-finishing cattle

All Things Oats + Oat Mill Site Tour



Saturday, Sept. 13 | 4–6 p.m.

360 E 14th St. | Albert Lea, MN 56007

HOSTS: Anne & Landon Plagge and Amanda & Knute Severson

MEAL: Snacks will be provided.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit [practicalfarmers.org/field days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days)

Anne and Landon Plagge organized a group of 85 farmers and community members to bring a new farmer-owned grain milling facility to Albert Lea, Minnesota. The new facility, Green Acres Milling, will break ground this year. When it's complete, it will handle 4 million bushels of oats annually, producing domestically sourced oat groats, flakes and flour through local supply chains. Oats are sourced from farmer members from Iowa, Minnesota and surrounding states that farm using regenerative practices.

At this field day, you'll have a chance to visit the Green Acres Milling construction site. You'll learn about growing oats and grazing cattle on cover crops following oats. You'll also hear how adding oats into row crop rotations and having a viable local market can translate to economic opportunity.

See & Discuss

- Oat production best practices, from planting to harvest
- Food-grade oats grown for local consumers to support the domestic supply chain and fulfill market demand
- Using oats as a third crop to boost a farm's economic and environmental resilience
- Grazing summer cover crops after oats and integrating livestock with small-grain crop rotations
- Oat milling byproduct for use as animal feed and bedding

Sponsors: Albert Lea Seed House, Healthy Harvest of North Iowa, The Nature Conservancy

Strength in Straw: Making the Most of a Rye Crop



Tuesday, Sept. 16 | 10 a.m.–Noon

3387 280th Road | Redfield, IA 50233

See driving directions on web.

HOSTS: Tom & Robin Cummings | TRC Farms

MEAL: A light meal will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit [practicalfarmers.org/field days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days)

Tom and Robin Cummings operate TRC Farms near Redfield, Iowa, growing cereal rye, soybeans and hay. Their journey growing rye started about 12 years ago when a neighbor asked Tom to help harvest the rye for a portion of the seed, which Tom decided to continue growing. That pivotal moment brought the Cummings to where they are today. Working together, and with help from family and neighbors, they harvest and clean rye for cover crop seed and produce up to 40,000 square bales per year to sell at Bomgaars and Tractor Supply stores in their area. They credit their market success to hard work, creativity and relationship-building.

At their field day, Robin and Tom will showcase their seed-cleaning and straw-baling operations. They're also eager to share how teff grass is finding its place in their rotations.

See & Discuss

- Producing and marketing rye straw in square bales
- Harvesting, cleaning and selling rye as cover crop seed
- Teff grass for high-protein hay, double-cropped following a small-grain
- Partnering with other farmers to expand growth potential

Sponsor: Heartland Co-op

Lard-Based Value-Added Products



Tuesday, Sept. 16 | 3-5 p.m.

HOST: Laura Tidrick | Mossycup Farms

MEAL: Snacks will be provided during the field day.

Due to some hands-on components during this event, attendance is limited to 15 participants and registration is required. Complete event details will be provided upon registration.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Value-added products can be an important part of a farm business. But current consumer trends have made lard- and tallow-based products especially hot commodities. Laura has been tapping into this market demand for years by making her own range of lard-based products to sell alongside her ready-to-eat products. She sells both types online and through her on-farm store.

In this workshop, we'll dive into the art of all-natural soap-making. We'll start by discussing lard: its uses, the process of rendering it and why it's an excellent choice for making soap. Laura will also cover everything from ingredients and formulations to cutting, storage and marketing.

See & Discuss

- Rendering lard
- Soap-making
- Marketing value-added products

Sponsors: Healthy Harvest of North Iowa, Riverside Feeds

Layering Land Management: Combining In-Field and Edge-of-Field Practices for Water Quality and Soil Health



Thursday, Sept. 18 | 2-4 p.m.

27599 X Ave. | Reinbeck, IA 50669

See driving directions on web.

HOST: Clark Porter | Porter Family Farms

MEAL: Light refreshments will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Clark Porter is a landowner and farm manager for Porter Family Farms in Iowa's Grundy and Tama counties, alongside his mother Audrey and wife Sharon. Though he hires custom operators for fieldwork, Clark plays an integral role in production and conservation efforts. These have included overseeing the transition to 100% no-till, adding in cover crops and adopting several conservation practices, including saturated buffers and enrolling land in the Conservation Reserve Program.

Come see how Porter Family Farms manages nutrients, soil health, nitrate runoff, no-till and cover crops. Attendees will learn about an experimental "saturated waterway" currently monitored by researchers at ISU and the University of Iowa. Farm landowners are encouraged to attend to explore how they can actively manage conservation on their land.

See & Discuss

- The impacts of cover crops and no-till on soil health
- Soil qualities of land in CRP compared with production fields
- An experimental saturated waterway to improve water quality
- Managing nutrients through split and variable-rate applications to meet specific needs of each field

Sponsors: Center for Rural Affairs, Heartland Co-op, Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance, Iowa Nutrient Research Center, Savanna Institute

Agritourism, Infrastructure and Collaboration at Long Walk Farm



Thursday, Sept. 18 | 3-5 p.m.

23780 Dogwood Road | Council Bluffs, IA 51503

HOSTS: Tiffany Clifton & Matt Johnson | Long Walk Farm

MEAL: Pizza from the farm's pizza oven will be served following the field day. Please indicate gluten-free and dairy-free needs on your event registration.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

It's clear that Matt Johnson and Tiffany Clifton are having a good time. They bought the property that would become Long Walk Farm in 2020. Since then, they've scaled up with infrastructure, staff, creative on-farm events and multiple market streams for their produce. In more than a dozen growing structures on their farm, Matt and Tiffany raise a list of crops that reflects their practical grounding blended with an adventurous outlook. The list encompasses staples like carrots, onions, garlic and lettuce alongside more unusual offerings like eucalyptus, day-neutral strawberries, turmeric and figs. Join us for a stroll through Long Walk Farm, where you'll hear from Tiff and Matt about how they're building a business to feed their region.

Note: Come prepared to walk some distance for this event; the farm name is indeed descriptive!

- See & Discuss*
- Managing production in 14 (and counting) growing structures, including nine caterpillar tunnels, two 30-by-120-foot high tunnels and three 30-by-50-foot tunnels
 - Maximizing grant opportunities to increase infrastructure
 - Collaborations with farmers, restaurants, chefs and other businesses
 - Bringing people to the farm for events and farm store sales

Sponsors: Center for Rural Affairs, Choose Iowa | Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Golden Hills RC&D

Conservation Practices To Create and Steward Critical Bird Habitat In partnership with Audubon Society



Tuesday, Sept. 23 | 4:30-6:30 p.m.

13742 NW 30th St. | Polk City, IA 50226

HOST: Aaron Lehman | Lehman Farms

MEAL: A meal will follow the field day (sponsored by Mad Capital).

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days



Aaron Lehman and his family grow corn, soybeans and hay at Lehman Farms LTD. Conservation plays a central role on the farm. They use extended crop rotations and take part in several federal conservation programs, such as the Conservation Stewardship Program, Conservation Reserve Program and Prairie Pothole Water Quality and Wildlife Program. In 2017, Aaron was named Polk County Conservation Farmer of the Year.

Today, Lehman Farms serves as a refuge for Iowa's birds, including red-tailed hawks, northern harriers and western meadowlarks. Join Aaron and the Audubon Society as they lead a short trek to Polk County's highest point and explore how farmers can create critical bird habitat. As president of the Iowa Farmers Union, Aaron will also discuss the importance of supporting USDA conservation programs. Wear sturdy shoes, bring water and be ready for uneven terrain.

- See & Discuss*
- Creating sustainable on-farm bird habitat
 - Various funding options to create habitat
 - Crop rotation schedules and types to benefit birds
 - The benefits of habitat, including improved water and soil quality

Sponsors: American National Insurance, Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance, Iowa Farmers Union, Mad Capital

VIRTUAL FIELD DAY: The Business of Raising Turkeys for the Direct-to-Consumer Market, Part 2



Saturday, Sept. 27 | Noon-12:30 p.m.

HOSTS: Anna & Shae Pesek | Over the Moon Farm

Due to biosecurity concerns, this field day is being held virtually.

Zoom registration required. Sign up on the field day page at practicalfarmers.org/field-days

In this second part of our virtual turkey field day, Anna and Shae Pesek will go deeper into the details of how they raise turkeys for the Thanksgiving market. Anna and Shae own Over the Moon Farm in Delaware County, Iowa. Since 2019, they have been serving their community through a CSA and a la carte sales through their online farm store.

As we rejoin them, their turkeys have been out on pasture for about two months and preparations begin for their journey to the butcher. In this virtual field day, you'll learn about Anna and Shae's turkey production timeline. They'll discuss how they continue to communicate with customers on preorders. They'll also explain their infrastructure setup for raising turkeys on pasture.

See & Discuss

- The timeline for raising turkeys from when they're on pasture to the processor
- Production decisions around processing, and more
- Managing wholesale accounts
- Infrastructure, from fencing and feed to transportation
- Logistics for storing and distributing processed turkeys

Hands-On Irrigation: Building a Low-Flow System That Can Adapt to Your Rotation



Sunday, Sept. 28 | 1-4 p.m.

HOSTS: Kate Solko & Kyle Maxwell | Root to Rise Farm

Due to the hands-on nature of this event, attendance is limited to 20 participants and registration is required. Complete event details will be provided upon registration.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

Kate Solko and her partner, Kyle Maxwell, grow vegetables for their CSA and local farmers market. Kate has been working in organic and regenerative production since 2010. During the pandemic, Kyle left the restaurant industry and brought his background in food safety to the farm.

Their irrigation infrastructure consists of a main header with standardized fittings, which lets them swap easily between overhead irrigation and drip systems for any of their 29 irrigation zones. At this hands-on event, you'll get to handle and explore irrigation tools, components and adapters. Kate and Kyle will also guide you through building a versatile one-hydrant irrigation system.

See & Discuss

- Assembling drip and overhead irrigation
- Adaptable irrigation designs to suit crop rotations in a variety of seasons
- Making the most out of a one-hydrant system and navigating low-pressure irrigation systems
- Maintaining irrigation systems and tools to prevent mineral build-up
- Irrigation strategies to cope with high-wind conditions

Sponsors: Iowa State University Organic Agriculture Program, Wheatsfield Cooperative

Making Grass Work



Tuesday, Oct. 7 | 4–6 p.m.

28609 County Road 19 | Winona, MN 55987

HOSTS: Cindy Wolf and Haley, Hanna, Harper & Kelley O'Neill

MEAL: Supper will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit [practicalfarmers.org/field days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days)

Kelley O'Neill has been working with sheep, cattle, goats, poultry – and wildlife – since the 1970s. Cindy Wolf taught at the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Minnesota for 35 years. Together, they farm in the Minnesota Driftless region, focusing on stewarding the land with care by “sensibly” grazing their sheep on permanent pasture. Come learn how the O'Neill family and crew tries to make a grass-based system work financially and for soil health through a focus on genetics and careful management. From experiments with mob-stocking to winter stockpiling, Kelley says he's spent years “pushing on strings” so you can learn what works and what doesn't.

- See & Discuss*
- Grass-based genetics
 - Mob stocking
 - Lambing timing
 - Parasite management
 - Caring for your mental health

NOVEMBER •

Roles of Rye in Seed Production and Manure Management

Supported by ADM re:generations



Tuesday, Nov. 4 | 10 a.m.–Noon

6520 215th St. | Walcott, IA 52773

HOST: Mike Paustian | Paustian Enterprises

MEAL: Lunch will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit [practicalfarmers.org/field days](https://practicalfarmers.org/field-days)



Mike Paustian and his family operate a farrow-to-finish hog farm near Walcott, Iowa. They also grow 1,400 acres of row crops, including corn and soybeans, using 100% no-till and cover crops. Cover crops are drilled in immediately after harvest. This practice allows for good growth prior to applying fall hog manure. Mike plants cash crops green in the spring for maximum biomass production. Recently, he started relay intercropping rye and soybeans and harvesting the rye for cover crop seed. This led him to take part in PFI's Cover Crop Business Accelerator Program to explore growing rye for seed on more acres.

At this field day, Mike and his family will share their experiences with relay intercropping. They'll discuss the results of applying manure into standing cover crops. You'll also hear how they use skip rows in rye ahead of corn.

- See & Discuss*
- Relay intercropping rye and soybeans later in the season
 - Harvesting rye for cover crop seed
 - Cover crops planted immediately after harvest and their role in manure management
 - Corn planted green into skipped rows of drilled rye

Sponsors: Altorfer Ag Products, Eldon C. Stutsman Inc

Year-Round Production of Leafy Greens and More



Thursday, Nov. 13 | 1-3 p.m.

3681 Ibex Ave. | Sioux Center, IA 51250

HOSTS: John & Janna Wesselius | *The Cornucopia*

MEAL: Light refreshments will follow the field day.

For more about this and other field days, links to farm websites, directions (if relevant) and to RSVP, use the QR code above or visit practicalfarmers.org/field days

John and Janna Wesselius' excitement about the potential of winter greens is contagious. Now in their 20th year of farming, they raise vegetables, pastured poultry and eggs on 9 acres of outdoor space and in six high tunnels. They market their products through three farmers markets and 80 CSA shares. Growing greens in winter has long been part of their operation. But in recent years, they've studied, tried and refined techniques for year-round production. This has led to bridging sales from Thanksgiving to spring, adding new revenue and strengthening customer relationships.

Join this event as we head inside the high tunnels at their farm. John and Janna will share insights about planting dates, frost protection, harvest techniques and more. Come learn from farmers whose sales stay hot through the year's coldest months.

See & Discuss

- Timing when to flip beds and seed crops to optimize production
- Farmer resilience and persistence when trying new tactics and techniques
- Frost protection methods and logistics, including materials handling and storage
- Greens harvest and handling techniques
- Preferred varieties for winter hardiness

Sponsor: **Johnny's Selected Seeds**

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Our inclusive organization represents a diversity of farmers, friends of farmers and farmland owners who guide PFI's priorities and lead our programming. Farmers in our network represent a range of experience levels and production practices, raising corn, soybeans, livestock, fruits and vegetables, hay, small grains and more.

We invite you to join our expanding network and take part in an open exchange of practical information to improve our farms and communities.

Membership Level	Membership For	Annual Fee
Access	Individuals who are current students, retired or beginning farmers, others on fixed or limited incomes and those who want to try us out	\$25
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- A subscription to our quarterly **magazine**, the Practical Farmer, full of inspiring stories, on-farm research results, innovative projects, member profiles and more
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- Eligibility to participate in our **Cooperators' Program** and to design and conduct on-farm research projects exploring questions you want to answer for your farm
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- Opportunities to **serve as a farmer leader**, with stipends for sharing your knowledge as an event host, speaker or mentor
- The ability for your farm to be listed in our public **Local Foods Directory**, or your organization to be listed in our **Business Directory**, which can help you find new customers and markets for your products
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MEMBER INFORMATION

Contact Name(s)*: _____

Farm or Organization Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ County: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

* For Farm or Household membership, please list names of all persons included. For Organization membership, you may list up to three contact persons.

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3. How many years of farming experience do you have?

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2. Which category best describes you? (choose one)

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 Not farming yet, but would like to
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