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Beginning Farmer News & Updates



Be part of the 30-plus-year tradition of information-sharing and join our REVIVAL. Hear farmers delve into the science behind soil health, and learn how to grow and market a multitude of crops, access land and capital, pass on the farm to the next generation and more.

While you are attending this year's Annual Conference we have some activities that have been created that all beginning farmers will want to attend. **Pre-registration is open until January 11, 2018.** After January 11 you will need to register as a "walk-in" at the conference.

[Annual Conference Overview](#)

Annual Conference Opportunities

Beginning Farmer Social

*Join your peers after the conference for some FREE dinner and conversation before hitting the road.
email steve@practicalfarmers.org to RSVP*

FREE 1:1 Consultation with a Financial Expert

Use this opportunity to discuss your current finances and seek advice on achieving your goals, or get feedback on your business plan. You can sign up for your own consultation by emailing greg@practicalfarmers.org or on your conference registration form.

Potluck Party

Catch up with old friends and meet new. Please bring a side dish and beverages to share. We provide a main dish, water and tableware. Party starts at 7pm Friday, January 19.

OPPORTUNITIES

Iowa Forage and Grasslands Conference

Thursday, January 18, 2018

Iowa State University Alumni Center

The 2018 IFGC Conference will feature many speakers including Dr. Hugo Ramirez, Dr. John Grabber, Kathy Voth and Rachel Gilker. IFGC will provide lunch during our annual meeting and award recognition. Directly to follow lunch is a producer panel, Kathy and Rachel will present on "Will Grazing Save the Planet?" and our afternoon breakout sessions.

Registration deadline is Thursday, January 11, 2018.

SILT's accepting applications for the Luzum Heritage Farm- Calmar IA

Sustainable Iowa Land Trust is now taking applications through February 28, 2018 for a beginning farmers to start the 2018/2019 season. The farmer or farmers chosen will receive a 3-year ground lease. Upon a successful first 3 years, farmers will be offered a 20-year inheritable lease (longest allowed by Iowa law) with the option to renew. With that 20-year lease comes the option to purchase the home and farm buildings.

Emerging Farmers Conference

January 26-27

University of Minnesota

The annual Emerging Farmers Conference (formerly the Immigrant & Minority Farmers Conference) serves to advance the success and sustainability of farmers who traditionally face barriers to the education and resources necessary to build profitable agricultural businesses. This innovative conference focuses primarily on the needs and interests of farmers of color and immigrant farmers, and supports their contributions to local economic development and building healthy communities. It does so by connecting farmers, farm advocates, educators, professionals, experts, and agency officials.

GrassWorks Grazing Conference

January 30 - February 1, 2018

Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin

The 26th annual grazing conference theme is "Covering All Ground." Tracks include dairy, above-ground and below-ground management, beginners, and business. Speakers include Kit Pharo, Greg Gunthorp, Hue and Suzanne Nelson Karreman, and Joe Tomandl.

RESOURCES

NCAT Launches Electronic Tools for Military Veterans in Agriculture

The National Center for Appropriate Technology is offering veterans, farmers, and organizations working with veterans in agriculture two new ways to connect with each other: the Farmland, Farm Employment, and Training Program Locator Database and the Veterans in Agriculture Listserv. The new, national database is a one-stop shop for information related to veterans in agriculture. The listserv is another way to connect farmers, veterans who are farming or are interested in farming, and agencies and organizations who work with farmer-veterans.

Growing for the Future Sessions Online until February 1

National Farmers Union has announced that sessions from its virtual beginning-farmer conference, "Growing for the Future," will be available free online until February 1, 2018. The conference provides an opportunity for beginning farmers to acquire the skills they need to run a successful operation. Conference sessions highlight leaders in the field of agriculture and focus on building a network for beginning farmers and ranchers.

PFI EVENTS

PFI Annual Conference: "Revival"

January 19-20 | Ames

2018 Winter Farminar Series

Tuesdays 7pm starting January 9

Labor4Learning

Labor4Learning helps beginning farmers get paid on-the-job training with experienced farmers, and pays experienced farmers for their time and effort. Look for new 2018 job openings to be announced in February!

[Check out more and see open positions](#)

Saving Incentive Program

Savings Incentive Program is a 2 - year program that pairs beginning and aspiring farmers with experienced farmer mentors; provides targeted learning and peer networking opportunities; offers business planning support and guidance. All this while you save money and then we match is dollar for dollar up to \$2,400, to use toward the purchase of a farm asset.

[Check out more information](#)

Find A Farmer

Find A Farmer allows for a comfortable place to start anonymous conversations with land-seekers or landowners. Search for users in a particular area that fit your specifications and begin the discussion.

Find A Farmer is FREE and available for anyone with internet access? No membership is required.

[Check out more](#)

STAY CONNECTED



Looking for more? Contact us today!

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