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PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

Beginning
Farmer

NEWS

April 2023

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Labor4Learning positions now open

Our Labor4Learning program is designed for beginning farmers seeking on-farm experience, mentorship and a paycheck. **Meredith Nunnikhoven** (left) is a Labor4Learning trainer with more than 11 years of farming experience.

At her farm, **Barnswallow Flowers**, she uses sustainable, chemical-free, practices to grow flowers and chestnuts. She also has an agritourism

component to her business in the form of a farm Airbnb.

Meredith is currently looking for a farm assistant to join her as a paid trainee through the Labor4Learning program. [Click here to learn more about this and other open positions.](#)

PROGRAM UPDATES

Meet PFI's new Beginning Farmer Engagement Coordinator



Rachel Burke joined the PFI staff as the new beginning farmer engagement coordinator in March 2023.

In this role, she supports beginning farmers through outreach, networking and farmer-led education.

[Click here to learn more about Rachel](#) or reply to this email to introduce yourself.

Sign up for a grazing consultation



Are you looking to start grazing or upgrade your grazing management, but aren't sure where to start?

Use our [easy online booking system](#) to schedule a free grazing consultation with **Margaret Chamas**, PFI's livestock viability manager.

Whatever your experience, **she'll advise you on how to meet your goal.**

[Schedule a call today](#)

Looking for land? PFI is here to help

The [Farmland Access Hub](#), created in partnership with Renewing the Countryside, assists farmers in the Midwest with their quest for land.



PFI also works with landowners who are seeking connections with like minded beginning farmers.

[Email Martha McFarland](#) to learn more about these opportunities.

Couch Time: Blooming Markets



Thinking about starting a new flower enterprise on your farm?

Learn from **Gretel and Steve Adams** in [this farminar](#) on quality control, identifying markets, pricing and cultivating professional relationships in your farming community.

[View a playlist of all our farminars on YouTube.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming PFI events

All events listed in Central Time.

Apr. 14: Meet-Up – [Flower Farmer Meet-Up](#)

9-11 a.m. | Winterset, IA

Apr. 29: PFI Social - [Whiterock Conservancy](#)

1-4 p.m. | Coon Rapids, IA

May 6: Social - [Prairie Oaks Institute](#)

1-4 p.m. | Belle Plaine, MN

Coming in May: Field Day Season!

Stay tuned as we announce 40+ farmer-led field days.

Friends of PFI events

Apr. 6: Lecture – ["Black Earth Wisdom: Afro-Ecological Survival Strategies with Leah Penniman"](#)

Hosted by: The Morton Arboretum
7 - 8:30 p.m. | Online

Apr. 16: Field Day – [Woodside Acres](#)

Hosted by: Healthy Harvest of North Iowa
11:00 a.m - 2:00 p.m. | Charles City, IA

Apr. 8: Meet and Greet – ["Networking Event for Land Owners and Land Seekers"](#)

Apr. 18: Virtual Series – ["Agronomy in the Field"](#)

Hosted by: Iowa State Extension
6-7:30 p.m. | Online

Hosted by: Land Stewardship Project
1:30 - 4:30 p.m. | Spring Valley, WI

Apr. 13: Workshop – ["Soil Health Virtual 3D Skill Share"](#)

Hosted by: Soul Fire Farm
2 - 3:30 p.m. | Online

Apr. 18 - Jun. 6: Course – ["Online Crop Production Course"](#)

Hosted by: New Entry
7 - 8 p.m. | Online

[View more events on our events calendar](#)

RESOURCES

Check out these additional resources for beginning farmers

[My Digital Farmer Podcast: Marketing a Fresh Cut Flower and Meat Farm Business with Anna Hankins](#)

Anna Hankins, PFI board member, who owns Over the Moon Farm & Flowers with her partner Shae Pesek, explains how they used a boots-on-the-ground marketing approach and how they have tapped their rural community and more urban areas like Iowa City and Cedar Rapids to sell their products.

[NEW PFI beneficial insects cost-share for urban farms](#)

Our new beneficial insects cost-share program pays for native plants to create insectary strips or beetle banks that will increase natural predation and pollination on your farm. Plus, you'll receive support from the Xerces Society along the way.

[Archived Free Webinars on the Food Animal Concerns Trust Website](#)

The Food Animal Concerns Trust is an organization concerned with improving the welfare of farm animals, reducing the overuse of antibiotics, ensuring safe and healthy food, and championing racial equity. Their webinar topics are on grazing and livestock practices.

POLL

Which event topic interests you the most?

Answer the poll question below:

Financial planning events

Select

Networking events

Select

Events with hands-on farmer tutorials

Select

Events focused on equitable land access

Select

Any event as long as there are snacks provided!

Select

STAY CONNECTED WITH PFI



Looking for more?

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