



PRACTICAL FARMERS OF IOWA

2015 FIELD DAY GUIDE



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The following grantors have provided funding for Practical Farmers' 2015 field days:

- Cedar Tree Foundation
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- Resource Enhancement and Protection Conservation Education Program
- USDA, National Resources Conservation Service
- USDA, Rural Business Enterprise Grant
- Walton Family Foundation

Welcome to Practical Farmers' 2015 Field Day Season!

Thank you for your interest in our field days!

Field days are a mainstay of Practical Farmers, bringing farmers and the public together to learn, share knowledge and build a vibrant community of farmers and non-farmers working to strengthen farms and communities throughout Iowa.

FARMER-LED EVENTS: Practical Farmers field days are hosted by our farmer members. Why? Because farmers are the experts on their farming systems, decisions, challenges and solutions. Our farmers believe that sharing their knowledge, discoveries, mistakes and successes benefits everyone. They invite the public onto their farms to learn about topics that span the agricultural spectrum, as well as the intersections between farming and land stewardship, conservation, local foods and more.

FIELD DAYS ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE: At Practical Farmers, we take pride in our big tent that includes farmers of all sizes and production practices, as well as many non-farmers who support our work, values and the sense of community that membership brings. **You don't need to be a member to attend!** We welcome and invite anyone to attend and learn from our field days. PFI field days are an excellent place for farmers who aren't members to see what their neighbors are doing, or share their perspective and insights with other farmers. They are also ideal outings for families and friends of farmers who want to learn more about the diverse scope of Iowa agriculture.

HOW TO READ THIS GUIDE: The 2015 Field Day Guide is divided into two sections: Practical Farmers events and non-PFI partner events. PFI events are listed chronologically in the front portion of the guide and are distinguished by the dark brown-colored tabs. Non-PFI partner events are listed separately, also chronologically, in the back of the guide, and are distinguished by light brown-shaded tabs.

FIELD DAY LOGISTICS: Most Practical Farmers field days are free. **All PFI events occur rain or shine.** When traveling to our field days, look for this directional field day sign along your route.

(Please Note: We have no control over changes to or cancellations of non-PFI partner events.)



CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR OTHER EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

In addition to the events listed in this guide, Practical Farmers routinely organizes pre-season, post-harvest and late-fall field days and workshops. So be sure to check our website often at **practicalfarmers.org** for the most up-to-date schedule – or become a PFI member to receive advance notice about upcoming events.

VISIT US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

 www.facebook.com/practicalfarmers  twitter.com/practicalfarmer  www.youtube.com/user/pfivideos
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QUESTIONS?

Contact the PFI office
at: (515) 232-5661.



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Planning for a Permaculture Swale System on Pasture

SATURDAY, JUNE 6 | 1 – 5 p.m.

Stay for a potluck and continued conversation following the program. The Carneys will provide the main dish; please bring side dishes or dessert to share. ~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOST:

Bruce Carney
Carney Family Farms
13602 NE 96th Street
Maxwell, IA 50161
(515) 387-8769 – (home)
(515) 202-7326 – (cell)
carneyfarms50@yahoo.com
www.carneyfamilyfarms.com

DESCRIPTION:

Interested in water management? Bruce Carney was inspired to install a permaculture swale system after attending a workshop taught by Greg Judy and Mark Shepard. Bruce will walk us through the swale-design process, and discuss his future plans to incorporate fruit and nut trees. Luke Gran, forester and owner of Prudenterra, will be there to answer questions related to planting diverse perennials, and will walk participants through the Web Soil Survey, demonstrating how soils determine species selection. Paul Miller, a local NRCS district conservationist, will speak about cost-share opportunities for these conservation practices. The Carneys will discuss their plans to incorporate these practices into an existing grazing system to diversify the operation, creating opportunities for family members who may want to come back home to farm.

TOPICS:

- Permaculture
- Grazing
- Swales
- Establishing trees
- Water management
- Cost-share programs



Bruce Carney

THE FARM:

Carney Family Farms includes 125 cow-calf pairs; a grass-finishing operation; and direct-marketing of beef, pork and chicken.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-35, take Exit 96 toward Elkhart / Polk City and turn east on NE 126th Avenue toward Elkhart. Go 5.6 miles, through Elkhart, to the T intersection and turn left on NE 72nd Street / NE Yoder Drive. Follow the curves in the road for about 1 mile; it will turn into NE 134th Avenue. Go 2.4 miles and turn left (north) on NE 96th Street; look for the first house on the west side of the road.

Note: The Carneys suggest using GPS, making the farm easy to find.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org,
(515) 232-5661 by **Wednesday, June 3**.

SPONSORS:

**Story County Soil and Water
Conservation District**



PRUDENTERRA

Lamb Production and Wholesale Marketing

SUNDAY, JUNE 7 | 3 – 8 p.m.

Stay for a potluck, with pork donated by Trubridge Foods and lamb burgers from Three Sisters Farm. Bring a side dish or dessert to share. If you want alcohol, BYOB for dinner and a dance following the meal. ~ No RSVPs Needed



HOST:

Ortrude Dial
Three Sisters Farm
2990 260th Ave.
Williams, IA 50271
(515) 708-1911
ortrude@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/ThreeSistersFarmInc

DESCRIPTION:

Three Sisters Farm raises 500 lambs a year for Superior Farms, a national distributor of American lamb. Ortrude keeps 75-100 replacement and expansion ewe lambs each year, and she'll teach us a lesson on sheep production and health. The sheep are fed home-grown, non-GMO grain, and Ortrude will discuss her future plans regarding non-GMO certification and the ability to sell to different markets, such as Whole Foods. Mark Tjernagel, a lamb buyer, will speak on lamb supply and demand for nationwide markets. The discussion will include pasture management, organic row crops, cover crops, small grain production and conservation practices Ortrude has incorporated. The farm tour will be followed by an antique tractor hayrack ride, a potluck dinner and a barn dance led by David and Mary Losure of Flying Pig Fiddle and Banjo.

TOPICS:

- Sheep health
- Lamb production and marketing
- Organic and non-GMO row crop production
- Small grains
- Cover crops
- Conservation



SPEAKERS:

- **Mark Tjernagel** – Tjernagel Family Livestock, lamb marketing

THE FARM:

Three Sisters Farm was started in 2003 with 25 Polypay ewes. The Dials now have 400 ewes and 700 acres at the headwaters of the Skunk River; 330 acres in row crops and the remainder in pasture. They rotationally graze and grow all their own hay and grain using a four-year rotation of corn, soy, oats and legumes.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-35, take Exit 139. Take County Road D41 west for one-half mile and turn right on Underwood Road (first gravel road on the right). Travel north 1 mile, then take a left on 260th Avenue. You'll go down a hill and up the next hill; the farm is the first on the left.

SPONSOR:



Multiple Benefits from Wetlands, Prairies and Cover Crops

MONDAY, JUNE 15 | 2 – 5 p.m.

HOSTS:

Frederick Martens

Anna MacDonald

1218 U.S. 169

Winterset, IA 50273

(515) 462-2961 ext. 3 – (Anna's office)

Anna.MacDonald@ia.nacdn.net

DESCRIPTION:

Frederick Martens will share his experience with cover crops and grid-sampling for variable-rate planting and fertilizer application. He will also lead a tour of his nitrate removal wetland and adjacent prairie currently being established. Anna MacDonald will discuss efforts to improve water quality in the Badger Creek Lake watershed. Matt Helmers of Iowa State University will talk about the role of conservation practices in reducing nitrate losses. Jessie Lowry, with the Blank Park Zoo, will speak about the zoo's Plant.Grow.Fly. initiative to increase the amount of pollinator habitat.

SPEAKERS:

- **Anna MacDonald** – Badger Creek Lake Watershed project coordinator
- **Jessie Lowry** – conservation manager at Blank Park Zoo, and coordinator for Plant.Grow.Fly. (www.plantgrowfly.com)
- **Matt Helmers** – professor in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at Iowa State University

THE FARM:

Frederick and his father farm 1,000 acres of crop ground near the headwaters of Badger Creek in northern Madison County. In the past few years they have constructed a CREP wetland, built terraces and



CREP Wetland at Martens farm



Prairie buffer at Martens farm

started using cover crops. They have also begun grid-sampling, and variable-rate planting and fertilizer application.

DIRECTIONS:

The farm is about 4 miles south of De Soto, or about 9 miles north of Winterset on U.S. 169. Look for a big, red barn on the east side of the highway.

SPONSORS:

Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District



Rotations: Organic and Conventional Grains and Cattle Grazing

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

IOWA LEARNING FARMS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Pizza provided

~ *RSVPs Requested for Meal*



HOSTS:

George and Steve Schaefer

2475 135th St.

Kalona, IA 52247

(319) 530-9560

laughingfarms@cloudburst9.net

DESCRIPTION:

George and Steve will show attendees how they use a rye cover crop, how oats are used in their organic rotation and how their rotational grazing system is set up. Steve Berger, a farmer from nearby Wellman, will also share information, and a representative from Washington County NRCS will also speak.

TOPICS:

- Long-term cover crop trial
- Raising oats
- Organic and conventional grain production
- Rotational grazing

THE FARM:

Brothers George and Steve Schaefer farm together near Kalona. The farm includes both conventional and organic practices, cover crops and a 140-head cow herd grazing on a rotational system. The Schaefers have received recognition for their conservation practices.



George Schaefer (center)

DIRECTIONS:

From Kalona: Go 2 miles south on state Route 1 and turn left (east) into Richmond. Go straight through the stop sign and then 2.5 miles to the farm.

From Riverside: Go south 1 mile, turn right on 130th Street and drive about 1.5 miles. When 130th Street intersects 135th Street, turn right (west) to the farm.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org,
(515) 232-5661 by **Friday, June 12.**

SPONSORS:

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 Terry & Sandy Frommelt
1334 252nd Avenue
Greeley, Iowa 52050
frommeltag@iowatelecom.net

CELL: (563) 920 3674
PI: (563) 925-2270 FAX: (563) 925-2018



Washington County Soil
and Water Conservation District

Summer Solstice Picnic on the Prairie

SATURDAY, JUNE 20 | 3 p.m. – Dark

Stay for a potluck following the program. Niman Ranch will provide hot dogs and brats; bring a local foods side dish or dessert to share. Bring your own beverages. ~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOST:

Paul Willis
Willis Farm
3319 140th St.
Thornton, IA 50479
(515) 681-2424
paulw@nimanranch.com

DESCRIPTION:

Celebrate the Summer Solstice by learning about pollinators and exploring the prairie at Paul Willis' farm. In addition to learning about the multiple benefits of restoring prairies, Paul will talk about his experience as a Niman Ranch pork producer. Speakers from University of Northern Iowa, Iowa State University and Grinnell College will share their knowledge about different aspects of the prairie.

SPEAKERS:

- **Laura Jackson** – Tallgrass Prairie Center, University of Northern Iowa
- **Elizabeth Hill** – Center for Prairie Studies, Grinnell College
- **Mary Harris** – Science-Based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairie Strips (STRIPS) project, Iowa State University

THE FARM:

Willis Farm includes 160 acres that have been in Wetland Reserve for 12 years, with prairie potholes and headwaters of the west fork of the Cedar River. Paul Willis is the founding hog farmer and manager of Niman Ranch Pork Company, established in



partnership with Bill Niman in 1998. He still lives and works on the farm where he grew up. His daughter, Sarah, works for Niman Ranch, helping to recruit more farmers who share the Niman Ranch philosophy of raising pigs.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-35, take Exit 180 toward Thornton and turn left onto 125th Street / Ash Street E toward Thornton. At the first stop sign, turn right onto South 1st Street, then left onto Larch Street / 125th Street. Continue about 2 miles west of town. Keep right onto 125th Street, going straight onto the gravel road. Turn right onto Eagle Avenue and go 1.5 miles, then turn left onto 140th Street and go about 1.5 miles; Willis Farm and prairie will be on the left.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org, (515) 232-5661 by **Wednesday, June 17.**

SPONSORS:



Conservation, Soil Health and On-Farm Energy

MONDAY, JUNE 22 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Iowa Pork Producers will prepare a pork chop lunch.

~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOST:

Steve McGrew

McGrew Brothers Farm

38843 Gaston Ave.

Emerson, IA 51533

(712) 370-5654

mcgrewbr@netins.net

DESCRIPTION:

Come learn about the numerous conservation measures Steve and his brothers have implemented on their farm in southwest Iowa, ranging from diverse cover crops to nutrient management. Attendees will also get to view a soil pit and discuss soil health issues. Steve will talk about the wind turbine they installed three years ago as a source of on-farm energy production.

SPEAKERS:

- Rick Bednarek – NRCS state soil scientist
- Colten Catterton – Green Cover Seeds
- Ryan Hammes – Ag Synergy

THE FARM:

Bill, Steve, David, Robert and their nephew, Billy J. McGrew, farm in southwest Iowa near Emerson, using no-till on a corn-soybean – and sometimes cover crop – rotation. They have been experimenting with cover crops off and on since 1993. They installed a wind turbine nearly three years ago.



Steve McGrew (on right)

DIRECTIONS:

Meet at the McGrew Brothers Farm shop.

From the intersection of U.S. 59 and U.S. 34 at

Emerson: Go 2 miles west on U.S. 34 and turn right (north) on 390th Street. Go 3 miles, turn left (west) on Gaston Avenue, then go one-quarter mile west to the farm; you can see the wind turbine from a distance.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org,
(515) 232-5661 by **Friday, June 19.**

SPONSOR:

**Mills County Soil and Water
Conservation District**

Practical Talk on Pasture and Row Crop Farming

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24 | 3 – 8 p.m.

Meal provided

~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOSTS:

Darwin Pierce

Whiterock Conservancy
Farm Manager

Rob Davis

Whiterock Conservancy
Conservation Lands Manager

Whiterock Conservancy

(712) 684-2697, ext. 114 – (office)

(319) 936-2115 – (cell)

landmanager@whiterockconservancy.org

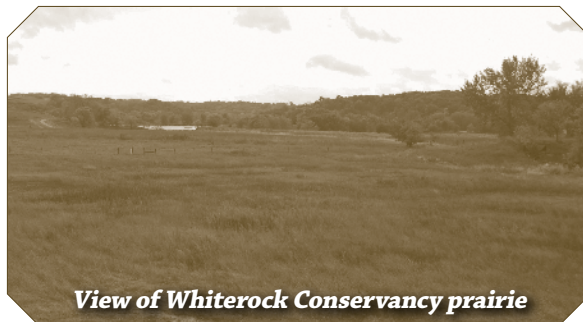
www.whiterockconservancy.org

NOTE: The field day will take place across the road from: 1564 125th St., with dinner at 1313 Fig. Ave., Coon Rapids, IA 50058

DESCRIPTION:

Whiterock Conservancy staff will lead a conversation on past and present grazing systems. For several decades, the pasture program had been based around rotational grazing, but in summer 2014, Darwin introduced high-density grazing into the pasture rotation program. Whiterock staff will outline future plans to expand this grazing program, as well as increase visitor interaction by grazing cattle through an expanded trail system that cuts through several pastures.

The conservancy also has an active row-crop program and, in recent years, has partnered with the Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) on a micro-watershed study looking at how planting perennials in waterways can improve water quality runoff – both tile and surface flow – in a no-till, contour farming corn-soybean rotation. ISA staff will discuss their findings, and Whiterock staff will outline their experiences with how to add prairie strips to a farm program. A representative from ISU's Science-Based Trials of Rowcrops Integrated with Prairie Strips (STRIPS) project will also be present to discuss the long-running project and its findings.



View of Whiterock Conservancy prairie

THE CONSERVANCY:

Whiterock Conservancy is an Iowa non-profit land trust dedicated to conserving and protecting Iowa's natural resources and engaging the public with the environment through outdoor recreation and education. Whiterock has a three part mission: (1) to protect and restore the area's natural resources and wild beauty; (2) to provide people of all ages with safe, meaningful and unique outdoor recreation and education experiences; and (3) to demonstrate and promote sustainable agriculture practices that respect the land, clean the water and improve the soil.

DIRECTIONS:

From Des Moines: From I-35 / I-80 at the northwest corner of Des Moines, exit onto state Route 141 toward Perry. Whiterock Conservancy is 6 miles west of Bayard on Route 141.

From Ames: From I-35 in Ames, go west on U.S. 30 for 50 miles. At Scranton, turn left (south) onto state Route 25, then right (west) on Route 141 at Bayard. Whiterock is 6 miles west of Bayard, on Route 141.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org or (515) 232-5661 by

Friday, June 19.

SPONSOR:



Farm Production: Corn, Soybeans, Solar and Wind

THURSDAY, JUNE 25 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Lunch will be provided.

~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOST:

David Ausberger
1647 170th St.
Jefferson, IA 50129

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Stefan Gailans
Practical Farmers of Iowa
(515) 232-5661
stefan@practicalfarmers.org

DESCRIPTION:

Curious about on-farm energy, farm automation or soil health? Attend this field day to learn about all these and more. See a farm shop powered by solar, and learn how the shop, grain bin and other processes are automated and monitored by a Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC) system.

TOPICS:

- Soil and Water Conservation District's soil health demonstration unit
- On-farm energy: solar panels and wind turbine

SPEAKERS:

- Terry Becker – T&B Grain Services, LLC
- Randy Skeie – Harvest Energy



David Ausberger

THE FARM:

The Ausberger farm is a no-till operation producing food and energy via corn, soybeans, solar and wind.

DIRECTIONS:

From the intersection of U.S. 30 and state Route 4, go 4 miles north on Route 4, then 2 miles east on 170th Street (County Road E26). The farm is on the south side of the road.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org,
(515) 232-5661 by **Monday, June 22.**

SPONSORS:



**Greene County Soil and
Water Conservation District**

Hands-On High-Tensile Fence-Building Workshop

SATURDAY, JUNE 27 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Lunch will be provided.

~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOSTS:

Ryan and Janice Marquardt

Wild Rose Pastures

2342 105th St.

Van Meter, IA 50261

(515) 460-7150 – (Janice cell)

(515) 460-8150 – (Ryan cell)

wildrosepastures@gmail.com

www.wildrosepastures.com

DESCRIPTION:

Join the Marquardts for a hands-on high-tensile fence-building workshop and lunch. They will cover the basics of corner construction, running high-tensile line, grounding and the best places to source (and not source) materials for building high-tensile fence. Ryan has been building high-tensile fence using a variety of construction methods (H-frame, floating corners, different strainer types, wood or fiberglass posts) for eight years on two different farms. He can also discuss what to look for in energizers for high-tensile fence, including when running electrified net fencing off energized high-tensile lines. After the discussion, the group will break for lunch. Bring work gloves (and clothes you can get muddy) if you want to try your hand at construction!

THE FARM:

Wild Rose Pastures was started in 2007 north of Pella, and moved to its current location near Van Meter in late 2014. Ryan and Janice just moved onto this family farm; Ryan is the fifth generation to farm it. Ryan and Janice purchased 20 of the farm's 800 acres in 2013, and just finished building a house this year. The Marquardts direct-market pastured chicken, turkey, eggs and 100 percent grass-fed beef.



Ryan Marquardt (on left)

DIRECTIONS:

From I-80: Take the Adel exit (U.S. 169) south 2 miles to 105th Street (you'll see a large radio antenna). Turn east on 105th Street and go 1.5 miles; you'll see a green-and-white Cleary building on a hill.

From the south (Winterset): Go north on U.S. 169 to 105th Street (you'll see a large radio antenna). Turn east on 105th Street and go 1.5 miles; you'll see a green-and-white Cleary building on a hill.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org,
(515) 232-5661 by **Wednesday, June 24.**

Collaborative CSAs: Some Assembly Required

MONDAY, JULY 6 | 4 – 7 p.m.

Refreshments provided

HOST:

Morgan Hoenig

Mogo Farms

2542 Iowa Ave.

Mount Pleasant, IA 52641

(319) 931-1458

mogoorganic@gmail.com

www.mogoorganic.com

DESCRIPTION:

In 2013, beginning farmer Morgan Hoenig joined with four other local producers to form Green Share LLC, a collaborative CSA in eastern Iowa. Hear from Morgan and Shanti Sellz of Muddy Miss Farms about the start-up process, the benefits and management of a collaborative CSA, as well as the roadblocks they've encountered along the way.

THE FARM:

Morgan Hoenig started her farm, Mogo Farms, in 2008 after being discouraged by the lack of fresh, organic produce available in her farming community. She determined to help fill that void by growing her own. The farm has grown exponentially every year. Mogo Farms now has two high-tunnel greenhouses and 6 acres of produce. The old 1890s barn has been renovated and turned into a retail space and pack house with a CoolBot cooler.



Shanti Sellz and Morgan Hoenig

DIRECTIONS:

From Mt. Pleasant: Follow Main Street south out of town. Main Street turns into Iowa Avenue. The farm is located 1 mile south of the city limits, at the bottom of the hill. Look for a brown barn on the east side of the road with large, metal letters spelling "MOGO" on the north side of the barn.

Learning Together: Evaluating a Cover Crop Terminator

TUESDAY, JULY 7 | 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Light refreshments provided

HOSTS:

Doug Alert and Margaret Smith

Ash Grove Farm

1814 135th St. (Reeve Township)

Hampton, IA 50441

(641) 456-4328

mrgsmith@iastate.edu – (Margaret)

ashgrove@wmtel.net – (Doug)

DESCRIPTION:

Doug Alert and Margaret Smith have used cover crops in their organic crop rotation for years. Recently, they've wondered about alternatives to tilling to terminate cover crops. At this field day, you will view the results of using a modified rolling cornstalk chopper to crimp and terminate hairy vetch before corn, and cereal rye before soybeans. You'll get to evaluate this method and weigh in on whether it is worthy of broader adoption. Doug and Margaret will also discuss transitioning to organic production. Following this, participants may travel to another field site to view and discuss first-year transition to organic, and non-winter hardy cover crops (Southern Belle red clover and crimson clover) in oats.

THE FARM:

Doug Alert and Margaret Smith operate Ash Grove Farm, where they raise and market organic-feed corn and soybeans; organic-seed soybeans, rye and oats; and hay. They also run a cow herd and market calves through conventional markets. They have two teens sons; one farrow-to-finishes pigs, marketed through Niman Ranch; the other raises a flock of Katahdin sheep.



Doug Alert and Margaret Smith

DIRECTIONS:

From Hampton: Drive 1.5 miles east on state Route 3 to Raven Avenue. Head south 1.25 miles on Raven Avenue to 135th Street. The farm is one-tenth of a mile east on 135th Street.

SPONSORS:

**Franklin County
Soil and Water
Conservation District**

MIDWEST ORGANIC
& Sustainable Education Service
MOSES



Cover Crops: What, How and When?

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Lunch will be provided.

~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOSTS:

Jack and Marion Boyer

J Boyer Farms Inc.

1031 County Road T55

Reinbeck, IA 50699

(319) 345-2265

jboyerfarms@gmail.com



Jack and Marion Boyer

DESCRIPTION:

Lifetime Practical Farmers members Jack and Marion Boyer invite those interested in learning more about cover crops in corn-soybean systems to visit their farm. Jack grows seed corn for Dupont Pioneer and has been experimenting with different cover crop seeding dates in the spring and fall into standing corn, as well as different cover crop termination dates prior to growing soybeans. Jack is also investigating the performance of non-Bt corn following a cover crop. Attendees will learn about N-WATCH, a soil-testing program to track nitrogen in the soil, launched by Illinois Council on Best Management Practices. Equipment to seed covers into standing crops will also be on display

TOPICS:

- Cover crop planting and termination date trials
- Non-Bt corn following a cover crop
- N-WATCH sampling for nitrogen movement
- Aerial photos of erosion and crop monitoring
- Possible discussion of robots for seeding cover crops

SPEAKERS:

- Bob Recker – Cedar Valley Innovation
- Staff from Heartland Coop
- Staff from Iowa Soybean Association

THE FARM:

J Boyer Farms Inc. is a third-generation Century Farm. The Boyers grow seed corn, field corn and soybeans, and have been integrating cover crops into the fields for the last four years. They are beginning to see the benefits, but are still looking for quantifiable financial and environmental benefits. Their goal: to leave the farm in as good or better condition than when they started farming.

DIRECTIONS:

From U.S. 20 at Dike, turn south on County Road T55 and go 11.5 miles; the Boyers' house is the second on the east side of the road, just south of the Grundy County line.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org, (515) 232-5661 by **Thursday, July 2.**

SPONSORS:

Grundy County Soil and
Water Conservation District



Optimizing the Herd Through Grass-Fed Genetics

MONDAY, JULY 13 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Grilled hamburgers will be provided for lunch. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. ~ No RSVPs Needed

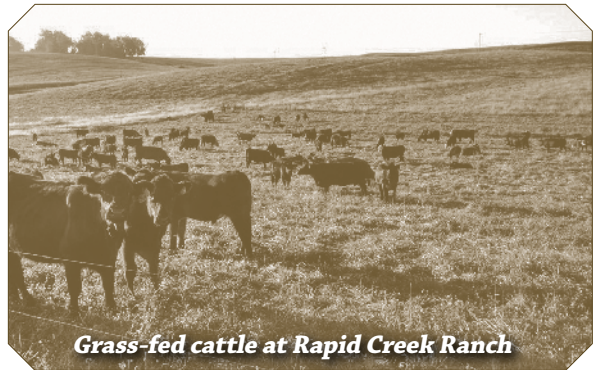


HOSTS:

Doug Darrow and Justin Wade
Rapid Creek Ranch
3727 Calkins Ave. SW
Oxford, IA 52322
(319) 330-1368
doug@rapidcreekranch.com
justin@rapidcreekranch.com
<http://rapidcreekranch.com>

DESCRIPTION:

Over the last 20 years, Doug has transitioned his conventional row crop farm into pasture that supports mob-grazed, grass-fed beef cattle. Doug will discuss his recent purchase of two Pharo bulls and his breeding plan for optimizing grass-based genetics in his Angus herd. Pat Wall, beef specialist from ISU Extension, will share his expertise on genetic selection and carcass quality. Discussion will focus on paddock layouts, intensive grazing and a demonstration of the farm's cattle-handling facilities. Justin, Doug's son, will also discuss the broiler and layer operation, and how the poultry flock is incorporated into the grazing system. The morning session will provide an overview. After a noon lunch break, those interested in sticking around will participate in a more in-depth discussion.



TOPICS:

- Genetics
- Livestock handling facilities
- Mob grazing
- Pastured poultry

THE FARM:

Rapid Creek Ranch encompasses 160 acres of grass used to produce grass-fed beef, free-range chicken and free-range eggs. Eighty acres of the total were rescued from row crop production three years ago.

DIRECTIONS:

Take Exit 230 off I-80. Head south for 2 miles on Blackhawk Avenue; go to a stop sign. Turn left (east) on IWV road and drive for approximately one-half mile. Turn left onto Calkins Avenue and watch for field day signs.

SPONSOR:



A Vegetable Farm Start-Up: The First 5 Years

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15 | 3 – 6 p.m.

Supper catered by *The Depot (Missouri Valley)* after the program.

~ **RSVPs Required**, as there is a maximum registration of 40 attendees.



HOST:

Danelle Myer

One Farm

2771 Quentin Trail

Logan, IA 51546

(402) 612-7816

onefarmer@one-farm.com

www.one-farm.com

DESCRIPTION:

Learn about beginning farmer Danelle Myer's experiences in starting a diverse vegetable and herb farm near Logan. Out of a desire to produce local, healthy food, Danelle began the transition from her career (in public relations and marketing in Omaha) to One Farm in 2010. Enjoy a tour of One Farm and learn how Danelle created a business plan, established marketing outlets, availed herself of mentors and is settling into the first year at a new growing site – her own farm. In addition, she will share details about the biggest opportunities captured during the 2015 growing season. Friends, family, volunteers and farm crew members will also be onsite.

SPEAKERS:

- **Natalia Bjorkland** – horticulture educator, Nebraska Extension Service

THE FARM:

One Farm uses agroecology and authentic farming practices to cultivate and directly sell chemical-free vegetables and herbs that nourish, inspire and unite neighbors within a 50-mile radius of Logan, Iowa.



Danelle Myer

DIRECTIONS:

From Omaha / Sioux City: From I-29, exit at Missouri Valley (U.S. 30). Follow U.S. 30 east toward Logan. About 2.5 miles outside Missouri Valley, turn right (east) onto County Road F58 toward Persia. Go through Overton Avenue (Co Rd L34) to Quentin Trail (a gravel road; look for a little, white church on the left) and turn left. The farm is about 2 miles on the left as you approach the top of a hill.

From Des Moines: From I-80, take I-680 toward North Omaha. Take the Logan / Beebeetown exit and turn left (north) onto Co Rd L34 (Overton Avenue). Follow through Beebeetown and continue north. Turn right (east) onto Co Rd F58 and follow to Quentin Trail (a gravel road; look for the little white church on the left) and turn left. The farm is about 2 miles on the left as you approach the top of a hill.

RSVP TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org, (515) 232-5661 by **Friday, July 10**.

SPONSORS:



Cover Crops in Corn in July: Will They Make It to the Fall?

THURSDAY, JULY 16 | 5 – 8 p.m.

Grilled meal provided

~ *RSVPs Requested for Meal*



HOSTS:

Jon Kiel

Kirk Den Herder

Denny Vande Brake

Verity Farms

(712) 737-2010 – (home)

(712) 441-0264 – (cell)

jkiel@verityfarms.com

START LOCATION:

This event begins at the Kirk Den Herder farm

3367 420th St.

Orange City, IA 51041

DESCRIPTION:

This year, farmers Jon Kiel, Kirk Den Herder and Denny Vande Brake are trying something different: seeding various cover crop species into their corn when the corn is 6 to 8 inches tall. We'll be taking a look at what has germinated, and ponder what species might persist beneath the corn canopy and provide cover into the fall and next spring.

TOPICS:

- Early-seeded cover crops
- Various mixtures

SPEAKERS:

- Colten Catterton – Green Cover Seeds

THE FARMS:

Kirk Den Herder raises corn and soybeans using no-till and strip-till techniques. He has been farming biologically for 15 years. Incorporating cover crops into his operation is his next step.

Denny Vande Brake has been farming biologically for 20+ years and is also now introducing cover crops. Denny raises non-GMO corn and soybeans.



Jon Kiel



Kirk Den Herder

DIRECTIONS:

To Kirk's farm from Sioux Center: Take U.S. 75 south out of town for 1 mile to 420th Street. Go 2.5 miles east on 420th Street to the farm, which is on the south side of road (park on the road).

To Kirk's farm from the south: From the intersection of state Route 10 and U.S. 75, go 3 miles north on U.S. 75 to 420th Street. Go 2.5 miles east on 420th Street; the farm is on the south side (park on the road).

To Denny's farm from Kirk's farm: Head 2.5 miles west on 420th to U.S. 75. Go 2 miles south to 440th Street, then three-quarters of a mile west on 440th Street. The farm is on the south side (park on the road).

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org,
(515) 232-5661 by **Monday, July 13.**

SPONSOR:

WALLACES
FARMER

Goats and Compost Partner for Soil Health

SATURDAY, JULY 18 | 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Lunch provided

~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOST:

Chad Steenhoek

Goats on the Go

(515) 203-0072

info@goatsonthego.com

chad.steenhoek@secompost.com

www.goatsonthego.com; www.secompost.com

START LOCATION (Part 1: Steenhoek Farms):

3892 N. 500th Ave.

Ames, IA 50014

END LOCATION (Part 2: Hansen farm):

955 230th St.

Ogden, IA 50212

DESCRIPTION:

This field day starts at Steenhoek Farms with a tour of Chad's farming and composting operation. Chad will demonstrate the Steenhoek Environmental Liquid Compost Extract machine, as well as other equipment, and will share new methods for planting cover crops with compost and with the extractor machine. After lunch, the group will travel a few miles west to the farm of Raymond Hansen; Goats on the Go is assisting with a grant project on this farm.

Raymond was awarded a SARE grant to compare the effects of goat grazing, prescribed burning and the combination of grazing and burning on invasive multiflora rose and honeysuckle. Raymond has contracted with Goats on the Go to provide goats and strategic advice on the grazing portion of the project. Attendees will be able to see the property at the end of the grazing phase, and compare the results to the surrounding untreated landscape.



SPEAKERS:

- **Aaron Steele** – co-owner of Goats on the Go

THE FARM:

The Steenhoek Farm specializes in several unique yet complementary businesses. On the farm, 20 to 40 goats are raised and bred for Goats on the Go. Steenhoek Environmental then uses the manure to make high-quality compost, and rain-garden and planting mixes. A yard waste site is also at this location. The farm also has ornamental grasses for sale. Other farm animals include hogs, chickens, ducks, rabbits and dogs.

DIRECTIONS:

Steenhoek Farms is located about 5 miles north of U.S. 30 on 500th Avenue (County Road R53), just north of Ames.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org, (515) 232-5661 by **Wednesday, July 15.**

SPONSORS:



**Story County
Soil and Water
Conservation
District**

RAGBRAI with PFI in Storm Lake

SUNDAY, JULY 19 | 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Enjoy fresh, local foods.



HOSTS:

Marv and Kit Munden
6216 State Route 110
Storm Lake, IA 50588

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Erica Andorf
Practical Farmers of Iowa
(515) 232-5661
erica@practicalfarmers.org

DESCRIPTION:

Join Practical Farmers of Iowa for fresh, local food and refreshments, and networking on day two of the great ride across Iowa. We will be set up along Marv and Kit Munden's driveway to meet cyclists with healthy snacks, and discuss agriculture, farming, local food production and land stewardship in Iowa. PFI staff will be on hand to serve refreshments to cyclists and anyone else who wants to stop by.



DIRECTIONS:

From U.S. 20 E: Turn left on state Route 31 North. Continue to 61st Street and turn right on state Route 110 South / 85th Avenue.

From U.S. 20 W: Turn right on Gard Avenue / 90th Avenue. Turn left on 630th Street, then right on Route 110 / 85th Avenue.

On-Farm Safety for Agritourism and U-Pick

SUNDAY JULY 19 | 2 – 5 p.m.

Stay for a hot dog cookout and farm vegetables after the program.

~ *RSVPs Requested for Meal*



HOST:

Kathy, Adam and Julie Hohl

Harvestville Farm

1977 State Route 2

Donnellson, IA 52625

(319) 470-1558

info@harvestvillefarm.com

www.harvestvillefarm.com

DESCRIPTION:

Do you invite the public to your farm for tours, U-pick, a fruit or vegetable roadside stand, or an agritourism event? Ever worry that people will get hurt or end up where they aren't supposed to be? During this field day, join the Hohls and Brandi Janssen, of the Iowa Center for Agricultural Safety and Health (I-CASH), on a safety walk-through of the Harvestville Farm agritourism operation. Learn about problem areas and discuss best practices for keeping your guests – and your farm – safe.

TOPICS:

- Conducting a farm-safety walk-through
- Farm visitor safety
- Agritourism and liability
- Guest parking
- Emergency plans
- Safety signs

THE FARM:

Harvestville Farm is part of a fifth-generation family farm located in southeastern Iowa. For more than 100 years, the family has striven to maintain an ecologically friendly farm; family members firmly



Kathy, Adam and Julie Hohl

believe in being good stewards of the land. Their mission is to provide a fun, safe, educationally based rural experience for families by offering unique, hands-on agricultural-related activities.

DIRECTIONS:

Harvestville Farm is located 1.2 miles east of Donnellson on state Route 2. Take Exit 19 (east) from state Route 27 (Avenue of the Saints). Harvestville Farm is 1 mile from the exit on the left (north) side of the road.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org, (515) 232-5661 by **Thursday, July 16**.

Cover Crops 101 to 401 and Everything In Between

WED. JULY 22 | 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Breakfast provided at 7:30 a.m. and lunch provided at 12:30 p.m.

~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOSTS:

Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District
Grundy County Extension & Outreach Service

LOCATION:

Grundy County Fairgrounds
1308 4th St.

Grundy Center, IA 50638

(319) 824-6979 – (ISU Extension)

(319) 824-3634 – (Grundy County NRCS / SWCD)

(319) 640-2002 – (Fred Abel's cell)

sellbakk@iastate.edu – (ISU Extension)

denise.freeseaman@ia.nacdn.net – (NRCS / SWCD)

farmerfred1981@hotmail.com – (Fred Abels)

DESCRIPTION:

Soil health and cover crop workshops are coming to the Grundy County Fair this year! The day starts at 7:30 a.m. with the Tri County Ag meeting. Eat a hot breakfast and hear the grain market update from ISU Extension's Steve Johnson and IPTV's "Market to Market" host Mike Pearson, then hear from Steve about his take on the crop lease outlook for 2015-16. At 9 a.m., Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey will start the soil health workshops. You'll learn from experts about cover crops and livestock usage; herbicide considerations; aerial seeding; new overseeding machinery for ground application; cover crop seed selection; and how can cover crops fit best with seed corn, and with corn and soybean production. End the event with a hearty lunch to get you ready to make your fall cover crop decisions.



SPEAKERS:

- Visit <http://practicalfarmers.org> for the full list of topics and speakers (several are Practical Farmers members!).

DIRECTIONS:

The Grundy County Fairgrounds is located in Grundy Center, about five blocks south of the junction of state Routes 14 and 175.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org, (515) 232-5661 by **Friday, July 17**.

SPONSOR:



Establishing On-Farm Pollinator Habitat

SATURDAY, JULY 25 | 2 – 5 p.m.

Snacks provided after the program.



HOST:

**Nate Kemperman and friends
Mustard Seed Farm**

366 W Ave.

Ames, IA 50014

(515) 231-2002

natekemperman@hotmail.com

www.mustardseedfarm.org

DESCRIPTION:

Mustard Seed Farm has used a variety of strategies for on-farm pollinator habitat, including 5 acres of tallgrass prairie buffers, a beneficial insect bank, prairie gardens, perennial strips in annual vegetable beds, flowering trees and shrubs, and annual flowers. This field day will focus on incorporating pollinator habitat into annual and perennial food production.

You'll get to tour and discuss these habitats – and you're encouraged to bring your own ideas to compare and discuss as well! Insect activity should be good at this time of day and year to see the habitat at work. Ai Wen from University of Northern Iowa, and Will Osterholz from Iowa State University, will discuss Mustard Seed's on-farm pollinator research. There may also be a few short presentations by farm members, and potentially a native bee house-making workshop.

Call for these details as the date approaches.

TOPICS:

- Establishing prairie
- Prairie gardens
- Prairie management
- Perennial habitat in annual production
- Pollinator diversity
- On-farm pollinator research



Mustard Seed Community Farm

THE FARM:

Guided by faith and ethics, Mustard Seed Farm is an all-volunteer community farm dedicated to sustainable living, love of neighbor, land stewardship and creating an environment in which everyone can participate in growing and eating delicious, healthy, locally produced food. Located north of Ames, Mustard Seed includes a small CSA and provides food for low-income families, shelters and soup kitchens in the area.

DIRECTIONS:

Mustard Seed Farm is located 16 miles northwest of Ames. From I-35, take Exit 123. Head west on 130th Avenue for 8.5 miles, then turn south onto W Avenue. In seven-tenths of a mile, Mustard Seed Farm will be on the east side of the road.

SPONSORS:

**Boone County Soil and
Water Conservation District**



Managing Prairie with Bison and Fire

TUESDAY, JULY 28 | 1 – 4 p.m.

HOST:

Mike DeCook
DeCook Ranch
1145 540th Ave.
Lovilia, IA 50150
(641) 946-7226
mdecook8@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION:

Come hear Mike DeCook talk about his year-round bison grazing operation. He works hard on his farm to promote grazing and wildlife together, through a number of different management practices. Researchers and prairie experts from Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, Iowa State University and Grinnell College will join to talk about prairie management, prairies on working lands, the benefits of prairies, pollinators and more.

TOPICS:

- Pollinators • Prairies • Bison grazing

SPEAKERS:

- **Matt O'Neal** – Iowa State University
- **Lisa Schulte-Moore** – Iowa State University
- **Elizabeth Hill** – Center for Prairie Studies, Grinnell College
- **Joe McGovern** – Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation

THE FARM:

Mike DeCook has an organic, grass-fed bison herd in the rolling hills of southern Iowa. He has been using fire and managed grazing to restore native prairie plants in his pastures. He also has year-round grazing, and a custom cattle grazing operation.



Mike DeCook



Bison at DeCook Ranch

DIRECTIONS:

From Attica, head south on County Road G76 for 1.5 miles. Turn left on Van Buren Drive for 200 yards, then turn right on 170th Street for 2.5 miles. After passing a covered bridge, you'll come to a T intersection (County Road H16); turn left. In one-eighth of a mile, you'll see a brown barn on the left side of the road.

SPONSORS:



**Monroe County
Soil and Water
Conservation District**

Farm Equipment 101 and Demonstration

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2 | 3 – 5 p.m.

Stay for a potluck following the field day. The Franzenburgs will provide pulled pork sandwiches. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, and your own tableware. ~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOSTS:

Eric and Ann Franzenburg
Pheasant Run Farm
6925 19th Ave.
Van Horne, IA 52346
(319) 228-8758
eafra@netins.net
www.pheasantrunfarmiowa.com

DESCRIPTION:

Eric and Ann Franzenburg use a diverse set of farm equipment – both large and small – to manage their farm. Join them as they demonstrate how to use machinery, implements and tools, and discuss how each is employed within the farm enterprises. Participants will be able to try out tools in the field. Eric and Ann will also provide an overview of tractor safety for beginners.

TOPICS:

- Tractors 101 and safety
- Raised bed maker
- Reigi weeder
- Hydrostat tractor
- Other tractors (36-105 hp)
- Three-point customized transplanter
- High tunnel hand tools and seeders
- High tunnel bed prep
- Irrigation infrastructure

THE FARM:

Eric and Ann Franzenburg returned to Eric's family farm in 1992, where the family produced corn, soybeans and hogs. They have since added many enterprises to the farm, including medicinal herbs,



Eric and Ann Franzenburg

cut flowers, berries and vegetables. The farm has five greenhouses heated with a corn boiler and an unheated high tunnel, as well as field crops and hogs.

DIRECTIONS:

From the east: From U.S. 30, turn right (north) on U.S. 218 and drive 3 miles. Turn left (west) on County Road E44 / 70th Street. Travel through the town of Van Horne and, in about 1.5 miles, turn right (north) on 19th Avenue (gravel). The farm is the first on the left side of the road (you'll see the greenhouses).

From the west: From U.S. 30, turn left (north) on state Route 200 and travel through Keystone. Just north of town, turn right (east) on County Road E44 / 70th Street; go about 5 miles and turn left on 19th Avenue.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org, (515) 232-5661 by **Thursday, July 30**.

SPONSOR:

**Benton County Soil and
Water Conservation District**

Bus Trip to Gabe Brown's Ranch in North Dakota

MONDAY, AUG. 3 – THURSDAY, AUG. 6

This event is only open to PFI members. If you are interested in going but are not currently a member, visit our website (practicalfarmers.org) for membership information. Seating is limited, so reserve your spot early!

Registration cost, including lodging, per person:
A 2-person shared room is \$260 / person. A 3-person shared room is \$200 / person.



Gabe Brown

HOST:

Gabe Brown – Brown's Ranch
Jay Fuhrer – Menoken Farm
3752 106th St. NE
Bismarck, ND 58503
www.brownsranch.us

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Meghan Filbert
Practical Farmers of Iowa
(515) 232-5661
meghan@practicalfarmers.org

DESCRIPTION:

Join Practical Farmers on a bus trip to Burleigh County, North Dakota. There, we will spend two days learning about soil health, cover crops and grazing with a full-day tour of Gabe Brown's ranch followed by a hands-on workshop and tour with Jay Fuhrer at the Menoken farm.

TOPICS:

- Soil health
- Cover crops
- Grazing

DETAILS:

Ames Departure: The bus will leave at 10 a.m. from Quality Inn & Suites Starlite Village Conference Center (2601 E. 13th St.). *Note: Please park on the east or west sides of the building, not in the front.*

Clear Lake Departure: The bus will leave at 11:45 a.m. from Pilot Travel Center (2411 U.S. 18 E).

Food: Snacks will be provided for the bus trip, but lunch during travel is not included in the registration fee. The trip is nine hours each way, so you might want to bring extra food. There will be space for coolers on the bus if you want to pack food.

Breakfast is included with the hotel, but dinner is your responsibility (restaurants are nearby, and sleeping rooms are furnished with refrigerators). Lunch will be provided during both Gabe's and Jay's tours.

TO REGISTER:

Visit <http://practicalfarmers.org>

Northern Pear Cultivars, Rootstocks and Orchard Floor Management

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11 | 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.

A potluck will follow the program, with the main dish provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and your own table service. ~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOSTS:

Perry-O and David Sliwa
Sliwa Meadow Farm
2682 Lannon Hill Rd.
Decorah, IA 52101
(563) 382-3922
psliwa@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION:

This field day will feature an orchard walk looking at and discussing the pear cultivars and rootstocks growing at Sliwa Meadow Farm. Perry-O and David will discuss management practices mimicking forest-edge ecology used to bolster the health and productivity of fruit trees.

TOPICS:

- Northern pear cultivars
- Pear rootstocks
- Soil biology and soil foodweb
- Mycorrhizal fungi
- Dynamic accumulators

THE FARM:

Sliwa Meadow Farm is an off-the-grid homestead that has been powered by the wind and sun for 35 years. It features a passive solar home; 3 acres of orchard; and 2 acres of market gardens producing vegetables, small fruits and flowers. Perry-O and David also host Hannah Breckbill, a beginning farmer and PFI Savings Incentive Program participant who operates Humble Hands Harvest.



Perry-O and David Sliwa

DIRECTIONS:

From the intersection of College Drive and Locust Road in Decorah: Go north on Locust Road exactly 4 miles. Turn right (east) onto Canoe Ridge Road. After 3.5 miles, turn right (south) onto Lannon Hill Road. The farm driveway is on the left, second-to-the-last before the dead end.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org,
(515) 232-5661 by **Friday, August 7.**

SPONSOR:

**Winneshiek County Soil and
Water Conservation District**

Crop Diversity and Grazing Livestock for Soil Health

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Niman Ranch will provide brats and hot dogs for lunch. ~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOST:

Bill Frederick
2443-2499 Neola Ave. (state Route 4)
Jefferson, IA 50129



(Note: This address is not Bill's home farm. GPS coordinates are 41.867346, -94.367020)

(515) 370-5781
874bill@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION:

Bill will showcase how he pairs crop and livestock management on his farm. He will describe growing small grains and how, after harvesting the grain for seed, he then plants the field with a diverse cover crop forage mix for grazing cattle. Attendees will see cattle grazing on this mix and observe forage growth where the cattle have not yet grazed. Bill will also discuss how this technique provides a rest for permanent pastures while extending the life of the pastures. The field day will also feature a demonstration with the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District's soil health unit – which is sure to spur a discussion on soils.

TOPICS:

- Small grains production (with Jefferson-area farmer Scott Shriver)
- Cover crop mixes
- Grazing cover crops
- Soil health



THE FARM:

Bill Frederick farms about 600 acres of crop ground. He also calves around 100 cows and feeds out 150 feeder calves annually. The field day will focus on a 14-acre field, currently planted to rye, that will be harvested for seed, then replanted with a forage mix. The field is adjacent to a pasture and provides a way to extend pasture life.

DIRECTIONS:

From Jefferson, head about 10 miles south on state Route 4. The field is on the east side of the highway, one-half mile north of the Guthrie County line, between 330th and 340th streets.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org,
(515) 232-5661 by **Friday, August 14.**

SPONSORS:

Greene County Soil and
Water Conservation District



Map of Field Day Locations

1. JUNE 6 | MAXWELL

Planning for a Permaculture Swale System on Pasture

2. JUNE 7 | WILLIAMS

Lamb Production and Wholesale Marketing

3. JUNE 15 | WINTERSET

Multiple Benefits from Wetlands, Prairies and Cover Crops

4. JUNE 17 | KALONA

Rotations: Organic and Conventional Grains and Cattle Grazing

5. JUNE 20 | THORNTON

Summer Solstice Picnic on the Prairie

6. JUNE 22 | EMERSON

Conservation, Soil Health and On-Farm Energy

7. JUNE 24 | COON RAPIDS

Practical Talk on Pasture and Row Crop Farming

8. JUNE 25 | JEFFERSON

Farm Production: Corn, Soybeans, Solar and Wind

9. JUNE 27 | VAN METER

Hands-On High-Tensile Fence-Building Workshop

10. JULY 6 | MOUNT PLEASANT

Collaborative CSAs: Some Assembly Required

11. JULY 7 | HAMPTON

Learning Together: Evaluating a Cover Crop Terminator

12. JULY 8 | REINBECK

Cover Crops: What, How and When?

13. JULY 13 | OXFORD

Optimizing the Herd Through Grass-Fed Genetics

14. JULY 15 | LOGAN

A Vegetable Farm Start-Up: The First 5 Years

15. JULY 16 | ORANGE CITY

Cover Crops in Corn in July: Will They Make It to the Fall?

16. JULY 18 | AMES, OGDEN

Goats and Compost Partner for Soil Health

17. JULY 19 | STORM LAKE

RAGBRAI with PFI in Storm Lake

18. JULY 19 | DONNELLSON

On-Farm Safety for Agritourism and U-Pick

19. JULY 22 | GRUNDY CENTER

Cover Crops 101 to 401 and Everything In Between

20. JULY 25 | AMES

Establishing On-Farm Pollinator Habitat

21. JULY 28 | LOVILIA

Managing Prairie with Bison and Fire

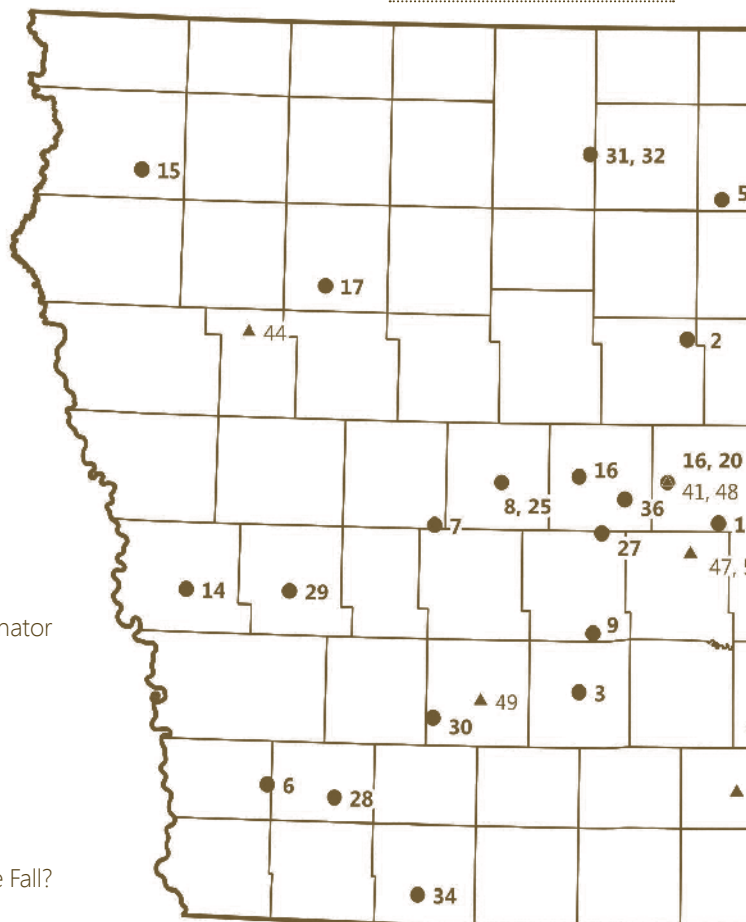
22. AUGUST 2 | VAN HORNE

Farm Equipment 101 and Demonstration

MAP KEY

● = PFI Events

▲ = Non-PFI Partner Events



23. AUGUST 3 - 6 | BISMARCK, N.D.

Bus Trip to Gabe Brown's Ranch in North Dakota
(Note: This number is not on the map)

24. AUGUST 11 | DECORAH

Northern Pear Cultivars, Rootstocks and Orchard Floor Management

25. AUGUST 19 | JEFFERSON

Crop Diversity and Grazing Livestock for Soil Health

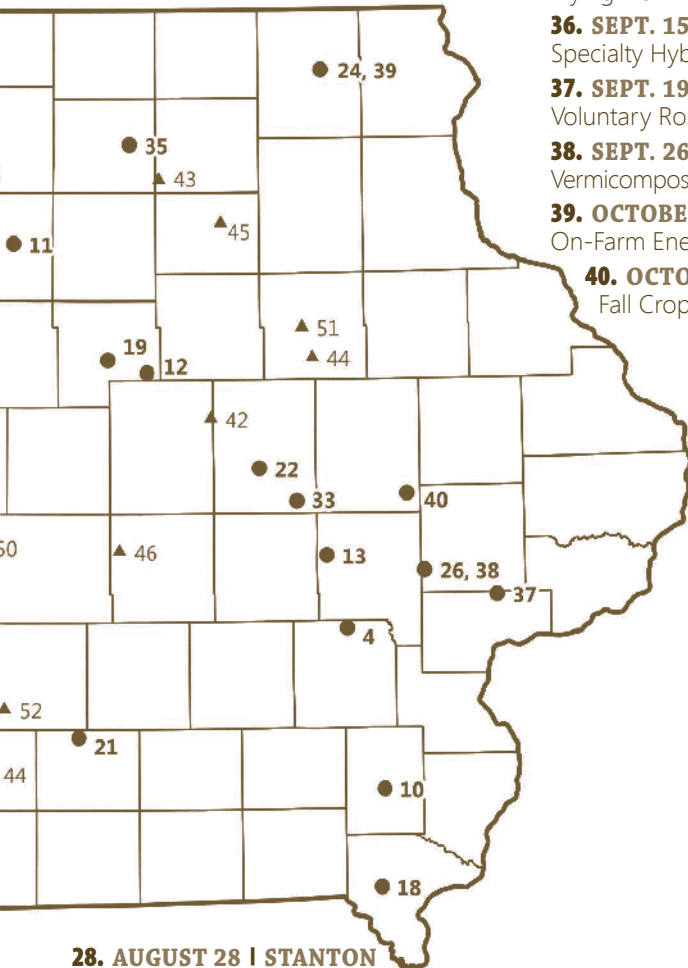
26. AUGUST 21 | WEST BRANCH

Getting Started with Pasture-Based Livestock

27. AUGUST 26 | WOODWARD

Propagating Native Trees and Shrubs for Your Farm

Map of Field Day Locations



34. SEPT. 8 | BEDFORD

Integrating Cash Crops, Cover Crops and Livestock

35. SEPT. 12 | CHARLES CITY

Trying New Things: Cover Crops, Organic and Livestock

36. SEPT. 15 | LUTHER

Specialty Hybrid Corn for Food and Feed

37. SEPT. 19 | WILTON

Voluntary Robotic Milking & Baleage for Improved Dairy Production

38. SEPT. 26 | WEST BRANCH

Vermicomposting and Cover Crops for Vegetables

39. OCTOBER 3 | DECORAH

On-Farm Energy Audit and Economics of an Organic Dairy

40. OCTOBER 18 | MT. VERNON

Fall Crops Without a High Tunnel

NON-PFI PARTNER EVENTS

41. MAY 30 | MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Central Iowa Agroforestry Tour

42. JUNE 2 | DYSART

Prairie Installation Demo on a Working Farm

43. JUNE 4 | NASHUA

Prairie Installation Demo on a Working Farm

44. JUNE 16, 18 and 23 | CHARITON, ROWLEY and HOLSTEIN

Prairie Strips and Cover Crop Field Days

45. JUNE 28 | TRIPOLI

Whole Farm Revenue Protection

46. JULY 28 | GRINNELL

Transplanting No-Till Broccoli into Rolled Rye-Vetch Cover

47. AUGUST 1 | ELKHART

Whole Farm Revenue Protection

48. AUGUST 10 | AMES

2015 Fruit and Vegetable Field Day

49. AUGUST 18 | GREENFIELD

Neely-Kinyon Organic Ag Field Day

50. SEPT. 19 | MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Fall Farm Cruise

51. SEPT. 27 | INDEPENDENCE

Buchanan County Food Work Team Farm-to-Fork Harvest Celebration

52. OCTOBER 4 | MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Farm Crawl 2015

28. AUGUST 28 | STANTON

Summer Cover Crop Mix for Forage, Cover and Soil Health

29. AUGUST 29 | HARLAN

Putting the "Culture" in AgriCulture: 30 Years with PFI

30. AUGUST 30 | BRIDGEWATER

Sustainable Production and Sales in Local Communities

31. SEPT. 3 - 4 | WESLEY

High Tunnel Build at Prairie Sky Farm

32. SEPT. 3 | WESLEY

High Tunnel Drop-In Build and Farm Tour

33. SEPT. 3 | NORWAY

Starting a Cattle Operation with Contract Grazing

Getting Started with Pasture-Based Livestock

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21 | 2 – 5 p.m.

Stay for a potluck following the program. Greg and Katie will provide meat from the farm; please bring a side to share.



~ RSVPs Requested for Meal (if possible)

HOSTS:

Greg and Katie Lipes

Lipes Family Farm

1342 Plato Rd.

West Branch, IA 52358

(319) 643-3211

lipesfamilyfarm@gmail.com

www.lipesfamilyfarm.com

DESCRIPTION:

Come and meet Greg and Katie Lipes, farmers and owners of Lipes Family Farm. You'll hear about how they got started farming on their farm near West Branch in 2013, and how they made the decision to transition to full-time farming. They will discuss the adjustments they made during the transition, marketing strategies, inexpensive housing and equipment design, and low-stress cattle handling. Greg will also offer a tour of their pasture-based beef, pork and poultry operations, and will discuss various aspects of how they manage their livestock – and why they do it that way.

TOPICS:

- Making the transition to full-time farming
- Marketing meat
- Inexpensive housing and equipment design
- Low-stress cattle handling
- Stockpiling pasture for winter feed
- Calving in May and June
- Management-intensive grazing
- On-farm poultry processing
- The benefits of being "scrappy"



Katie and Greg Lipes with their daughters

THE FARM:

Lipes Family Farm is a diversified family farm with a strong focus on humane animal husbandry and sustainable farming practices. They specialize in pastured meats and eggs, and also grow a limited amount of produce.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-80, take Exit 254 (West Branch), and head north. Turn left onto Main Street, go 1 block and turn right onto Downey (County Road X30). Downey becomes Baker Avenue as you leave town. In about 4 miles, turn right onto 250th Street. Go 2 miles and turn left onto Plato Road. Lipes Family Farm will be on the right (east) side of the road in about 1.5 miles.

Note: If coming from the north or west, Google Maps sends drivers to a Class B road that you should avoid.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org, (515) 232-5661 by **Tuesday, August 18**. (Please RSVP if you can, but if you can't, please come anyway!)

SPONSOR:



Propagating Native Trees and Shrubs for Your Farm

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26 | 9 a.m. – Noon

Snacks and beverages provided

HOST:

Mike Bevins

Iowa Native Trees and Shrubs

1467 296th Place

Woodward, IA 50276

(515) 975 3158

ints@minburncomm.net

www.iowanativetreesandshrubs.com

DESCRIPTION:

Mike Bevins, owner and operator of Iowa Native Trees and Shrubs, will guide us through his process for collecting native seed, germinating various trees and shrubs, root pruning, and caring for and maintaining young trees. He'll talk about the importance of planting species native to Iowa, and offer suggestions for trees and shrubs for your farm.

TOPICS:

- Native seed collection
- Tree and shrub propagation
- Tree and shrub selection
- Young tree care

THE BUSINESS:

Iowa Native Trees and Shrubs is a small owner-operated nursery serving the growing demand for native plants. Owner Mike Bevins specializes in propagating and growing native plants from locally collected seed. Plants are grown in a patented system of root pruning containers designed to produce an extremely fibrous root system that ensures a healthy and vigorous plant ready to be successfully transplanted.

DIRECTIONS:

From the west: Take U.S. 30 East to L Avenue / County Road R18 and right (south). Go about 5 miles



to Co Rd E57 / Luther Road and turn left (east). In 1.7 miles turn right (south) on Magnolia Road and go 3.2 miles to 300th Street (a gravel road); turn left. Take 300th past the "Dead End" sign to Olive and turn left. Notice the greenhouse in the distance. Turn right toward the greenhouse and take the second driveway; there is parking behind the barn.

From the east: Take U.S. 30 west to Exit 137 toward Madrid. Turn south on state Route 17 and go about 5 miles to Luther; turn right (west) onto Co Rd E57 and follow it over the river and up the hill (about 5 miles) to Magnolia Road. Turn left and go 3.2 miles to 300th Street (a gravel road). Turn left and take 300th past the "Dead End" sign to Olive; turn left. Notice greenhouse in the distance. Turn right toward the greenhouse and take the second driveway; there is parking behind the barn.

From Woodward or Madrid: Take state Route 210 to 325th Avenue / Co Rd E62 on the west side of the river and turn left (north). In about 2 miles, turn right onto Magnolia Road / Co Rd R26 and follow it to 300th Street; turn right (east). Take 300th past the "Dead End" sign to Olive and turn left. Notice the greenhouse in the distance. Turn right toward the greenhouse and take the second driveway; there is parking behind the barn.

Summer Cover Crop Mix for Forage, Cover and Soil Health

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28 | 2 – 6 p.m.

Light supper provided



HOSTS:

Mark and Melanie Peterson
Bent Gate Farm
2311 N Ave.
Stanton, IA 51573
(712) 370-4004
markpete@myfmtc.com

DESCRIPTION:

Mark Peterson has experimented for several years with different methods for getting cover crops to work on his farm and has learned a few things he'd like to share. This is the third year he's growing rye for seed, and the second for his 12-species summer cover crop mix, which, in addition to fixing nitrogen and improving soil health, provides forage for his neighbor's cattle. Colton Catterton, of Green Cover Seed, will join us to talk about how a cover crop mix was designed to benefit Mark's operation, and a NRCS soil scientist will also be present. Attendees can also view a soil pit and examine the impact of cover crops on soil health.

TOPICS:

- Cover crop mixes
- Small grain production
- Soil health



Melanie Peterson in summer cover crop mix

THE FARM:

Mark and Melanie Peterson farm about 500 acres. They raise corn, soybeans and small grains using cover crops and no-till practices.

DIRECTIONS:

From U.S. 34: Turn south into Stanton. Continue south to Frankfort Street. Turn right (west) onto Frankfort (which turns into 225th Street). At the railroad underpass, 225th turns into N Avenue. Proceed south on N Ave six-tenths of a mile and look for 2311.

Note: Once you leave Stanton, keep driving on the same road; there are no crossroads.

SPONSORS:



**Montgomery County Soil and
Water Conservation District**

Putting the "Culture" in AgriCulture: 30 Years with PFI

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

A free lunch will be provided, including food from Organic Valley.



HOSTS:

Ron Rosmann and Maria Vakulskas Rosmann
David Rosmann and Becky Tompkins-Rosmann
Daniel Rosmann and Ellen Walsh-Rosmann
Mark Rosmann (USDA Foreign Ag Service)
Rosmann Family Farms and Farm Sweet Farm
1222 Ironwood Road
Harlan, IA 51537

(712) 627-4653

farmsweetfarmiowa@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/rosmannfamilyfarms

DESCRIPTION:

This field day will focus on whole-farm organic production, marketing and integrating into local food systems. In the morning, highlights include the Rosmanns' farrow-to-finish swine operation and Maria's retail store. During lunch, help celebrate Practical Farmers of Iowa's 30th anniversary, which will include special guest speakers. Following lunch, the discussion will include organic crop rotations, grazing and the other livestock enterprises. To conclude, Ellen and Daniel will speak about their new restaurant and their local foods delivery service.

SPEAKERS:

- Larry Kallem – PFI co-founder
- Mike Duffy and Neal Harl – Iowa State University
- Teresa Opheim – Practical Farmers of Iowa

THE FARM:

Rosmann Family Farms grows and markets diverse crops and livestock on 700 certified organic acres. The farm consists of cattle, hogs, egg layers and a range of crops, including popcorn, soybeans, corn,



Ron Rosmann

(Photo courtesy of Carrie Branovan)

small grains, hay and pasture, annual forages, and cover crops. Maria operates the farm store – Farm Sweet Farm. Ellen and Daniel operate FarmTable Delivery, and recently opened Milk and Honey, a new local foods restaurant in Harlan.

DIRECTIONS:

From Harlan: Go 2 miles west on state Route 44 to Ironwood Road. Turn right (north) and go 2.25 miles until you see the farm on the left (west) side of the road.

Note: GPS or Google Maps may direct you to minimum-maintenance roads, which may be impassable during rainy conditions.

SPONSORS:



Sustainable Production and Sales in Local Communities

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30 | 3:30 – 6 p.m.

Stay for a potluck after the program. Burgers and a vegetable platter will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share, plus your own tableware. ~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOST:

Dale and Tyler Raasch
Bridgewater Farm
2409 Brown Ave.
Bridgewater, IA 50837

(641) 745-5368 – (home)
(641) 745-0318 – (Tyler cell)
bfproduce1@gmail.com
www.bfproduce.com

DESCRIPTION:

Tour Bridgewater Farm with father-son team Dale and Tyler to learn about the start-up and progress of their laying hens, pigs, cows, and various methods of vegetable and fruit production – including successes and failures. They will discuss how they started small with a few market outlets and grew with demand, finding new markets including CSA, farmers markets, institutions and grocery stores.

TOPICS:

- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)
- Farmers markets
- Getting a "foot in the door" at grocery stores
- Research trial comparing plastic mulch, corn stalk mulch and bare ground in squash and tomatoes
- Foliar feeding research trial in squash and tomatoes
- High tunnel production plan
- Living cover crops as mulch
- Organic certification
- Raising laying hens, cows and pigs



Dale Raasch

THE FARM:

Bridgewater Farm is a 40-acre certified organic farm, owned and operated by Dale Raasch and his son, Tyler. Dale has been farming at Bridgewater Farm since 1978, and added fruits and vegetables to the operation in 2007. The diversified farm now has over 10 acres of produce. The farm includes hay and pasture, fruit trees, berries, asparagus, vegetables, cows, heritage breed pigs and laying hens.

DIRECTIONS:

From state Route 92: Turn north onto Brown Avenue, which is 13 miles west of Greenfield (turn at Bigelow's Welding). Continue on Brown Avenue for 3 miles; the farm is on the west side of the road.

From I-80: Take the Adair exit toward Adair, then go south until the highway ends (12 miles from I-80). Continue south on Delta Avenue, then turn west onto 235th Street. Continue 2 miles until the T-intersection; turn left and go one-half mile; the farm is on the west side.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org,
(515) 232-5661 by **Thursday, August 27.**

SPONSORS:



High Tunnel Build at Prairie Sky Farm

THURSDAY, SEPT. 3 – FRIDAY, SEPT. 4
8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

NOTE: Sara is hosting this two-day workshop, which has a fee, as well as a potluck and FREE field day following Day 1 of the workshop (Thursday), both of which are open to everyone.

Registration is required for the workshop, and is limited to 30 participants.

Cost: Free for PFI members, \$40 for non-members. Meals will be provided throughout the workshop. See <http://practicalfarmers.org> for more details on lodging, meals and more.

HOST:

Sara Hanson
Prairie Sky Farm
2505 220th Ave.
Wesley, IA 50483
(515) 928-7690
prairiesky@ncn.net



EVENT QUESTIONS:

Liz Kolbe
Practical Farmers of Iowa
(515) 232-5661
liz@practicalfarmers.org

DESCRIPTION:

During this two-day, hands-on workshop, attendees will learn all the steps to building a high tunnel. Adam Montri, the hoophouse outreach specialist with Michigan State University, will lead the workshop, answering questions about construction, design and production along the way. The workshop will start with post-pounding, and finish with a 72-by-30-foot Four Season Tools high tunnel ready for use at Prairie Sky Farm. If you are interested in building a high tunnel on your farm, this is a must-attend event.



Sara Hanson

THE FARM:

Prairie Sky Farm grows diverse vegetables with a primary focus on early- and late-season high tunnel production. The 15-acre farm will also be undergoing its first year of organic certification in 2015 for some of its current vegetable, corn and alfalfa acres.

DIRECTIONS:

From Wesley: Drive west on U.S. 18 about 1.5 miles to 220th Avenue (gravel). Turn north and go about 3.5 miles; the farm is on the west side of the road (a yellow farmhouse with green roof).

From Algona: Drive east on U.S. 18 for about 8.5 miles. Turn north onto 220th Avenue (gravel) and go about 3.5 miles; the farm is on the west side of the road (a yellow farmhouse with a green roof).

TO REGISTER:

Contact Lauren Zastrow at (515) 232-5661 or lauren@practicalfarmers.org by **Thursday, August 27**.

SPONSOR:



High Tunnel Drop-In Build and Farm Tour

THURSDAY, SEPT. 3 | 6 – 8:30 p.m.

NOTE: This event is a free "field day within a workshop." Sara is hosting this potluck and field day during the first day of the "High Tunnel Build at Prairie Sky Farm" workshop (see page 37).

You don't have to be registered for the workshop to attend the potluck and field day!

Niman Ranch will provide brats; please bring a side dish or dessert to share, and your own table service. ~ RSVPs Requested for Meal

HOST:

Sara Hanson
Prairie Sky Farm
2505 220th Ave.
Wesley, IA 50483
(515) 928-7690 – (cell)
prairiesky@ncn.net



DESCRIPTION:

Prairie Sky Farm is erecting a new high tunnel, and Practical Farmers is helping out (see page 37 of this guide for an overview, or visit practicalfarmers.org for full details on the High Tunnel Build Workshop). At the end of the first day of work, Sara Hanson will host a potluck and farm tour, and, along with Adam Montri of Michigan State University Extension, will provide an overview of the high tunnel planning and building process. Drop in and join us!

TOPICS:

- High tunnel site selection and prep
- High tunnel building process
- Transitioning to organic
- Organic vegetable production
- Prairie field borders
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



Visitors learn about vegetable production at a Prairie Sky Farm field day.

THE FARM:

Prairie Sky Farm grows diverse vegetables with a primary focus on early- and late-season high tunnel production. The 15-acre farm is in its first year of organic certification for some of its current vegetable, corn and alfalfa acres.

DIRECTIONS:

From Wesley: Drive west on U.S. 18 about 1.5 miles to 220th Avenue (gravel). Turn north and go about 3.5 miles; the farm is on the west side of the road (a yellow farmhouse with green roof).

From Algona: Drive east on U.S. 18 for about 8.5 miles. Turn north onto 220th Avenue (gravel) and go about 3.5 miles; the farm is on the west side of the road (a yellow farmhouse with a green roof).

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org,
(515) 232-5661 by **Monday, August 31.**

SPONSOR:



Starting a Cattle Operation with Contract Grazing

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

IOWA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PRICE CREEK WATERSHED

THURSDAY, SEPT. 3 | Noon – 4 p.m.

Catered lunch provided

~ *RSVPs Requested for Meal*



HOSTS:

John, Sheri, Travis, Linda, Amber and Mary Schulte Woodlawn

Norway and Amana, IA

319 227 7831 – (home)

319 521 2038 – (cell)

schulte.john@yahoo.com

START LOCATION (lunch and first part of tour):

1053 T Ave .

Norway, IA 52318

END LOCATION (second half of field day):

2955 126th St.

Amana, IA 52203

DESCRIPTION:

The afternoon will showcase a variety of ideas, options and solutions that have been put into practice with cattle and conservation in mind. John Schulte and his son, Travis, lease pasture to a neighboring farmer using contractual agreements. Joe Sellers and Ed Cox will discuss contract grazing arrangements, and share resources. The tour of two farms will provide insight into planning the infrastructure to support a grazing operation. A water quality project, beef handling facilities and cover crops will be highlights. Both of these farms are undergoing a massive revitalization from neglect to pictorial; John will explain the transition.

SPEAKERS:

- John Schulte, owner – tour guide
- Travis Schulte, owner – custom grazing
- Dan Gerhold – Neighboring farmer
- Rose Danaher – Price Creek Watershed coordinator
- Joe Sellers – ISU Extension beef specialist
- Ed Cox – Agricultural lawyer

TOPICS:

- Contract grazing
- Pasture renovation
- Planting two crops at once
- Dealing with fescue
- Monoslope barn
- Alley with Bud Box
- Pasture corral for handling and loading
- Goats for brush control
- Generational transition
- New types of fencing products in use

THE FARM:

Woodlawn currently consists of about 600 acres. The primary enterprise is a cow-calf operation of grass genetics. The crops are hay, cover crops, summer annuals, pasture and 20 acres of conventional corn. The Schultes use various forms of rotational grazing with multiple types of water sources.

DIRECTIONS TO START LOCATION:

From Amana: Take U.S. 151 north for 3.2 miles, turn left on 110th Street and go 3 miles, then turn right on T Avenue; Woodlawn will be in one-half mile.

From Norway: At the west end of town, go south on 29th Avenue for 2.7 miles; go straight on T Avenue for one-half mile to Woodlawn.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org, (515) 232-5661 by **Monday, August 31**.

SPONSORS:



Integrating Cash Crops, Cover Crops and Livestock

TUESDAY, SEPT. 8 | 1 – 4 p.m.

Snacks and refreshments provided at the end of the program, during the discussion time.

HOSTS:

Paul and Nancy Ackley

3018 Maryland Ave.

Bedford, IA 50833

(712) 523-3362 – (home)

(712) 621-1040 – (cell)

pnackley@unitedwb.coop

DESCRIPTION:

Paul and Nancy Ackley run an integrated farm raising corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle and hair sheep. They are also enthusiastic users of cover crops, and follow their wheat crop with a mix of species that their cattle eventually graze before rotating to corn. Attendees will get an up-close view of this mix, both above the ground and below, with the help of a soil pit. Come learn about how the wheat + cover mix + grazing is a soil-builder that has also reduced P and K applications and herbicide use. Doug Peterson, with the State Soil Health Conservation in Gallatin, Missouri, will be a featured speaker; he and his family maintain their own cow herd and custom-graze cows on contract during the summer.

TOPICS:

- Small grains production
- Cover crop mixes
- Grazing cover crops

THE FARM:

The Ackley farm encompasses fewer than 500 acres in cash grain crops – including wheat, corn and soybeans – that are all produced using no-till methods and cover crops. The Ackleys also do some grazing of cover crops, especially after wheat.



Paul Ackley (on left)

Livestock on the farm includes a 90-animal cow-calf operation. Cows calve in May through July; calves are home-raised and heifers are retained for replacements. Currently, bull calves are also retained for herd sires. Cattle are rotated daily through about 380 acres of pasture during the grazing season. Cattle have been pesticide- and implant-free for the last four years. A small flock of hair sheep was added about four years ago.

DIRECTIONS:

From Bedford: Go about 1 mile east on state Route 2 to Montana Avenue and turn south (it Ts into Route 2 from the south) and go about 2 miles to the first four corners and the first stop sign at 290th Street (also known as County Road J55). Turn right on 290th Street and go 1 mile, then turn left (south) on Maryland Avenue for 1.25 miles; the farm is on the east side of the road.

SPONSORS:



**Taylor County Soil and
Water Conservation District**

Trying New Things: Cover Crops, Organic and Livestock

SATURDAY, SEPT. 12 | 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Lunch will be provided (pastured broiler chickens). Guests are invited to stay after lunch to socialize.



~ **RSVPs Requested for Meal**

HOST:

Wendy Johnson
2038 March Ave.
Charles City, Iowa 50616
(641) 228-1583
207wendy@gmail.com
www.thefarmagain.com

DESCRIPTION:

Wendy Johnson is a beginning farmer enrolled in Practical Farmers of Iowa's Savings Incentive Program (SIP). Come learn about Wendy's return to her family farm and the crop-livestock enterprises she is trying. She'll discuss her use of cover crops; how she is transitioning a portion of the crop acres to organic production; and integrating livestock into the system, raising sheep, hogs and chickens on pasture. She'll also address her Conservation Action Plan (CAP) to qualify for financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Tom and Irene Frantzen, her farming mentors, and SIP mentors Margaret Smith and Doug Alert, will be on hand for discussion. Joe Lally, an organic technical service provider, will explain plans to fund EQIP through the organic initiative. Wendy should also have some newly planted nut trees in the farm's pasture as part of a future enterprise to showcase, as well as rye and some other cover crop species flown onto 300 acres.

THE FARM:

Wendy returned to Iowa to farm with her father five years ago. They grow corn, soybeans, hay and sheep. In September, they will be in their third year of using cover crops on some of their acres. She and



Wendy Johnson
(Photo courtesy of Helen Gunderson)

her husband, Johnny, started their own enterprises on the farm, including 27 acres in transition to organic row crops, pasture-raised farrow-to-finish pigs and a sheep flock transitioned to grass-fed only. They also raise pastured broilers and layers, which are housed in chicken tractors and mobile hen houses; Wendy wants to integrate them into her organic row crop system.

DIRECTIONS:

From Charles City: Head west on state Route 14 to March Avenue (about 6 miles) and go north. The farm's purplish-colored barn roofs and a barn quilt with Iowa State University red and gold are visible from the junction of Route 14 and March Avenue. This is the first farm going north on March Avenue from Route 14.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org, (515) 232-5661 by **Wednesday, Sept. 9.**

SPONSORS:



**Floyd County
Soil and Water
Conservation
District**

Specialty Hybrid Corn for Food and Feed

TUESDAY, SEPT. 15 | 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Lunch provided after the program.

~ **RSVPs Required.** Attendance is limited to 40 people.



HOSTS:

Alix and Mary Jane Paez
Genetic Enterprises International
3 Boone St. (County Road E57)
Luther, IA 50156
(515) 865-8834
paezgei@mchsi.com
geicornseed.com

DESCRIPTION:

Come hear and learn from various experts in the field of specialty corn, see visual displays of products, and enjoy a field tour followed by a meal made using specialty corn hybrids.

TOPICS:

- High-lysine corn
- High-carotenoid corn
- High-anthocyanin corn
- Floury corn
- Waxy corn
- Resistant-starch corn
- Breeding specialty corn
- Specialty corn uses and applications

SPEAKERS:

- **Paul Scott** – assistant professor of agronomy at Iowa State University
- **John Gilbert** – farmer near Iowa Falls
- **Stefan Gailans** – Practical Farmers of Iowa
- **Jay-lin Jane** – ISU professor of food science and human nutrition
- **Alix and Mary Jane Paez**



Mary Jane and Alix Paez

THE COMPANY:

Genetic Enterprises International is a corn breeding company that develops hybrid dent corn and hybrid specialty corn for food and feed. GEI develops products for specific niche markets or special applications in the food and feed industry, as well as hybrids of different maturities to fit the various growing areas in Iowa. GEI hybrids are suitable for conventional, organic or high-intensity farming practices.

DIRECTIONS:

The field day location is at the intersection of state Route 17 and County Road E57. From U.S. 30, take Exit 137 for IA-17 toward Madrid and head south for about 6 miles. Turn right on Co Rd E57 / 270th Street.

RSVP TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org,
(515) 232-5661 by **Friday, Sept. 11.**

SPONSOR:

**Boone County Soil and Water
Conservation District**

Voluntary Robotic Milking and Baleage for Improved Dairy Production

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Enjoy a summer barbeque at this event, including food from Prairie Farms.

~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOSTS:

Steve Leazer

Laura Jones

Blue Knoll Farm

1955 310th St.

Wilton, IA 52778

(712) 461-1583 – (Laura)

(563) 357-3747 – (Steve)

laurajones85@gmail.com; steveleazer@gmail.com

DESCRIPTION:

Join Laura Jones and her dad, Steve Leazer, and see how their 50-head dairy system works. A recently installed voluntary robotic milking system has increased this dairy's milk production and allowed more time flexibility. Learn how this father-daughter team uses baleage for improved forage quality, better animal nutrition and easier feed storage.

TOPICS:

- Voluntary robotic milking system
- Calf feeding
- Cow nutrition
- Cattle handling
- Using baleage as a feed source
- Using forages to improve soil health

THE FARM:

Blue Knoll Farm is owned and operated by father and daughter Steve Leazer and Laura Jones. The 315-acre farm has a 50-head Holstein dairy operation, as well as corn, soybeans, alfalfa, small grains and cover crops. Goals for the farm focus on building nutrient rich soils to provide high-quality feed for their cows.



Dairy cows at Blue Knoll Farm

DIRECTIONS:

Coming from the west on I-80: Take Exit 271 and go north 2 miles on County Road X64, then east 2 miles on County Road F44 and south 2 miles on County Road Y14 (all are blacktop). Turn left (east) on 310th Street; the farm is in about one-half mile, the first place on the north side.

Coming from east to west on I-80: Take Exit 277 and go north about one-half mile, then turn left (west) on 310th Street; the farm is in about 4 miles on the north side of the road.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org, (515) 232-5661 by **Wednesday, Sept. 16.**

SPONSORS:



Kramer Bros. Dairy Supply
319.465.5931 16243 162nd Ave. Monticello, IA 52310

Vermicomposting and Cover Crops for Vegetables

SATURDAY, SEPT. 26 | 4 – 7 p.m.

Meal provided

~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOST:

Mark Quee

Scattergood Friends School

258 290th St.

West Branch, IA 52358

(319) 530-3782

farm@scattergood.org

www.scattergood.org

DESCRIPTION:

In 2014, Scattergood received a SARE Youth Educator Grant to scale up its worm composting system, incorporate it into the science curriculum and find ways to keep the worms productive through the winter. The field day will begin by exploring what Scattergood has learned about non-mechanized vermicomposting systems before heading to the gardens for a tour. The field walk will include discussions about a sweet pepper variety trial, various cover cropping strategies, pollinator habitat restoration, a garlic-oat trial, a long-term trial comparing brown and green manures, and many other topics.

TOPICS:

- Medium-scale vermicomposting
- Cover cropping strategies in an organic vegetable system
- Re-establishing pollinator habitat
- Pollinator census
- Using a Drift Catcher to monitor pesticide drift

THE SCHOOL:

Scattergood Friends School is a small Quaker boarding school 15 miles east of Iowa City, with



Mark Quee

10 acres of IDALS-certified organic gardens and orchards, and 30 acres of pasture used to grass-finish beef and lamb. Scattergood also raises a few heritage-breed Guinea hogs, a small flock of turkeys, and occasional broiler and laying chicken flocks. Scattergood primarily grows food for the school, but has in the past produced for farmers markets, New Pioneer Coop and a small CSA. The school has been an example of an extreme farm-to-school program since 1890 (but more recently since 2003, when a decision was made to raise much of the food consumed at Scattergood).

DIRECTIONS:

From Iowa City: Take I-80 east for 9.7 miles and take Exit 254 north into West Branch. Turn right onto Main Street (it turns into Herbert Hoover Highway) and go about 1.5 miles; the farm is on the right.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org, (515) 232-5661 by **Wednesday, Sept. 23.**

On-Farm Energy Audit and Economics of an Organic Dairy

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

WINNESHEIK ENERGY DISTRICT

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 |

10:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Lunch provided, including food from Organic Valley.

~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOSTS:

Dan and Bonnie Beard
Tom and Maren Beard
Canoe Creek Dairy
2954 Middle Sattre Road
Decorah, IA 52101
(563) 382-2765

DESCRIPTION:

Join the Beard family to learn about their organic livestock operations, and also about on-farm energy audits. The Beards will show their organic dairy operation and answer questions about organic beef and dairy production. Kayla Koether of Winnesheik Energy District will walk through the process of a whole-farm energy audit, which the Beards conducted on their farm earlier in the year. Larry Tranel, dairy field specialist with Iowa State University Extension, will speak about the economics of organic dairying. Tom Beard will talk about grazing and marketing hair sheep, and Maren Beard will discuss the process of installing solar panels on the farm.

TOPICS:

- Whole farm energy audit
- Raising hair sheep
- Solar panels
- Economics of organic dairying



Guests view a pasture on the Beards' farm.

THE FARM:

The Beards have an organic dairy, beef and sheep operation. The family rotationally grazes their predominantly Jersey dairy herd, a Red Devon beef herd and a half-Katahdin sheep herd.

DIRECTIONS:

Travel 4.6 miles north of Decorah on U.S. 52. Turn east on Meadowlark Road, go 2.2 miles and continue across Locust Road. Meadowlark becomes Canoe Ridge Road. Go 1.2 miles, then turn left on Middle Sattre Road and go about 1 mile.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org,
(515) 232-5661 by **Wednesday, Sept. 30.**

SPONSOR:



CROPP COOPERATIVE
organic and farmer-owned since 1988

Fall Crops Without a High Tunnel

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 | 3 – 5 p.m.

Light supper provided after the program.

~ RSVPs Requested for Meal



HOST:

Laura Krouse

Abbe Hills Farm

825 Abbe Hills Road

Mt. Vernon, IA 52314

(319) 895-6924

laura@abbehills.com

DESCRIPTION:

Growing produce in the fall affords all the fun of growing the same crops in the spring, but fewer of the problems (bugs, disease, weeds, heat). Tour a 200-share CSA farm that provides food from the gardens until the end of October – and sometimes beyond – without requiring the use of a high tunnel. Crops include all the regular spring crops, only better.

TOPICS:

- Variety selection
- Planting dates
- Harvest planning
- Irrigation
- Harvest tools
- Season extension in the field
- Fall marketing

THE FARM:

Abbe Hills farm is situated on 72 acres north of Mt. Vernon. Laura and her crew grow vegetables for a large CSA, plus a handful of other local markets, especially fall crops. The farm is managed with crop rotation, cover crops, integrated pest management, pollinator habitat and without the use of synthetic

Roland Krouse, Laura's father, hauls some pac choy.



pesticides. Soil conservation and water quality practices are used over the entire farm.

DIRECTIONS:

From Mt. Vernon: Take County Road X20 (8th Avenue) north out of town for 1 mile and turn left (west) onto Abbe Hills Road. The farm is about 1 mile west of the intersection. You will see two red sheds and a high tunnel on the north side of the road.

From Cedar Rapids: Take Mt. Vernon Road southeast to Abbe Hills Road, which intersects near the Community Bible Church. Turn left (east) on Abbe Hills Road; the farm is about 1 mile east. You will see two red sheds and a high tunnel on the north side of the road.

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Lauren Zastrow, lauren@practicalfarmers.org, (515) 232-5661 by **Thursday, October 15.**

SPONSOR:

BON APPÉTIT
MANAGEMENT COMPANY

food service for a sustainable future™

Partner Events

*(**Note:** The following pages showcase other agricultural events being held across Iowa this summer. They are not organized or hosted by Practical Farmers.)*

Central Iowa Agroforestry Tour

TREES FOREVER

SATURDAY, MAY 30 | 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

This field tour has stops at five sites. Attendance is limited to 50 participants because of the bus size. There is a \$25 fee to cover bus travel and a box lunch.

HOST:

Jeff Jensen

Trees Forever

(515) 320-6756

jjensen@treesforever.org

www.treesforever.org



DESCRIPTION:

The 2015 Central Iowa Agroforestry Tour has something for everyone. Five stops are scheduled, focusing on alternative crops including: aronia berries and hazelnuts, and agroforestry practices such as riparian forest buffers, silvopasture and livestock buffers. Finally, no agroforestry tour is complete without talking about marketing your nuts, berries, beef or property. Enjoy a day filled with adventure and inspiration while traveling in deluxe motor-coach accommodations.

TOPICS:

- Perennial crops, including aronia berries, hazelnuts and Christmas trees
- Water quality
- Buffers, including riparian, livestock and organic
- Marketing and pick-your-own
- Silvopasture

SPEAKERS:

- Kent Friedrichsen – aronia grower
- Corey Hillebo – aronia grower
- Jesse Randall – forester and educator
- Cindy McCollough – hazelnut grower
- Jeff Jensen – Trees Forever
- Dean Biechler – RiverRidge Farm
- Dean and Judy Henry – Berry Patch Farm



Berry bushes at Berry Patch Farm

THE FARMS:

- **Kent Friedrichsen** – Perry – 12 acres of organic aronia
- **Jesse Randall** – Boone – Christmas tree farm
- **Cindy McCollough** – Webster City – Hazelnut buffer
- **Dean Biechler** – Ames – Beef, CSA, agri-tourism
- **Berry Patch Farm** – Nevada – Pick-your-own berry farm, with apples and on-farm sales

TO REGISTER:

Register online at www.treesforever.org/agroforestrytour. The bus will depart from the large parking lot south of Hilton Coliseum in Ames (you are allowed to park there for the day). Look for the Trees Forever signs.

SPONSORS:

- Trees Forever
- Iowa Nut Growers Association
- Minnesota Hazelnut Foundation
- American Hazelnut Company
- Midwest Aronia Association
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

Prairie Installation Demonstration on a Working Farm

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE CENTER

TUESDAY, JUNE 2 | 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Coffee and pastries served in the morning, and lunch provided. ~ RSVPs Requested



HOSTS:

Randy Luze
5718 12th Ave.
Dysart, IA 52224

Tallgrass Prairie Center
University of Northern
Iowa – Prairie on
Farms Project

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Ashley Kittle
(319) 273-3828
ashley.kittle@uni.edu
www.tallgrassprairiecenter.org/prairie-farms

DESCRIPTION:

Learn how prairie can benefit efforts to improve water quality and pollinator habitat. The event will cover site assessment and preparation, a side-by-side comparison of three different prairie seed mixes planted in mid-spring and how to determine an appropriate location for prairie plantings. This demonstration will interest a range of attendees, from farmers to technical service providers, Soil and Water Conservation Districts to seed companies, decision-makers and anyone interested in learning more about the benefits of prairie on a working farm.

Note: This is the first in a series of demonstration workshops at this location. Another workshop will take place in late August or early September (date TBD) to look at stand evaluation and first-year maintenance.

THE CENTER:

The Tallgrass Prairie Center is a strong advocate of progressive, ecological approaches using native vegetation to provide environmental, economic and aesthetic benefits for the public good. The



center is in the vanguard of roadside vegetation management, native source-identified seed development and prairie advocacy. The center primarily serves the Upper Midwest Tallgrass Prairie Region and is a model for similar efforts nationally and internationally.

DIRECTIONS:

From North of Dysart: Take U.S. 218 South. Turn west onto state Route 8. Turn north onto 12th Avenue for about a mile.

From South of Dysart: Take U.S. 30. Turn north onto state Route 21. Turn east onto state Route 8 for about 2 miles. Turn north onto 12th Avenue for about 1 mile.

RSVP TO:

Ashley Kittle at ashley.kittle@uni.edu or (319) 273-3828 by **Tuesday, May 26.**

SPONSORS:

- Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture
- Iowa Nutrient Reduction Center
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Monarch Joint Venture

Prairie Installation Demonstration on a Working Farm

TALLGRASS PRAIRIE CENTER

THURSDAY, JUNE 4 | 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. Coffee and pastries served in the morning, and lunch provided. ~ RSVPs Requested



HOSTS:

**Borlaug Learning
Center
3327 290th St.
Nashua, IA 50658**

**Tallgrass Prairie Center
University of Northern
Iowa – Prairie on
Farms Project**

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Ashley Kittle
(319) 273-3828
ashley.kittle@uni.edu
www.tallgrassprairiecenter.org/prairie-farms

DESCRIPTION:

Learn how prairie can benefit efforts to improve water quality and pollinator habitat. The event will cover site assessment and preparation, a side-by-side comparison of three different prairie seed mixes planted in mid-spring and how to determine an appropriate location for prairie plantings. This demonstration will interest a range of attendees, from farmers to technical service providers, Soil and Water Conservation Districts to seed companies, decision-makers and anyone interested in learning more about the benefits of prairie on a working farm.

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Prairie strips planted in soybeans

management, native source-identified seed development and prairie advocacy. The center primarily serves the Upper Midwest Tallgrass Prairie Region and is a model for similar efforts nationally and internationally.

DIRECTIONS:

The Borlaug Learning Center is west of Nashua, less than 5 minutes from the Avenue of the Saints / U.S. 218. At Nashua Exit 220, go west on County Road B60 for 1 mile and turn south on Windfall Avenue. In 1 mile, at the T intersection, turn east on 290th Street and go about one-quarter of a mile.

RSVP TO:

Ashley Kittle at ashley.kittle@uni.edu or (319) 273-3828 by **Tuesday, May 26.**

SPONSORS:

- Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture
- Iowa Nutrient Reduction Center
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Monarch Joint Venture

Prairie Strips and Cover Crop Field Days

IOWA LEARNING FARMS

JUNE 16, 18 and 23 | 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

This series consists of three separate field days, one each day, at different locations in Iowa. All are free and open to the public – but RSVPs are requested for each to help with meal planning.

HOST:

Iowa Learning Farms

Elizabeth Juchems – Events Coordinator

(515) 294-5429

ejuchems@iastate.edu

www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf/home

DESCRIPTION:

Research shows that strategically placed prairie strips and cover crops are two agricultural practices that can offer multiple benefits to farmers and the landscape. Come learn why! Each of these field days will explore the many benefits of planting cover crops, from improved soil health and water quality to lower weed and pest pressures. The events will also highlight how the technique of integrating strips of perennial prairie plants in row crop fields can dramatically reduce soil, nitrogen and phosphorous runoff while providing habitat for beneficial pollinators and native wildlife.

LOCATIONS:

- **June 16 – McNay Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm** – 45249 170th Ave., Chariton, IA, 50049

SPEAKERS:

- › **Tim Youngquist** – STRIPS project farmer liaison
- › **Gary VanRyswyk** – STRIPS project farmer at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge
- › **Liz Juchems** – Iowa Learning Farms
- › **Sarah Carlson** – Practical Farmers of Iowa

FOOD: A complimentary meal will be provided by the Lucas County Cattlemen at the grill.

Prairie strips in corn at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge



Please RSVP by noon on **Monday, June 15** to Lucas County Extension (641) 774-2016.

(Partners: STRIPS, Cover Crop Working Group, ISU Extension and Outreach and Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture)

- **June 18 – Dick and Diana Sloan Farm** – 3046 Harrison Ave., Rowley, IA, 52329

SPEAKERS:

- › **Dick Sloan** – cover crop and Strips farmer
- › **Mary Harris** – ISU faculty member in Natural Resource Ecology and Management and Entomology (discussing benefits of prairie strips for pollinators)
- › **Tim Youngquist** – Strips project farmer liaison

FOOD: A complimentary meal will be served.

Please RSVP by noon on **Tuesday, June 16** to Iowa Learning Farms at (515) 294-8912 or ilf@iastate.edu.

(Partners: STRIPS, Cover Crop Working Group and Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture)

- **June 23 – Donna Buell farm** – Harvest Avenue and Co Rd D15 (140th St.) – Holstein, IA, 51025
Watch for more details on this event from Iowa Learning Farms. **Please RSVP** by noon on **Friday, June 19** to ILF at ilf@iastate.edu or (515) 294-8912.

(Partners: STRIPS, Cover Crop Working Group, Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture)

Whole Farm Revenue Protection

GENUINE FAUX FARM

IOWA ORGANIC ASSOCIATION

NCAT

SUNDAY, JUNE 28 | 2 – 5 p.m.

Light refreshments will be provided

~ RSVPs Requested

HOSTS:

Rob and Tammy Faux (Genuine Faux Farm)

Iowa Organic Association (IOA)

National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT)

www.genuinefauxfarm.com

www.iowaorganic.org

www.ncat.org/midwest

LOCATION:

ISU Extension – Bremer County Office

720 7th Avenue SW

Tripoli, IA 50676

Note: Following the discussion, there will be a farm tour at Genuine Faux Farm.

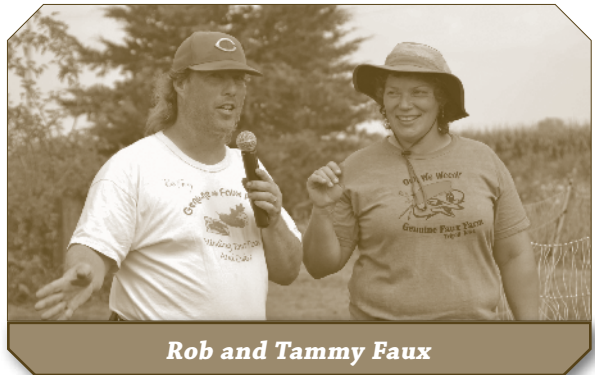
EVENT QUESTIONS:

Ann Robinson (with NCAT)

(515) 250-8555; annr@ncat.org

DESCRIPTION:

This field day will begin at the Bremer County Extension Office with a discussion of the new Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) crop insurance program. Jeff Schahczenski, agriculture policy and funding research director with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), will explain this new program that expands insurance options for diversified, specialty crop, organic and livestock producers. Diversified producer Rob Faux will speak about the role of the Iowa Organic Association; and as the field day moves to Genuine Faux Farm, he will lead a farm tour. Refreshments will be available during both portions of the field day.



Rob and Tammy Faux

THE FARM:

Genuine Faux Farm is in its eleventh year of operation as a small, diversified operation that features vegetable and poultry production. Most of the vegetable production is targeted for a 120-member CSA farm share, and poultry products are sold directly to consumers. Rob and Tammy adhere to organic growing principles, aim to sell products within 50 miles of the farm and believe in diversity in their farm environment, as well as their farm production. They use intercropping techniques, cover crops and always have on-farm research in progress. The operation includes two movable high tunnels for season extension.

DIRECTIONS:

Meet at the Bremer County Extension Office. (Map at: www.extension.iastate.edu/bremer/contact-us).

RSVP TO:

Ann Robinson, annr@ncat.org, by **Friday, June 26**.

SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:

USDA's Risk Management Agency.

Transplanting No-till Broccoli into Rolled Rye-Vetch Cover

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

GRINNELL HERITAGE FARM

TUESDAY, JULY 28 | 5 – 8 p.m.

Dinner provided. Menu includes: Grilled meat, vegetables and vegetarian burgers, a side dish and green salad. Gluten-free options available. ~ RSVPs Requested



HOSTS:

Andy and Melissa Dunham, Dana Jokela and Ajay Nair

LOCATION:

Grinnell Heritage Farm
1933 Penrose St.
Grinnell, IA 50112

DESCRIPTION:

Discussion includes the use of rolled cover crops and reduced-tillage production practices on organic vegetable farms in Iowa. Speakers will provide an overview of research underway at Iowa State University comparing no tillage, strip tillage and conventional tillage to produce organic broccoli and bell peppers. In addition, attendees will see an on-farm planting of broccoli transplanted via no-till into a rolled rye-vetch cover crop. The farmers, Andy and Melissa Dunham, will give a tour of their diverse organic vegetable farm. The field day will conclude with dinner and conversation.

TOPICS:

- Organic no-till: principles and practices
- Results of research at ISU
- On-farm trial of no-till broccoli
- Tour of Grinnell Heritage Farm

SPEAKERS:

- **Dana Jokela** – graduate student at Iowa State University
- **Andy and Melissa Dunham** – owners and operators of Grinnell Heritage Farm
- **Ajay Nair** – assistant professor at ISU



Andy Dunham

THE FARM:

Grinnell Heritage Farm grows 22 acres of certified organic fruit and vegetables annually, and markets produce through a 300-member CSA, to local and regional grocery stores and food co-ops, and at three large Iowa farmers markets.

DIRECTIONS:

From U.S. 30: Take Exit 192 and go south on state Route 146 for 9 miles. Turn left on South Elm Street, which quickly turns left and becomes state Route 146 South. Continue for 10 miles. Turn left onto 16th Avenue, then in 1 mile turn right onto Penrose Street.

From I-80: Take Exit 182 for state Route 146 and travel north for 4.5 miles, then turn right onto 16th Avenue. After 1 mile, turn right onto Penrose Street.

RSVP TO:

Dana Jokela at djokela@iastate.edu or (763) 614-8853 (cell) by **Tuesday, July 21.**

SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:

- North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (NCR-SARE)
- The Ceres Trust

Whole Farm Revenue Protection

NEW FAMILY FARM

NCAT

IOWA FARMERS UNION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1 | 10 a.m. – Noon

Light refreshments will be provided.

~ RSVPs Requested

HOSTS:

Tony Thompson

Iowa Farmers Union

National Center for Appropriate Technology

tony@newfamilyfarm.com

dbunka@iowafarmersunion.org

www.newfamilyfarm.com

www.ncat.org/midwest

LOCATION:

New Family Farm
12850 NE 64th Street
Elkhart, IA 50073

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Tony Thompson – New Family Farm
(515) 367-0110

DESCRIPTION:

This “Shop Talk” program will feature the new Whole Farm Revenue Protection (WFRP) insurance program. Jeff Schahczenski, agriculture policy and funding research director with the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT), and diversified producer Tony Thompson, will speak about this new program that expands insurance options for diversified, specialty crop, organic and livestock producers.



Produce fields at New Family Farm

THE FARM:

New Family Farm is a CSA farm that has been in existence since 2014, raising vegetables and eggs. The farm is located on the family's Century Farm, and is dedicated to sustainable practices.

DIRECTIONS:

New Family Farm is 15 miles northeast of Des Moines, and 2 miles east of Elkhart. Find a map at: <http://newfamilyfarm.com/about>.

RSVP TO:

Deborah Bunka, dbunka@iowafarmersunion.org, by **Friday, July 24.**

SUPPORT PROVIDED BY:

USDA's Risk Management Agency

2015 Fruit and Vegetable Field Day

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

MONDAY, AUGUST 10 | 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Supper provided after the program.

~ Registration Required. Register at the website listed below.



HOST:

Ajay Nair

ISU Horticulture Research Station

55519 170th St.

Ames, IA 50010

(515) 294-7080 – (office)

nairajay@iastate.edu

www.extension.iastate.edu/vegetablelab/fieldday

DESCRIPTION:

This event will feature research-based information on tools, techniques and practices employed in commercial fruit and vegetable production. Although geared toward commercial growers, the information will be helpful to Master Gardeners and homeowners who are interested in enhancing their production skills and diversifying their gardens and acreages. Attend for a face-to-face opportunity to interact with ISU researchers and evaluate research projects focusing on each of the topics listed below.

TOPICS:

- Pepper and broccoli production
- Strip tillage in melon production
- Tomato grafting
- Colored plastic mulches for sweet potato production
- High tunnel production of tomatoes, peppers and raspberries
- Hops production – new plantings
- Honey bee health and behavior studies
- Equipment and tools needed in small-scale fruit and vegetable production systems

Dana Jokela (right) speaking at an ISU Fruit and Vegetable field day



SPEAKERS:

- Ajay Nair
- Mark Gleason
- Amy Toth
- Diana Chochran
- Dana Jokela
- Ray Kruse
- Gail Nonnecke
- Brandon Carpenter

THE FARM:

Iowa State University Horticulture Research Station is located on 230 acres that includes topography of flat areas, rolling hills and waterways, with a 12-acre lake. Research projects range from work on fruits, vegetables and herbaceous ornamentals, to work with trees, shrubs and turfgrass.

DIRECTIONS:

The Horticulture Research Farm is located north of Ames. Go 3 miles north of Ames on U.S. 69, then turn left on 170th Street. Go about 1.5 miles; the farm is on the left.

SPONSORS:

Funding for the event is provided by USDA SARE, SCRI and IDALS Specialty Crop Block grants. The field day is organized in partnership with Practical Farmers of Iowa, Iowa Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.

Neely-Kinyon Organic Ag Field Day

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18 | 4 p.m.

A light meal of local, organic foods will be served, in cooperation with Adair County Extension and Outreach office.



HOST:

Kathleen Delate
**Neely-Kinyon Memorial Research and
Demonstration Farm**
2557 Norfolk Ave.
Greenfield, IA 50849
(515) 294-7069
kdelate@iastate.edu

DESCRIPTION:

Kathleen Delate, organic agriculture specialist at Iowa State University, and Cynthia Cambardella, with the USDA Agricultural Research Service, will present results of research underway, including the farm's Long-Term Agroecological Research (LTAR) study and organic no-till for vegetable production. They will also introduce the new Integrating Livestock in Organic Cropping Systems NIFA project.

THE FARM:

The Neely-Kinyon farm is located on 160 acres, and focuses on research and demonstration of alternative agricultural approaches that are environmentally sound and have a positive impact on the community. Research projects explore organic agriculture, soil quality and sustainable livestock production.



DIRECTIONS:

Directions to the Neely-Kinyon Farm can be found at <http://farms.ag.iastate.edu/content/neely-kinyon-memorial-research-and-demonstration-farm>

SATURDAY, SEPT. 19 | 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Snacks and sandwiches will be available for purchase. This is a no-pets event.



LOCATIONS AND HOSTS:

- Cory Family Farm – Tom and Mary Cory
- Dan and Julie Beougher – Seven Pines Farm
- New Family Farm – Tony Thompson
- The Berry Patch – Dean, Judy and Mike Henry
- Marilyn Andersen – Two Cedars Weaving, and Farm to Folk (weaving demos at The Berry Patch)

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Marilyn Andersen

(515) 460-7273

Marilyn@farmtofolk.com

www.farmcruise.com

DESCRIPTION:

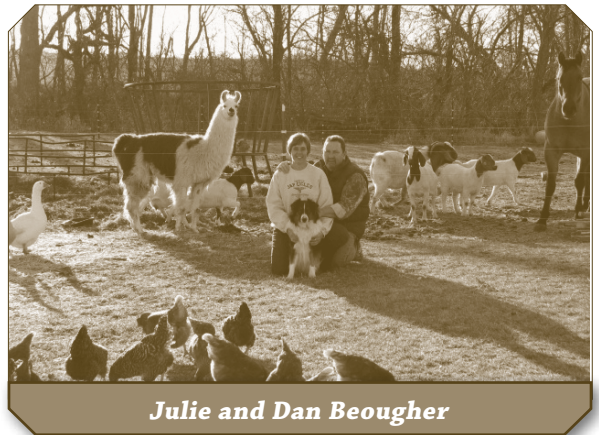
At your own pace, enjoy a self-guided tour of four diverse farms. See pasture-raised livestock, and fruit and vegetable production in fields and high tunnels. Enjoy hay rack rides through an orchard, and learn more about local food systems. Several farms will offer crafts and food items, including pick-your-own apples. Enjoy a demonstration of wool spinning by Marilyn Andersen of Two Cedars Weaving.

DIRECTIONS:

Access a map and directions at www.farmcruise.com



Sheep at Cory Family Farm



Julie and Dan Beougher

Buchanan County Food Work Team Farm-to-Fork Harvest Celebration

BUCHANAN COUNTY FOOD WORK TEAM

SUNDAY, SEPT. 27 | 1 – 5 p.m.

\$15 per person, \$25 per couple and \$30 per family. ~ Pre-Registration Requested



HOST:

**Buchanan County Food Work Team
Buchanan County ISU Extension and Outreach
2600 Swan Lake Blvd., Suite A
Independence, IA 50644**

EVENT QUESTIONS & REGISTRATION:

(319) 334-7161

www.extension.iastate.edu/buchanan

DESCRIPTION:

Help kick off the first annual Buchanan County Food Work Team Farm-to-Fork Harvest Celebration. The tour will include three farms, starting in southeastern Buchanan County and ending at Independence High School for a local foods dinner. The high school garden and greenhouse will be on display, and a short walk on the trail will take you to the Roots and Shoots plot between East and West Elementary schools. Participants will visit vegetable, poultry, apple orchard and livestock operations. Each location will have fun activities for the family!

The tour will include vegetable, fruit and traditional farm operations. At the high school, participants will meet local growers and eat a meal provided by those growers.

BUCHANAN COUNTY FOOD WORK TEAM:

(Note: Several PFI members are part of this team)

- Annette Harbaugh – Independence Community Schools, Food Service Director
- Rachael Emig – Independence Community Schools, Ag Instructor and FFA Advisor



- Joe Olsen – Independence Farmers Market
- Judy Olsen – Northern Iowa Food & Farm Partnership
- Roxanne Fuller – ISU Extension and Outreach – Buchanan County
- Ashley Sherrets – ISU Extension and Outreach – Buchanan County
- Kamyar Enshayan – Northern Iowa Food & Farm Partnership
- Jean Petersen – Superintendent, Independence CSD
- Teresa Weber – Buchanan County Health Center, Food Service
- Shelby Medina – CAO, Buchanan County Health Center
- Gordon Murray-John – Producer
- Terrance (TD) Holub – Producer, CSA grower
- Sondra Cabell – Buchanan County Conservation

INDEPENDENTLY FARMER ORGANIZED

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 | 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Food and beverages can be purchased at the farm stops. Restrooms, parking and picnic spaces will be available. No pets or RVs, please!

HOSTS:

7+ PFI farms in the Knoxville and Lacona area

Contact: Jill Beebout and Sean Skeeihan

(641) 203-0758

info@farmcrawl.com

FARMS INCLUDE:

- Blue Gate Farm – Jill Beebout and Sean Skeeihan
- Coyote Run Farm – Matt Russell and Patrick Standley
- Crooked Gap Farm – Ethan and Rebecca Book
- Pierce's Pumpkin Patch – John and Joy Pierce
- Reichert's Dairy Air – Lois and Jack Reichert
- Schneider Orchard – Arnie and Jane Schneider
- White Breast Pottery – and Weaving (Sharon Seuferer and Carol Oliver)
- ... and a new stop to be announced

DESCRIPTION:

At least seven independent family farms, in a small pocket of south-central Iowa, welcome you to tour their farms. Enjoy the Iowa countryside as you drive yourself from farm to farm. Meet the farmers, see their operations, visit the animals, sample the goodies, listen to live music, learn something new about agriculture and enjoy delicious food.

DIRECTIONS:

Farms are located along and west of state Route 14 halfway between Knoxville and Chariton.

See www.farmcrawl.com for maps and directions.



Schneider Orchard



Lois Reichert



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