

2018

PRACTICAL FARMERS OF IOWA

ANNUAL REPORT



PRACTICAL *farmers*
of Iowa

PRACTICALFARMERS.ORG



OUR **MISSION**

EQUIPPING FARMERS TO BUILD
RESILIENT FARMS AND COMMUNITIES

OUR **VISION**

AN IOWA WITH HEALTHY SOIL, HEALTHY
FOOD, CLEAN AIR, CLEAN WATER, RESILIENT
FARMS AND VIBRANT COMMUNITIES

OUR **VALUES**

WELCOMING EVERYONE

FARMERS LEADING THE EXCHANGE
OF EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

CURIOSITY, CREATIVITY,
COLLABORATION AND COMMUNITY

RESILIENT FARMS NOW AND
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

STEWARDSHIP OF LAND AND RESOURCES

FROM THE DIRECTOR

More people are paying attention to farmer-led research and education and seeing their value in making informed decisions about our agriculture landscape. As a result, Practical Farmers grew significantly in 2018.

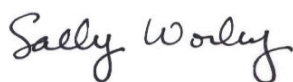
We received additional grants to work toward the goals you, our members, have set for us. We also received more membership dues and donations. As a result, our overall budget increased. Thank you all for your support!

We added seven new employees in 2018 to help carry out our mission. To make sure our internal processes are on par with our growing staff and membership, we updated our staffing structure as well as key policies and procedures. To accommodate this growth, we moved to a new office space.

We also completed a major website redesign, revamped our quarterly magazine and increased our communications efforts. Read more about these on the Media and Outreach Snapshot page.

As this annual report showcases, Practical Farmers was quite busy last year organizing farmer- and member-led events, research and outreach. These efforts centered on strategic goals you set for us. Thanks to the hundreds of members who worked hard for our organization – setting our priorities, providing governance and guidance, volunteering, leading and teaching at events and sharing your important stories in the media.

Thanks so much for all you do to make the organization what it is. The passion, dedication and camaraderie in this group astounds me. There is much left to be done to achieve our vision; I am excited about what we can accomplish together in 2019!



SALLY WORLEY

FROM THE PRESIDENT

My three years as president drew to a close at the end of 2018. For me, it has been the fastest three years of my life. I am proud that our membership and reach has grown, and that more people are thinking about ways to make a living on the land while protecting valuable land and community resources for future generations. I have high hopes for Practical Farmers' future, and know we have excellent leaders on the board and staff.

On my farm, we set goals and find out what we can do that will work in our system to get us from here to there. Then, when we reach those goals, we are not satisfied. We set a new goal. I encourage all of you to set goals to advance your farms and communities, to reach out to fellow members for advice and to share your experiences with this great network at Practical Farmers. This generous group of people gives and receives information to improve their own businesses, as well as farming across Iowa.

I am excited to continue to serve on the board for two more years, and to remain a member of Practical Farmers of Iowa for my lifetime.

Sincerely,



MARK PETERSON



BUILDING COMMUNITY IN IOWA AND BEYOND

At Practical Farmers of Iowa, we strive to build community within our network. We want people to form personal and business relationships through PFI that offer vital support, information and resources. We are also working to help farmers find success in bringing more economic value and services to their local communities.

FOSTERING CONNECTIONS THROUGH FRESH FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Terry Troxel operates Iowana Farm near Crescent. The farm includes 66 acres, of which 20 acres are under cultivation – 6.5 acres in certified organic vegetables and the rest in alfalfa hay. Terry supplies fresh produce to her local community through a CSA, wholesale and restaurant sales, and farmers markets. She also brings employees, volunteers, friends and family from her community to the farm to enjoy food and fellowship. She says, of her volunteers: “They’re all way over-qualified for what they’re doing, but they’re here because they want to get dirty and they want to eat well.”



Terry joined PFI in 2012 and has become increasingly more involved in its community. She has been an active participant in our Cooperators’ Program, conducting on-farm research to help answer some of her farming questions. In 2018, she brought her sister, Cynthia Gehrie, to the annual Cooperators’ Meeting, where fellow farmers conducting on-farm trials gather to share their discoveries and learn from one another. “The meeting was a gathering of farmers who talked in non-defensive and open ways, sharing experiences and dreams,” Terry says. “Arlyn Kaufman, the speaker who wrapped up the event, talked of going fast alone, but going far in a group of supporters. His message was very representative of the meeting and of PFI.”



Last year, Terry invited both her local community and the broader PFI community to a field day where she taught attendees how to save vegetable seeds and manage weeds. Terry has found that being part of PFI has helped her feel more confident and connected. “Since I started to mix with other farmers through PFI, things are better for me,” she says. “I’m more confident in what I’m doing, and it’s more fun. I’d rather be a friend than be perceived as an antagonist or defensive. Practical Farmers is leading the way for Iowa agriculture, and I am honored to be part of its community.”

CONNECTING IOWANS THROUGH DIVERSIFIED FARMING

In 2018, Earl Hafner received Practical Farmers' Sustainable Agriculture Achievement Award, which is given annually to someone influential in efforts to foster vibrant communities, diverse farms and healthy food. Earl farms with his son, Jeff, at Early Morning Harvest and Hafner, Inc., a 2,000-acre diversified farm that includes an impressive array of enterprises.

In addition to raising certified organic row crops and grass-fed cattle, the Hafners raise hogs; small grains; vegetables and tilapia in an aquaponics greenhouse; pastured poultry for egg production; honey; flours milled on-site from certified organic wheat, rye, buckwheat and corn raised on the farm; and value-added products made from their cereal grains. Now, Early Morning Harvest flours and value-added products can be found in stores across Iowa. Earl and Jeff have also cultivated markets for their tilapia – their customers believe it tastes better than typical tank-raised fish.

“Our highest priority is caring for our land and animals so that the food we grow and offer to our community is fresh and healthy,” Earl says.

The diversity of enterprises on the farm is a reflection of Earl's belief that farm sustainability must encompass land stewardship and economic resilience. “Sustainable means you survive through all conditions,” Earl says. “The farm has to pay its way, to sustain itself and the family.” He says that mentality – and the kind of diversified farm that was a natural extension of it – was common when he was growing up on the farm.

“In the '40s and '50s when you talked about sustainability, it meant the farmer's ability to observe his soil, his crops and his livestock in order to have a healthy farm,” Earl says. “It was also a matter of commonality between farms. Back then, there was a farm every quarter-section, every half-section. There were a lot of farmers to trade ideas with – much like Practical Farmers of Iowa does – that helped farms to survive, and observation was key to everybody's survival.”

Earl has long been creating community at Practical Farmers – by hosting field days and tours on his farm, leading sessions at the annual conference, participating in on-farm research, serving on PFI's board of directors and helping to mentor beginning and aspiring farmers. Earl's leadership is an extension of his personal beliefs about farming, resiliency and taking the wellbeing of people, animals and the land seriously.





STEWARDING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES

Practical Farmers members realize that caring for our natural resources benefits the long-term health of their farms and communities. PFI members are generously sharing their knowledge with others on both in-field and edge-of-field conservation practices, including how to raise cover crops and small grains, convert cropland to pasture, conserve energy, provide wildlife habitat and more.

STEWARDING LAND THROUGH REGENERATIVE GRAZING



Andy Welch operates Welch Family Farms with his family near Grant City, Missouri, where he practices rotational grazing to regenerate his land and minimize inputs. Andy started rotationally grazing in 1995, and currently grazes year-round, moving his 65 cows on a daily basis. “Daily cattle moves is when I started seeing improvements in my pastures,” Andy says.

Andy hosted a field day September 2018 to share his production practices with others interested in soil health and regenerative grazing. Andy also participates in a grazing group that meets monthly. “Sometimes you begin to wonder if what you’re doing is worthwhile or paying off,” he says. “But being around people doing similar things really keeps me motivated.”

Andy sold his hay equipment so he could focus on regenerative grazing. He uses temporary fencing to divide permanent paddocks, and opts for above-ground water lines during the growing season to supply multiple watering points needed for daily moves. His suggestion to beginning farmers is to “invest your money in wire and water and that will return you more than any other system.”

Andy currently rents his row crop acres to a beginning farmer, but he is actively involved in their management. What was once just a corn and soybean rotation now includes small grains, cover crops and livestock with the goal of improving soil health. This change has led to fewer synthetic inputs and an increase in soil biology.

Andy’s goal is to graze cattle year-round, minimizing the amount of hay he feeds. To achieve this, he relies on native warm- and cool-season forages, along with stockpiling for winter feed. Without any inputs, Andy’s once fescue-dominant pastures have turned into diverse cool- and warm-season mixes. “I’ve never spent money on over-seeding or inter-seeding my pastures,” Andy says. “I believe every seed you’ll ever need is already in the soil.” Through regenerative grazing with long rotations, Andy has witnessed native species and diversity blossom and thrive on his farm.

INVESTING IN CONSERVATION ON FAMILY LAND

Maggie McQuown and Steve Turman received Practical Farmers' Farmland Owner Legacy Award in 2018 for their efforts to increase land stewardship and promote long-term sustainability of farms and communities.

When Maggie inherited a 170-acre rural Red Oak farm parcel in 2009, after her mother's death, she and Steve realized they could take steps to steward their farmland. "We want to provide an example of sustainable land use, including how to transition from the typical corn-soybean rotation to something that more closely mimics nature," Steve says.

Maggie and Steve were living in Dallas, Texas, at the time. They subscribed to numerous farm publications, read books, attended conferences and joined Practical Farmers of Iowa. "Steve and I started devouring information," Maggie says. "Our farm operators have been farming for our family for over 20 years, and are into conservation practices and no-till. We have really robust conversations with them."

Since retiring to the farm in 2012, Maggie and Steve have worked closely with their farm operators, Bryan and Lisa Huff, to incorporate conservation practices that improve soil health, reduce erosion and nutrient loss, create wildlife habitat and increase biodiversity. In addition to no-tilling and planting cover crops on the entire 132 acres of row-cropped ground, Maggie and Steve have enrolled several acres into the Conservation Reserve Program and the entire farm in the Conservation Stewardship Program. They have installed a native tree, shrub and prairie riparian buffer and added native prairie strips. They also have grassed waterways, wetlands and terraces.

Maggie and Steve have plans for more prairie strips and a saturated buffer along their riparian buffer, and they intend to rehabilitate two ponds and a wooded area along the creek. They also want to add a third crop to the rotation, add small livestock, mend fences and fix up farm buildings.

Maggie and Steve are generous with their knowledge-sharing. Through PFI, they shared their farm legacy letter, hosted a field day and presented in a podcast and at the annual conference. They have also increased awareness at the local community level by selling at and co-managing the Red Oak Farmers Market and by hosting on-farm educational events.





VIALE FARMERS, FARMS AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Practical Farmers members need to be able to make a living while caring for our land and rural communities. Without economic resilience, farms won't be sustainable. PFI members are taking a close look at their numbers and generously sharing this data – and their experiences creating a viable farm – with other Iowa farmers.

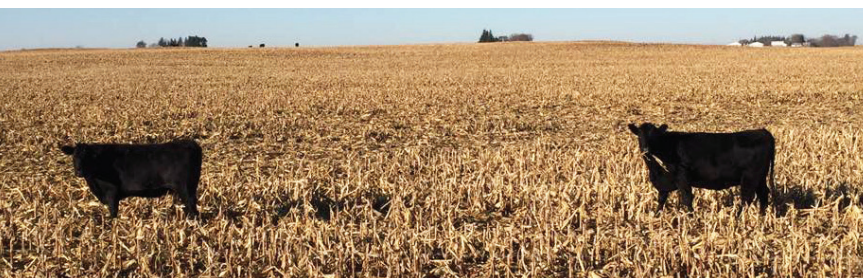
SAVING MONEY BY GRAZING COVER CROPS

Zak Kennedy farms 1,300 acres near Atlantic raising both grain- and grass-fed cattle on 300 acres of pasture. He and his wife, Emily, and his brother, Mitch, represent the fourth generation to farm on land that has been in Kennedy family since 1943.

Zak has participated in cover crop technical assistance and cost-share through PFI for the past three years. His goal is to seed cover crops on 65 to 70 percent of his farm. “With cover crops, I am saving at least \$15 on herbicide costs per acre,” he says.

In 2018, Zak held a field day to share what he has learned about the economics of grazing his cover crops. He told attendees he had saved \$3,375 in the fall of 2017 by having his 125 steers graze 45 acres of cereal rye. Before this, his feed costs were usually around \$4,500. Once he decided to try grazing cover crops, however, his only autumn feed expense was the \$1,125 he spent on cover crop seed. Zak was also able to save \$462 over 21 days the next spring by turning 22 cow-calf pairs out on the same cereal rye, which survived the winter and greened up at a time when other forage was still scarce. “An added benefit is the clean pasture provided for cows to calve on,” Zak says, “and avoiding the trouble that mud creates for newborn calves.”

Not only does grazing cover crops keep money in Zak's pocket, he's noticed his animals look and perform better when they have the chance to graze. “I see a lot less health issues when animals are out on fields versus in a half-acre lot.” He adds that grazing covers helps to “clean and shine steers up. You're selling a look and a buyer will give you more for healthy-appearing animals.” Cover crops make his steers look like “wheat steers,” he says, and he's received top dollar at the sale barn for them.



USING DATA TO INCREASE FARM VIABILITY

Carmen Black operates Sundog Farm near Solon. She raises vegetables that she markets through a 120-member CSA and also raises sheep. Carmen says one of her challenges is finding a way to produce a wide variety of vegetables for her growing season, which runs from April through Thanksgiving. “To do this, I have a lot of different systems on my farm,” Carmen says. “On-farm research is valuable in figuring out how to make systems more efficient.” Carmen participated in three research trials in 2018.

In one of those trials, she and Mark Quee, of Scattergood Friends School in West Branch, compared how brassica crops, such as broccoli and Brussels sprouts, yielded following a spring cover crop that was grazed versus un-grazed. At the 2018 Cooperators’ Meeting, Carmen presented the results of that research.

Beyond the data from the trial, participating in the project encouraged Carmen to try a new cover crop and to better envision the role of sheep in her operation. “This trial motivated me to put in an early-season cover crop, which I’ve never done before,” she says. “The cover crop looked really good, and I plan to continue seeding cover crops in March. It also helped me think through how I want to use the sheep on my vegetable fields, and what will be most feasible.”

Another 2018 trial continued a project started in 2017 exploring summer lettuce varieties. Because growing quality lettuce in Iowa can be difficult due to the state’s summer heat, Carmen and other cooperators turned to on-farm research to find heat-tolerant varieties. Carmen’s third project of 2018 compared how well lettuce grew when started from pelleted versus non-pelleted lettuce seed. The research was an off-shoot of the 2017 lettuce variety trial, during which participants had trouble with lettuce germination. “We wondered if using pelleted seed contributed to poor germination,” Carmen says. “Having better germination will help us grow summer lettuce more efficiently and economically.”

Carmen traveled to Ontario in 2018 to present to Ecological Farmers of Ontario about how on-farm research has benefited her farm business. “On-farm research is valuable not only because of specific things I learned, but in figuring out how to problem-solve daily,” she says. “It has helped me embrace the spirit of experimentation. Plus, the Cooperators’ Program provides access to this awesome mentorship community of other farmers to talk to. When something goes wrong, someone is available to help me troubleshoot.”





BEGINNING FARMERS AND FARM TRANSFER

Our members have indicated their top priority is getting beginning farmers on the land so Iowa family farms will continue generation after generation, providing healthful food, profits to families, healthy ecosystems and vibrant communities. At the same time, there is tremendous farmland transition taking place. Practical Farmers is sharing stories and resources about the farm transition that is currently underway.

THOUGHTFULLY PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF FAMILY LAND



Lifetime member Peg Bouska co-owns 435 acres of farmland near Protivin with her sisters. They grew up on the farm and are the fourth generation to own the land. These sisters are working through the legacy they want to leave behind. When they inherited the land, Peg and her siblings incorporated the farm into an LLP. Since then, they have been gathering over the years to share individual long-term goals for the farm. The sisters each wrote farm legacy letters to help share their most vivid farm memories as well as their goals. “It was a very powerful experience for each of us,” Peg says. “We had a wonderful time together. We cried and shared our special memories. We are very different in ages, and had different experiences. There was little overlap. It was quite emotional and beautiful.”

Peg serves on our farm transfer committee, which provides guidance on farm transfer programming. In August 2018, she attended our inaugural Next Generation Summit, an event that brought aspiring farmers together with farmland owners. “It was really encouraging to see all those beginning farmers,” Peg says. “We were worried that nobody would want to farm in our very rural area. But there were folks at the retreat who are willing to go to these places and build community.”

During the Summit, landowners shared their goals and vision for their land with each other and started defining primary goals for their farmland. They then broke into groups to share their thoughts and get peer feedback. Peg says the retreat was valuable for several reasons, not least of which was finding reaffirmation about the long, thoughtful farm transfer process she and her sisters have undertaken. “Even though my sisters and I have done a good deal of work on farm transfer, I got a lot out of the retreat,” Peg says. “It helped me realize that people spend a long time working on farm transfer before they make decisions. We want to make the right decisions for our farmland, and this retreat helped me feel that it’s okay to slow down to be able to do that.”

CREATING A SUCCESSFUL FARM BUSINESS – AND HELPING OTHERS DO THE SAME

Donna Warhover and her husband, Bill, have raised vegetables at Morning Glory near Mount Vernon since 2013. They market produce via a CSA, at farmers markets and to a few restaurants.

In 2016, Donna graduated from Practical Farmers' Savings Incentive Program. She used the two-year program to find mentorship, build a network of peers and get help creating a business plan. Donna was mentored by Laura Krouse, of Abbe Hills Farm. "Her help and guidance have been extremely valuable," Donna says. "Beginners should use the wisdom of others at every opportunity."

Donna dreaded creating a business plan, but completed one during SIP. Now, every winter, she looks back at the plan she created the year before and uses that to create her new plan for the coming year. "It's so helpful to really look and see where I'm growing and where I'm struggling so I can tweak the plan next year." This annual assessment has instilled in Donna a sense of confidence in how she prices her produce. "I grow specialty crops," she says, "and they need to be priced accordingly."

After working diligently to put Morning Glory on the path to success over the past few years, Donna is eager to help other beginning farmers. She served as a Labor4Learning trainer in 2017 and 2018. As a trainer, Donna hired aspiring farmers and provided training beyond what a typical employee might receive. Practical Farmers compensated Donna for the additional time she spent on this. Donna sees the value of a program that offers an immersive farm experience for those just starting out: "Farming is not for the faint of heart. Some folks think it would be so fun to be their own boss and play in the garden all day without factoring in work days that begin at dawn and end at dark, seven days a week, for six months straight. It is hard physical labor in all kinds of weather, paired with all the brain work of running a business."

Donna shared these and other insights from her first five years as a beginning farmer at our 2018 beginning farmer retreat. She and fellow SIP graduates Marcus and Emma Johnson and Cheryl Hopkins also explained how their farms have evolved from their original vision to be the farms they are operating today. While still learning herself, Donna has been generous in sharing her knowledge to help others succeed in farming.



Photo credit:
Diane Rotella





ACTIVITY SNAPSHOT

AND EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

We are fortunate to have so many leaders among us! Hundreds of you led Practical Farmers of Iowa by hosting and speaking at events, conducting on-farm research, setting our priorities, providing governance and guidance, volunteering, being spokespeople in the media and serving as leaders in your local communities. Thank you all for leading us in this important work!

230 members spoke at **147** PFI events with a combined head count exceeding **10,000**
PLUS, 50 members participated in **77** partner events

59 annual conference sessions **1,000** attendees

15 farminars **414** attendees **2,084** archived views

38 field days **1,846** attendees

10 socials **279** attendees

7 small grains learning calls **259** attendees

AND EVEN MORE!

Small grains conference, cost-share launch dinner, beginning farmer retreat, Next Generation Summit, advanced beginning farmer listening sessions, fruit and vegetable meet-ups, tractor operation and safety workshop, forage chains and forage-finishing workshop, Grassfed Exchange workshop, RAGBRAI booth, Farm Progress Show booth

20 farmers served as mentors and trainers to the next generation

38 beginning farmers participated in the Savings Incentive Program and Labor4Learning to help them succeed as the next generation of farmers

54 cooperators conducted **77** on-farm research trials

55 farmers from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa consulted with PFI staff about their small-grains crops. They planted a combined **2,500** acres of small grains and received **\$101,000** in cost-share

59 members serve in their local communities as soil and water conservation district commissioners or assistant commissioners, representing a total of **41** conservation districts

61 people volunteered their time in our office and at events

94 farmers gave governance and guidance through our board of directors and **15** committees that guide our work and engage members

206 farmers consulted with PFI staff about their fall 2018 cover crop plans. Together, they planted **31,062** acres of cover crops in fall 2018. Three companies – Pepsi, Unilever and Cargill – cost-shared **\$310,000** towards the cost of those cover crops.

U.S. TESTING NETWORK (USTN)

Ten years ago, conventionally-bred (non-transgenic) corn hybrid seed choices were limited to what they had been previous to the invention of trans-genetically modified corn in the late 1990s. Farmers wanting to diversify their corn markets were looking for hybrid varieties to sell into premium markets (like non-GMO and organic markets), but they had few seed corn choices at that time. In 2009, Practical Farmers of Iowa launched the U.S. Testing Network (USTN) to rebuild the dwindling selection of non-GMO corn seed. We continue to coordinate this network, which evaluates organic and non-transgenic corn, with a goal of ensuring that better-quality non-GMO and organic hybrids are available to farmers, and in greater quantities.

In 2018, 226 entries were tested at 53 test sites across 10 states. “From its beginnings as a conversation, we have strongly supported USTN,” says Mac Ehrhardt, of Albert Lea Seed. “There is a real need for a rigorous, independent testing network that supports the breeding and development of non-GMO hybrid seed corn.”





MEDIA AND OUTREACH SNAPSHOT

Practical Farmers secures extensive media featuring our members and the innovative things they are doing. In 2018, we expanded our communications team to be better able to amplify our members' voices and tell their stories in the media.

We work to share our members' stories in local, regional and national news outlets, as well as through a variety of digital and multimedia channels. In 2018, 138 members were featured in the news – and these are just the ones we know about!

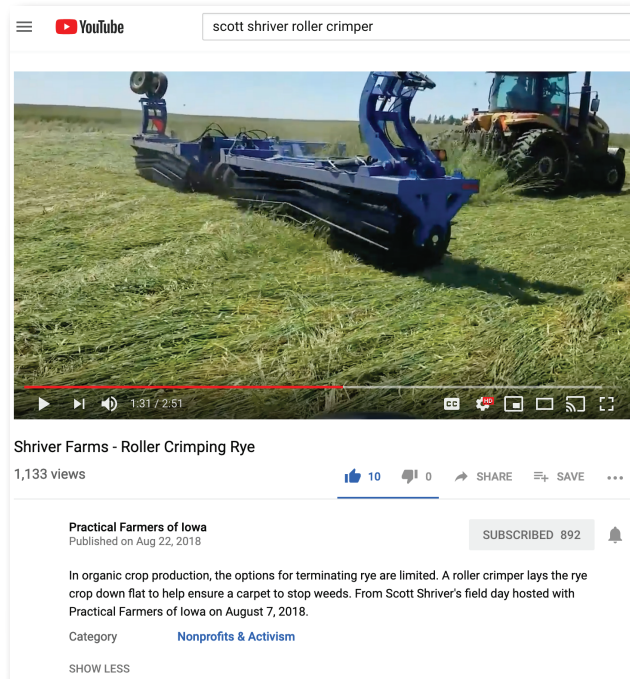
For example, **NELSON SMITH** of Brighton was featured in *Wallaces Farmer* in, "Lost Art of Cultivation."



Our quarterly magazine, "the Practical Farmer," featured 242 members and detailed information on what they are doing to build community, steward natural resources, create viable farms, transfer their farms and become the next generation of farmers. As part of our vision for amplifying our communications and our members' stories, we rebranded this long-standing PFI publication from a newsletter to a magazine, adding more pages, feature stories and more space to showcase photos of our members and their farms. As it becomes easier to access online, we're going to try to get it into the hands of more people so they can learn about all the inspiring work done by our members.



While we continue to put effort into our print publications like our magazine, field day guide, conference brochure, annual report and our Cooperators' Program year-in-review – which we revived in 2018 after a 10-year hiatus – we are also working to expand our digital content and access. We are putting a lot of effort into our online presence by improving our social media, email newsletters and our website. In 2018, we launched our new website, which was thoughtfully redesigned to make it easier to share our members' knowledge and stories.



In the digital age, video is increasingly a centerpiece of the online world. In 2018, Practical Farmers released 84 new videos to our YouTube channel. Subjects ranged from farming how-tos featuring our members, to sessions from our annual conference and our summer small grains conference, to members sharing their knowledge at field days. Thanks to this effort, our subscribers on YouTube more than doubled in 2018.

*For example, **SCOTT SHRIVER** of Jefferson demonstrates how he uses a roller-crimper to lay a cereal rye crop down flat to help ensure a carpet to stop weeds at his 2018 field day.*



THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FOLLOWING OUR OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS ALSO GREW IN 2018.

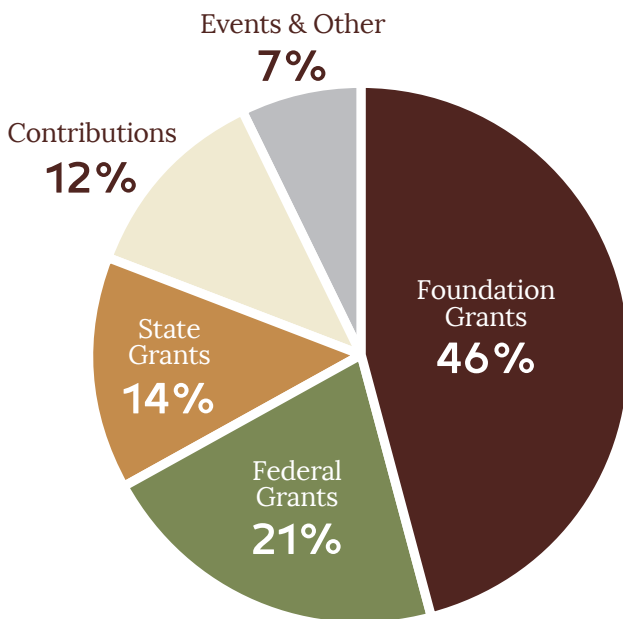




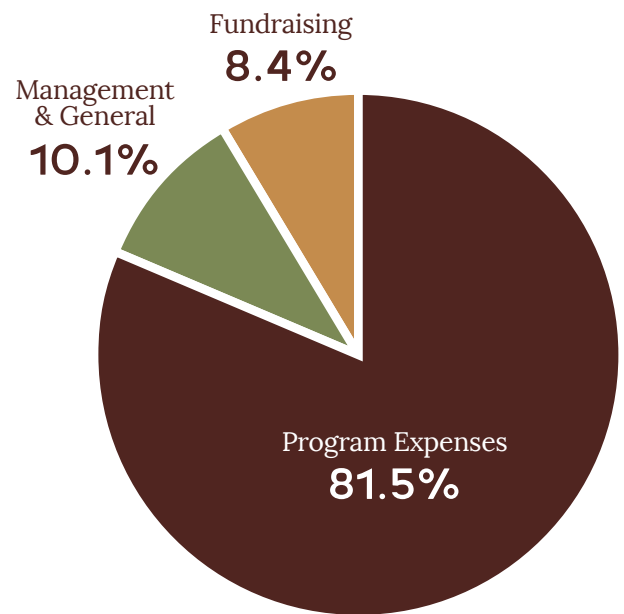
FINANCIALS

Our budget at Practical Farmers continues to grow, thanks to our many supporters and the hard work of our members! In 2018, we secured more grants to help expand our programming. Our membership also grew, along with donations, as support for our work and mission continues to increase.

REVENUE \$2.12 M



EXPENSES \$2 M



\$90,452

of this revenue came from donations above membership from 313 individual donors.

A full list of donors and grantors will be available in the summer issue of the Practical Farmer.

\$82,605

of this revenue came from annual membership income.

At the end of FY18, Practical Farmers had 3,385 members.

\$14,000

of this revenue came from lifetime membership income.

At the end of FY18, Practical Farmers had 83 lifetime members.

50
GRANTS



30
FOUNDATION

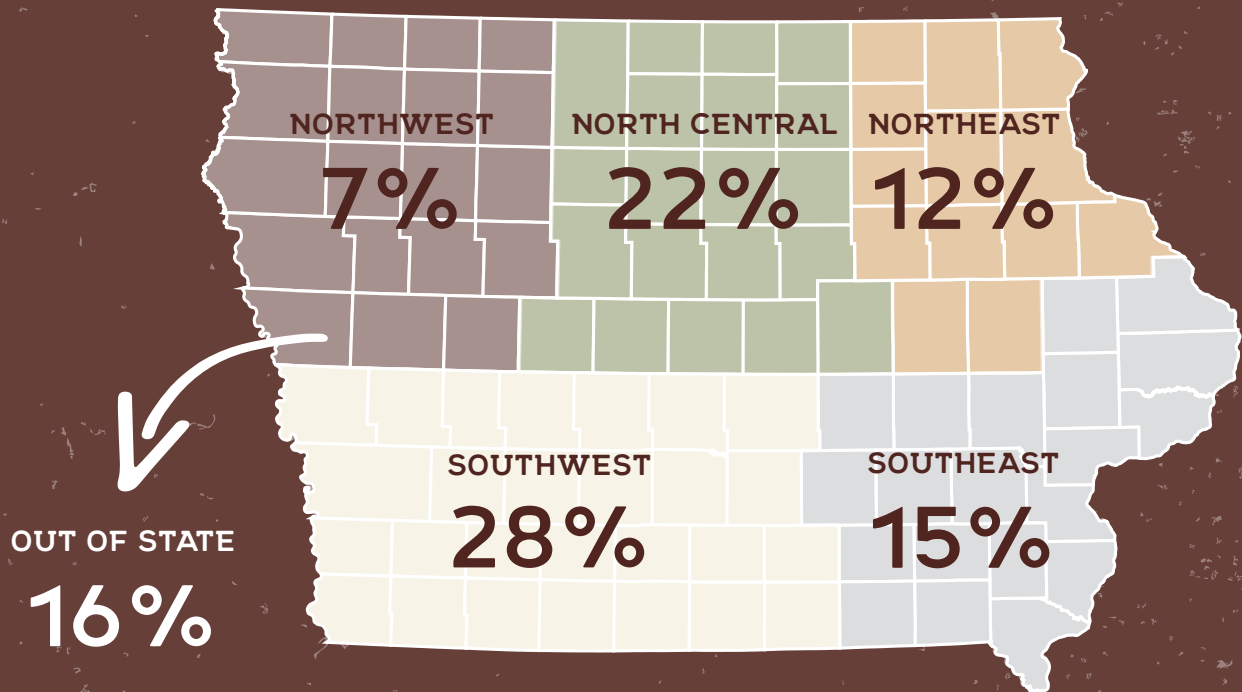
12
STATE

8
FEDERAL

MEMBERSHIP AND DISTRIBUTION

3,385 TOTAL MEMBERS

83 LIFETIME MEMBERS



SHOWING COMMITMENT TO FARMERS

\$193,105 PAID OUT TO FARMERS IN FISCAL YEAR 2018, REPRESENTING 9.7% OF OUR BUDGET.

\$173,998

to farmers to host and speak at events, mentor beginning farmers, participate in small grains cost-share and conduct on-farm research.

\$16,907

to beginning farmers graduating from the Savings Incentive Program. They invested these funds in their budding farm businesses.

\$2,200

to farmers serving as trainers to beginning and aspiring farmers through our Labor4Learning program.

IN ADDITION, **\$9,300** TO FARMERS IN FOOD PURCHASES



GET INVOLVED

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Joining or renewing your membership is easy and immerses you in an incredible community that provides support and education on many agriculture issues, from production, to conservation, to profit and more.

SERVE AS A PRACTICAL FARMERS OF IOWA LEADER

Thank you to all of you who served as leaders of our organization last year. We truly value what you bring to the table and hope you will continue to serve this organization. We would love to have more of you join us to provide governance and guidance, teach at and host events, share your stories with others and help mentor beginning farmers.

ATTEND OUR EVENTS

We organize events year-round to help you build resilient farms and communities. Please take time to attend, get to know others and learn from our great member-leaders. Please bring your friends and neighbors along!

ENGAGE WITH US ONLINE

While we think the best way to connect with people is through face-to-face interactions, we know that's not always possible. When you can't come to a field day, workshop or conference, cultivate connections digitally with PFI: Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram, and like, comment, share and retweet our posts – and let us know what you're up to.

JOIN THE EMAIL CONVERSATION

Joining an email discussion group is one of the simplest ways to stay connected to the PFI community. Keep informed, share events, meet other farmers, landowners and non-farmers interested in diverse agriculture, and get the support you need to make practical food and farm decisions. People that use the discussion list tell us it is one of the most valuable member benefits.

CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT

Please continue to support Practical Farmers of Iowa financially. Donations are a vital funding source, helping to keep us financially nimble and able to respond quickly and directly to our members' needs. Your donation to Practical Farmers of Iowa is tax-deductible. We graciously accept cash donations, gifts from donor-advised funds, gifts of grain and employer match gifts.

Please consider making a planned gift to Practical Farmers of Iowa. This will not only help you create a legacy benefitting diverse farms and vibrant communities, it may also simplify your estate plans and increase your income. There are many ways to leave a planned gift.

Visit practicalfarmers.org to learn more.



*For example, **JILL BEEBOUT AND SEAN SKEEHAN** have included Practical Farmers as a beneficiary on their life insurance policies.*

They operate Blue Gate Farm near Chariton where they raise fruits and vegetables, free-range eggs, raw honey, alpaca fiber and handspun yarn.





**PRACTICAL FARMERS
OF IOWA**

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