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PRACTICAL FARMERS
of Iowa

**Beginning
Farmer**

NEWS

July 2022

Find your way to a PFI Field Day!



(Photo: Kate Mendenhall's field day in Okoboji, Iowa on June 17)

Want to see how someone else manages weeds mid-season? Curious to see another farmer's watering set-up? Do you wonder what your land might look like 10 years from now if you start planting trees? Just looking for ideas, practical knowledge or new connections in the farming world? **[Join us at a PFI Field Day!](#)**

All PFI field days are FREE and open to everyone.

Check out our 2022 field days!

Beginning farmer-focused field days

July 16: Biodiversity, Beneficial Insects and Building Resilience

Hosted by: Angela Smith & Erik Tryggestad in partnership with Xerces Society
10 a.m.-1 p.m. | Oronco, MV



July 17: Flower Farming With a Long-Term View

Hosted by: Meredith Nunnikhoven
2-4 p.m. | Oskaloosa, IA

August 4: Conquering Cucurbits: Success With Melons and Cucumbers

Hosted by: Nicole & Steve Jonas
2-4 p.m. | Boone, IA



August 9: Flipping the Table on Soil Health

Hosted by: Eric & Courtney Jensen
2-4 p.m. | Tripoli, IA

August 9: Growing A Flower Farm

Hosted by: Adam & Jenna Cook
2-4 p.m. | Newell, IA

UPCOMING EVENTS

More upcoming PFI events

July 14: Farmers of Color Meeting

Hosted by: Celize Christy
6-7:30 p.m. | Virtual
(This is a BIPOC-only event)

July 25: Pasture-Raised Chickens

Speaker: Eric Blondin, Three Forks Farm
Hosted by: Ignatius Farm New Farmer Training Program
1:30-3 p.m. | Virtual

July 14: Flexible Leases (Part of the Land Connections Series)

Hosted by: Ruth Rabinowitz & Mike Downey
4-5:30 p.m. | Virtual

How do we talk about land access?

Whether you're a landowner or a land-seeker, wading into conversations about your farmland goals is daunting. Rather than setting this complex process aside (again!), jump in at one of [PFI's Land Connection Meet-Ups!](#) These meet-ups

bring together landowners and land-seekers to learn from one another's experiences and help new-to-the-field farmers get started with ideas and friendly conversation. [Register here for a Land Connection Meet-Up.](#)



(Photo: Nancy Brannaman (center, with Abby Barten and John Brannaman) hosted a meet-up following her lavender-focused field day on July 6. During the meet-up, she discussed her plans-in-progress to make some of her farmland in Lisbon, Iowa available to a beginning farmer.)

Share your thoughts on a new Iowa local food purchasing program at one of two public meetings

July 21 | 6:30-8:30 p.m. | Virtual
July 22 | 1-3 p.m. | Virtual

If you're a local food farmer, we want to hear from you! **Come share your thoughts** on how the Iowa Local Food Purchasing Public Assistance Program will (or won't) work for your farm and any suggestions you have for improvement.

We'll share the program design and incorporate your feedback to shape a program that truly meets the needs of the farmers and communities it is designed to serve.



Need to beat the heat with a little couch time?



Watch the 2022 PFI Annual Conference! Hear **Katie Bishop** of PrairiErth Farms discuss how they changed their market models, or **Anna Geyer** explain how to diversify your farm without overextending yourself (and more!). **All PFI recorded content is FREE.**

Check out these additional resources for beginning farmers

[Ignatius Farm New Farmer Training Program](#) | Ecological Farmers of Ontario (and partners)

Online Webinar | Registration is ongoing

This web-based program is FREE and geared toward new farmers, but is open to all farmers who might be curious about a certain topic, wish to expand their farming knowledge, or in need of a refresher. **>[Learn more and register.](#)**

[USDA Urban Agriculture Programs at a Glance](#) | U.S. Department of Agriculture

This new resource from USDA provides a quick look at **[grant and loan opportunities](#)** available to beginning and urban farmers through USDA.

[Resources for EQIP and CSP](#) | Center for Rural Affairs

One way producers can receive support for implementing conservation practices is through programs offered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). CFRA has created fact sheets addressing some of the common questions we've received from years of connecting with farmers and ranchers. In addition, **[check out this playlist](#)** sharing how to work with these farm programs.

[Grazing Effects Flowcharts: A Tool for Understanding Potential Consequences of Grazing Management](#)

NCAT Regenerative Grazing Specialist, Justin Morris, developed a new way to illustrate how grazing management affects plants, soils, animals and even the economics of a grazing enterprise. **[In this blog](#)**, he introduces his contrasting Overgrazing Impacts Flowchart and Regenerative Grazing Impacts Flowchart.

[USDA Announces Assistance for On-Farm Food Safety Expenses for Specialty Crop Growers](#)

USDA's new Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC) program will help to offset costs for specialty crop producers to comply with regulatory requirements and market-driven food safety certification requirements. See your local FSA office to apply.

[Farm Beginnings Class 2022-2023](#) | Land Stewardship Project

Beginning and prospective farmers are invited to apply to [LSP's Farm Beginnings](#), a year-long training program that focuses on goal-setting, marketing, and financial skills needed to establish a successful farm business. **Scholarships will be available.** For more details and to apply, > [click here](#).

STAY CONNECTED



Looking for more?

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