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Beginning  
Farmer

NEWS

July 2021

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*

## PFI field days are back!

As vaccination rates climb and COVID-19 cases have fallen, we have worked with farmers to build this additional line-up of field days.

These field days do not require pre-registration or RSVPs, and there are no caps on attendance – but some event hosts have requested RSVPs to help with meal planning, and all events have an option to RSVP if you want to let us know you'll be attending.

**The field days listed on this page are in addition to our two on-going summer events series, "Catching Up" and "Live From the Farm"**



## We're hiring a next generation coordinator to support aspiring and beginning farmers of color

The next generation coordinator will be pivotal to using the resources and network of PFI to support aspiring and beginning farmers of color.

Our members have indicated their top priority is getting beginning farmers on the land so Iowa farms will continue generation after generation, providing healthful food, profits to families, healthy ecosystems and vibrant communities.

As we expand this work, supporting farmers of color in their efforts to get started farming will be a central part of our focus as we seek to amplify our efforts to create inclusive and equitable farming opportunities.

[Read the job description and apply on our employment page.](#)



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## Join us in August for the reduced-tillage vegetable production web series

Thinking about ways to reduce tillage in your vegetable operation? Have you heard about “no-till” or “low-till” methods and are curious to see them in action? [Join fellow low-till \(and low-till-curious\) growers for this summer web series!](#)



Presented in four sessions over four weeks, this series includes virtual tours, demonstrations and presentations from researchers and farmers in Iowa and Wisconsin.

Learn what they do (and don't do anymore!), how they do it and how they are increasing their implementation of reduced-tillage practices at their vegetable farms.

### **Week 1: Reduced-Tillage Research at the University of Wisconsin**

Wednesday, Aug. 4 | 6-7 p.m.

*Presenters:* **Rue Genger & Claire Strader**

### **Week 2: Cover Crop-Based Reduced-Tillage Practices in Wisconsin**

Tuesday, Aug. 10 | 6-7 p.m.

*Presenter:* **Dylan Bruce**

### **Week 3: Mulch-Based No-Till Practices**

Thursday, Aug. 19 | 4-5 p.m.

*Presenters:* **Mark Quee & Jon Yagla**

### **Week 4: Reduced-Tillage Practices at Humble Hands Harvest and Middle Way Farm**

Thursday, Aug. 26 | 6-7 p.m.

*Presenters:* **Hannah Breckbill, Emily Fagan & Jordan Scheibel**

[\*\*Register for this series\*\*](#)

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## Live From the Farm: "Sheep Production With a First-Generation Farmer"

In this "Live From the Farm," **Ortrude Dial** **shared what it was like** getting started as a woman with no prior farming background.

We saw how she uses rotationally grazed sheep to improve soil health and production. She also discussed pasture management, water access and sheep breeds.



## BEGINNING FARMER RESOURCES

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 **Celize Christy** at [celize@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:celize@practicalfarmers.org).



### Insights from the Top 100 Farm Websites | Barn2Door

Barn2Door surveyed and analyzed data gathered from the Top 100 Farm websites based on sales volume to assemble the insights and best practices **outlined in this ebook**. Whether your farm has an existing website or is considering building one from scratch, this ebook aims to provide you with the insights needed to help your farm implement the tactics employed by many of the top farmers in the country.

### Exploring Agritourism for Your Farm | August 3, 10, 17, and 27

If you are interested in inviting the public to the farm to purchase farm products, participate in educational activities, enjoy farm fun or other

agritourism opportunities, this workshop is for you. This free online workshop in four two-hour sessions will help farmers understand what it takes to evaluate, develop, and market an agritourism operation.

> [Space is limited and pre-registration is required!](#)

## *Funding Opportunities*

**Need a loan for your food-oriented farm or business?** | Slow Money Iowa Iowa Pollinators, LLC is a local investment Club that offers **low-interest loans to local food producers and businesses** so they may expand their operations.

**How it works for borrowers:** Loan candidates operate in Johnson and contiguous counties. Loans range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 and are repaid with a 3% interest, over a 3 to 5-year period.

Visit their website at [www.iowapollinators.com](http://www.iowapollinators.com) to review the founding principles of Slow Money, learn more about the organization and find the application documents.

**Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge Application** | August 20

The Farm Bureau Ag Innovation Challenge is a national business competition for startups addressing challenges facing America's farmers, ranchers and rural communities. **The competition aims to identify the top entrepreneurs who are addressing challenges farmers face on their operation.**

The Farm Bureau will award \$165,000 in startup funds to ten businesses for their pitches. > [Learn more and apply by August 20.](#)

**Scholarship for Farmers** | FACT

Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) offers **scholarships of up to \$400 for livestock and poultry farmers to attend conferences, workshops and training events** - including virtual events. If you have an event in mind, propose it on your application.

Scholarships will be awarded on a first come, first served basis to eligible farmers until funding is depleted. > [Learn more and apply online](#)

**Heritage Livestock Microgrants** | The Livestock Conservancy Applications for \$500 to \$2,000 grants may be submitted no later than Sunday, August. 15th for one of three categories:

- National Microgrants
- Youth Microgrants
- Emergency Microgrants

> [Learn more about the microgrants and apply!](#)

## **UPCOMING PFI EVENTS**

**Live From the farm: "New and Favorite Equipment in the Field and Pack Shed for Vegetables"**

**Tuesday, July 20 | 6-6:45 p.m.**

Having the right equipment and systems to get your vegetable crops started, planted, ahead of the weeds and cleaned up for customers makes the job more



enjoyable from start to finish. During this event, T.D. will demo a few of his favorite and newest tools and equipment, and how he came to find his best uses for each of them for a variety of crops (and eggs!).



**Tune in Tuesday on YouTube Live**

## 2021 FIELD DAYS



### **Field Day: "Compost Management, Interplanting and No-Till Vegetable Production at Brun Ko Farm"**

**Friday, July 23 | 3-5 p.m.**

**Nathan and Emily Paulsen** combine a spirit of innovation, passion for local food and pride in their Danish heritage and Iowa roots. . For this field day, we will tour their farm to see how their livestock and horticulture systems interact.

Manure and garden waste contribute to compost that is eventually formed into production beds (using a bed shaper of Nathan's own creation!) that are interplanted with vegetables to maximize productivity and keep living roots in the soil as often as possible. This event will highlight the rhythm of these on-farm processes for a family that values their land and community.



**[RSVP for this field day on our website.](#)**

### **Upcoming "Catching Up" events**

**RSVPs are required for all "Catching Up" events to ensure we maintain the small, conversational environment these events are designed for.**

**[Anyone is welcome to RSVP for a "Catching Up" event!](#)** To learn more about a specific event or to RSVP, email the PFI staffer indicated, or call the PFI office at (515) 232-5661.

**Infrastructure, Equipment and Regulations for Wine Making and Alcohol Sales**

Wednesday, July 28 | 3-5 p.m.

**Equipment and Infrastructure for High Density Apple Production**

Thursday, July 29 | 2-4 p.m.

Host: Mike Malik, Long Lane Orchard

Host: Preston & Amber Gable,  
Backcountry Winery  
[jacqueline@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:jacqueline@practicalfarmers.org)

[jacqueline@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:jacqueline@practicalfarmers.org)  
**Investigating Reduced-Till  
Vegetable Production at Middle  
Way Farm**  
Friday, July 30 | 3-5 p.m.  
Host: Jordan Scheibel, Middle Way  
Farm  
[jacqueline@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:jacqueline@practicalfarmers.org)

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## More PFI events coming up in the next month

**July 27: Live From the Farm - Small-  
Grain Harvest**  
6:30-7:15 p.m. | Online

**Aug 6: Field Day - Cover Crops  
From Start to Finish**  
4-6 p.m. | Latimer, IA

**Aug 1: Field Day - Benefits of  
Companion Planting**  
10 a.m. - noon | Iowa City, IA

**Aug 7: Field Day - Silvopasture by  
Subtraction**  
10 a.m.-noon | Spring Grove, MN

**Aug. 3: Live From the Farm  
- Expanding Agrotourism**  
5:30-6:15 p.m. | Online

**Aug. 10: Live From the Farm  
- Packhouse Set-Up**  
11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. | Online

[View more events on our calendar](#)

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## 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](#)



## Labor4Learning

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

[Check out more information](#)



## 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](#)

STAY CONNECTED



**Looking for more?**

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