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Beginning  
Farmer  
**NEWS**  
April 2020

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*

Greetings,

At its heart, building farm resilience is about equipping farms to withstand sudden shocks – whether flooding, weeds, market swings or social upheaval. As the world grapples with the sprawling effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for resilient farms is even more apparent.

In this month's update, you will find virtual events and resources to help you remain resilient in these fast-changing times. I hope to see you at a virtual event soon.

## *Virtual Meet-Up* **for** **Beginning Farmers**

**Thursday, April 16 | 1 p.m. | Zoom Meeting**

### **PFI is holding a virtual beginning farmer social on Thursday.**

Join other beginning and aspiring farmers to take a quick break from farm work and virtually gather to socialize! Our purpose is to create a supportive, upbeat space for farmers to share and connect during these times of uncertainty.

Let's see who has the funkiest farm or ag-related shirt! Wear your favorite farm or ag-related shirt on the call when you join in.



Share your stories of resilience!

use the hashtag

**#PracticalResilience**



We want to hear your farm's stories of resilience in the face of COVID-19. How are you adapting on your farm? What changes have you made? How has your community rallied to support your farm business?

**Use the hashtag #practicalresilience to share your stories** of resilience and we'll showcase them on our social media channels and in future issues of "Practical News."

## *Virtual Farmer Meet-Up*

# Strategies for Strange Times

**Fridays | 1-2 p.m. | Zoom Meeting**

**Fridays | 1 - 2 p.m.**

**Please join us during a one hour virtual meet-up** to talk about the ongoing changes and challenges specific to your farms and markets due to COVID-19.

Our intention is to provide a place for producers to share their insights, struggles, ideas and strategies to manage current and anticipated changes related to consumer demand, market access, labor, and enhanced measures for food safety.

## **PFI has a new Facebook Group**

**Use this group to discuss and share resources spanning a range of topics across the agricultural spectrum** or share what's going on at your farm.



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.

## On-farm jobs now available through Labor4Learning

**Are you looking to get paid, on-the-job training with experienced farmers in Iowa?** The Labor4Learning program is designed for beginning farmers seeking employment and additional training in farm management and production skills. Practical Farmers of Iowa “trainer” farmers will be hiring in the early part of the new year for the upcoming growing season. **[Browse the list below for training opportunities near you.](#)**

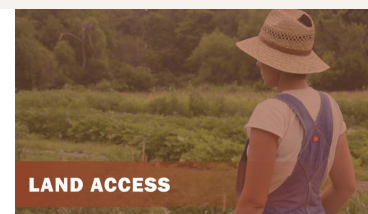


We have 15 on-farm job openings with farmers across the state who are willing to provide additional training on what it takes to run a farm business. Experienced farmers participating in the Labor4Learning program in 2020 represent a wide range of enterprises and production practices for aspiring farmers to choose from.

## Check out these resources for beginning farmers

We have recently updated our collection of business, financial, production and technical assistance resources to help aspiring and beginning farmers further their business goals. **You can access them by clicking on the icons below.**

We will continue to build this list and add new resources as they are available. If you see any resources missing that you find helpful, please share them with us. You can send them to Greg Padget at **[greg@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:greg@practicalfarmers.org)**.



**[We have a new webpage where we've compiled COVID-19 resources for farmers](#)**

This page provides links to some resources we have found particularly useful, from reputable sources that are frequently updated with current information. If you have suggestions for resources we should add, or you're unable to find something you need, please contact any of our PFI staff and we will do our best to assist you.

## Upcoming PFI Events

**April 16: Meet-Up - [Beginning Farmer](#)**

1 p.m. | Online

**April 17: Meet-Up - [Strange Times](#)**

1 p.m. | Online

**April 24: Meet-Up - [Strange Times](#)**

1 p.m. | Online

**May 1: Meet-Up - [Strange Times](#)**

1 p.m. | Online

**May 8: Meet-Up - [Strange Times](#)**

1 p.m. | Online

### Labor4Learning

Labor4Learning helps beginning farmers get paid on-the-job training with experienced farmers, and pays experienced farmers for their time and effort.

[View open positions on our website](#)



### Savings 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 that we match 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 and see land available](#)

STAY CONNECTED



## Looking for more?

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*Next Generation Director*

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