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Beginning
Farmer
NEWS
May 2023

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Coming soon: 2023 field day season events

Get ready for an amazing line-up of 40-plus farmer-led field days soon to be released on the PFI website! **Online registrations begin May 12.**

Whether you're new to PFI field days or a yearly attendee, you'll find a welcoming atmosphere, a spirit of curiosity, a culture of mutual respect and farmers openly sharing their knowledge and experience.

At PFI, we have a unique learning model: Our events are led by farmers – we know they are the experts of their farms. At PFI field days, farmers believe in

sharing their knowledge, discoveries, mistakes and successes so you can learn and grow your own operation.

Members: Watch the mailbox for the PFI printed field day guide coming soon!

PROGRAM UPDATES

Apply now: Beneficial insects cost-share



Are you an urban specialty crops farmer who would like to plant beneficial insect habitat on your farm?

[Xerces Society](#) and PFI's beneficial insects cost-share program will pay for native plants so you can create insectary strips or beetle banks. Our goal is for farmers to use beneficial insects to increase natural predation and pollination on their urban farms.

[Learn more about the program and apply today.](#)

Meet the new Savings Incentive Program class

The Savings Incentive Program is a two-year program that pairs beginning and aspiring farmers with experienced farmer mentors.

[Meet the class of 2024](#), including 11 different farms with unique enterprises from all across the state.

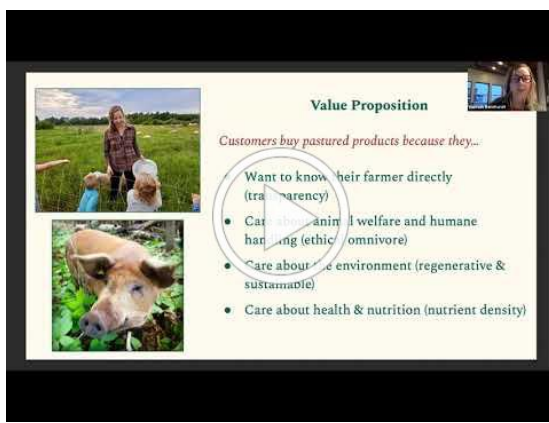
Over the next two years, they will focus on **business planning**, **building their network** and **investing capital** as they start their farming journeys.



Couch Time: "Online Marketing for Pastured Products"

How should you prioritize your marketing time and energy?

[Check out this webinar](#) to find out how **Hannah Bernhardt** of Medicine Creek Farm in Finlayson, MN, markets her pastured products digitally.



She shares how she has grown her business by direct-marketing her products online through her website.

FindaFarmer.net Featured Farmer: Tim Benett

Meet **Tim Benett**. He is developing a grazing business in and around the Des Moines area and is hiring a farmer to care for his 40 goats this summer.

If you are interested, contact Tim directly at tremanb@aol.com.

[Create a free account on our Find a Farmer website to connect with farming opportunities like Tim's near you.](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming PFI events

All events listed in Central Time.

Jun. 18: Field Day - Maximizing Opportunity in a Small Town

Hosted by: Steve Strasheim, PFI
1 - 3 p.m. | Mitchell, IA

Jun. 21: Field Day - Creating On-Farm Habitat to Foster Wildlife Diversity

Hosted by: Bev & Dwight Rutter, PFI
Noon - 3 p.m. | Spencer, IA

Jun. 28: Field Day - Rematriation of Iowa's Historical Prairie: Combining Historical Management Techniques to Foster Modern Conservation

Hosted by: Shelley Buffalo, PFI
10 a.m. - 2 p.m. | Prairie City, IA

Field Day Season: Details and registration to come! Registration begins May 12.

Friends of PFI events

May 10: Webinar - ["Growing Industrial Hemp as a Multi-Purpose Crop in Organic Cropping Systems"](#)
Hosted by: Rodale Institute

May 15: Webinar - ["Ask an Expert: Cultivating Native Species in Cut Flower Farming"](#)

4 p.m. | Online

May 10: Webinar - [“The New Agrarian Toolkit: Small Ruminants and Multi Species Grazing”](#)

Hosted by: Quivira Coalition
7 - 8:30 p.m. | Online

May 15: Webinar - [“Tax Considerations for Agritourism”](#)

Hosted by: Cornell University
2 - 3 p.m. | Online

Hosted by: Association of Specialty Cut Flower Growers

3 - 4 p.m. | Online

May 16: Field Day - [“Cash Flowing AgroForestry”](#)

Hosted by: SILT and Savanna Institute
10 a.m. - 12 p.m. | Maxwell, IA

May 17: Lecture - [“Building Community for Land Access”](#)

Hosted by: Land Stewardship Project
5:30 - 7 p.m. | Online

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

RESOURCES

Check out these additional resources for beginning farmers

[Land Stewardship Project’s Ear to the Ground Podcast: Tough Choices](#)

How Farm Beginnings helped Hannah Frank and Justin Thomas whittle their enterprise “wish list” down to a sustainable size.

[Land for Good’s Build-a-Lease Tool](#)

The Land For Good’s Build-a-Lease Tool will help you develop or improve your farm lease. With this tool you can: learn about farm leases; build a working version of a lease agreement that fits your situation; or share, review and edit the tool output with your attorney and the other party.

[Clarity on Parity](#)

PFI Members, Patti and George Naylor, write and publish a blog on farm and food policy. Read along as Patti and George explore equality, justice and equity in our food systems.

POLL

April poll results:

Which event topic interests you the most?

- **Events with hands-on farmer tutorials - 53.8%**
- Events focused on equitable land access - 23.1%
- Networking events - 15.4%
- Financial planning events - 7.7%

Send us your poll ideas! We want to know what YOU want to know. Reply to this email with your ideas for the next poll.

STAY CONNECTED WITH PFI



Looking for more?

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