

SHARE:



[Join Our Email List](#)



Beginning
Farmer
NEWS

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Meet Monika, a Farmland Access Navigator

Monika Owczarski has been farming in Des Moines since 2016, when she founded **Sweet Tooth Farm**. She's gained and lost many farm plots over the years and is passionate about helping farmers find land that is viable, equitable and sustainable.

Monika is a farmland access coordinator, which is part of PFI's tri-state collaboration with **Renewing the Countryside** and **Marbleseed**.

In this role, she helps beginning farmers better prepare to search for and acquire farmland tenure.

We asked Monika: *What is the most meaningful part of being a Land Access Navigator?*

"Offering another perspective, reframing and restructuring what land access can look like for landowners and land seekers," she says. "It's equally as satisfying to show landowners ways they can offer land in an equitable way as it is to find the right land for a farmer."

Monika's expertise is "land in urban areas." She can help to build fair, clear and documented leases, work on contract negotiations, navigate zoning laws, cultivate relationships with the community surrounding your land and more.

Looking for land? [Reach out to Monika and other Farmland Access Navigators.](#)

NEWS

Looking for land? Let us help you!



Martha McFarland, PFI farmland viability coordinator, works with landowners who are seeking interns, new tenants and farmers ready to purchase land.

Please email a resume and cover letter including desired enterprises and the location where you would like to 'land' to Martha at martha.mcfarland@practicalfarmers.org. She will forward your information to any landowners who may be the right match.

Expand your search for land with Find A Farmer

The [Find a Farmer website](#) was created by PFI to help maintain family farms and vibrant rural communities by facilitating the transfer of land to beginning farmers.

Search for users in a particular area that fit your specifications and send them a message to begin the discussion.

Build your profile



Apply for the Farm Beginnings Course with Land Stewardship Project



Beginning and prospective farmers are invited to apply to Land Stewardship Project's Farm Beginnings course, a year-long training program that focuses on the goal-setting, marketing and financial skills needed to establish a successful farm business.

The class will run from November 2023 through March 2024.

Deadline is Sept. 1. Scholarships are available. [Apply today!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming PFI events

All events listed in Central Time.

Join us at Geyer Farm for a Beginning Farmer Social

July 21 | 2-4 p.m. | Oxford, IA

Learn more about PFI and the Geyers' new agroforestry enterprise. Stay for local snacks and conversation with other beginning farmers in your area.

PFI socials are always free and open to everyone! **Please respond to this email to RSVP.**



[View more upcoming beginning farmer socials.](#)

Field day: Trying Out Tools and Talking About Farm Transition



July 23 | 2-5 p.m. | Atlantic, IA

Denise O'Brien, Larry Harris and Kent Morris will share their vegetable farming and machinery expertise. Attendees can also try vegetable-specific tools.

Following the event, attendees may take part in a farm transition meetup; tour Denise and Larry's solar, straw-built house; or hop over to Kent's farm to see more equipment.

This hands-on field day has limited space. [Please RSVP.](#)

More upcoming events

July 12: Field Day - [Purgatory Creek: A Tale of Oxbow Restoration on a Legacy Farm](#)

Hosted by: Kathy and David Law, PFI
Noon – 2 p.m. | Lohrville, IA

July 14: Field Day - [Shifting to Regenerative While Transitioning Generations](#)

Hosted by: Natasha, Brian & Nancy Wilson, PFI
10 a.m. - Noon | West Chester, IA

July 14: Field Day - [Agritourism and Orcharding With an Ecological](#)

July 24: Field Day - [Playing the GAP Game: Looking at On-Farm Food Safety](#)

Hosted by: Donna Warhover, PFI
10 a.m. - Noon | Mt. Vernon

July 28: Field Day - [Converting Row Crops to Perennial Pasture](#)

Hosted by: Zach Knutson & Brooke Calaway, PFI
3 – 5 p.m. | Zumbrota, MN

Aug. 6: Field Day - [Diversity, Resilience and Beauty at Miss Effie's Country Flowers](#)

Focus at Wills Family Orchard

Hosted by: Maury and Mary Wills, PFI
10 a.m. - Noon | Adel, IA

Hosted by: Cathy Linker Lafrenz, PFI
2 – 4 p.m. | Donahue, IA

July 16: Field Day - Elevating Prairie Plants on a No-Till Flower Farm

Hosted by: Hannah Scates Kettler &
Kurtis Kettler, PFI
2 – 4 p.m. | State Center, IA

Friends of PFI events

July 15: Field Day - Phoenix Farm Agroforestry Field Day

Hosted by: SILT, and the Savannah
Institute
10 a.m. - Noon | Iowa City

July 20: Field Day - Humble Hands Agroforestry Field Day

Hosted by: SILT, and Savannah
Institute
10 a.m. - Noon | Decorah

July 15: Field Day - Foraging and Edible Landscapes

Hosted by: Beargrease Botanicals,
Marbleseed
1 – 4 p.m. | Sturgeon Lake, MN

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

RESOURCES

Check out these additional resources for beginning farmers

Iowa Finance Authority's Beginning Farmer Programs Resource Page

Did you know that the Iowa Finance Authority has beginning farmer programs? Learn more about the loan and tax credit programs available to beginning farmers.

The Good Dirt Podcast: Food for Our Future: Urban Agriculture and Afroecology with Gail Taylor of Three Part Harmony Farm

The Good Dirt Podcast was created and is hosted by mother-daughter team Mary and Emma. Together, they feature globally-minded, but locally invested farmers and sustainability-focused business owners. Listen to Gail Taylor talk Three Part Harmony Farm.

Sustainable Iowa Land Trust's Land Seeker Survey

Sustainable Iowa Land Trust (SILT) provides affordable land access to farms through donations, land grants, buying land for sale, and more. Submit their Land Seeker Survey to receive monthly updates about available farms and get matched with land near you.

STAY CONNECTED WITH PFI



Looking for more?

Rachel Burke

Beginning Farmer Engagement Coordinator

rachel.burke@practicalfarmers.org

(612) 741-2492

Martha McFarland

Farmland Viability Coordinator

[martha.mcfarland@](mailto:martha.mcfarland@practicalfarmers.org)

practicalfarmers.org

(641) 229-6701

*Did someone forward you this newsletter? Would you like similar content delivered to your inbox monthly? [**Sign up to receive Beginning Farmer News.**](#)*