Tedesco Farm available for the 2023 growing season

The Tedesco Farm is a 13-acre farm located near Granger, Iowa. In 2016, Angela Tedesco gifted these acres to Practical Farmers of Iowa. We are seeking a new tenant for the 2024 growing season, with potential for a longer-term lease in 2025.
We’re looking for a tenant who:

- Is a member of PFI- with preference given to beginning and historically underserved farmers
- Has previous farming experience
- Can express clear goals and visions for their business, has a plan to achieve those goals and can show evidence they can carry out that mission
- Has the entrepreneurial ability to create a budget and cashflow their business

The initial application will be followed by a round of interviews. A committee of PFI members with diverse experiences in farming and farmland access will select which candidates move to the interview round. This committee will sit in on interviews and select the next tenant for this parcel of land by November 2023.

Learn more & apply

PROGRAM UPDATES

Meet Joe Klingelhutz, a Farmland Access Navigator

Joe Klingelhutz lives in Iowa City, Iowa, where he runs his own independent beekeeping operation and works for two organic vegetable farms. He is excited to work as a navigator with Renewing the Countryside to help other farmers find land to meet their goals.

We asked Joe: What should beginning farmers look for in a lease with a landowner?

“Make sure to have things down in writing,” Joe says. "Take notes during initial lease conversations so that you can come back to them and have a mutual understanding between the farmer and the landowner. Also, building in long-term security is important. Year-to-year leases are something to start with, but working towards a lease that will allow you to stay on the land for years will offer your farm security.”

Looking for land? Reach out to Joe and other Farmland Access Navigators on the Renewing the Countryside website.

Video: "Community-Engaged Seed Keeping of the African Diaspora"

During this past annual conference session, Ty Holmberg, co-director at Sankofa Community Farm at Bartram’s
Garden in Philadelphia, shares their process and experiences with community engagement through seed keeping. He also discusses ways white people can meaningfully engage with communities of color on agricultural topics.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Online workshop: "When Pesticide Drift Happens to You"

Aug. 18 | 1-4:30 p.m. | Online

You just had a pesticide drift incident. Now what?

In this free online workshop, we'll discuss the process of pesticide drift investigation, litigation and compensation following a misapplication event. Hear from Rob Faux and Emily Marquez from the Pesticide Action Network; Karen Varley, environmental lawyer; and Mark Smith from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

Field day: Community Farm Tour at Matthew 25

Aug. 19 | 1-3 p.m. | Cedar Rapids, IA

Join us for a field day at nonprofit organization Matthew 25's 2-acre urban farm, Cultivate Hope Urban Farm.

Cultivate Hope hosts educational programming, offers small plots to community members, and functions as a gathering space. You'll tour the urban farm, learn about its history and mission and hear from the farmers. RSVP online.
Join us for a beginning farmer social at Groundswell Café

Aug. 19 | 3:30-5 p.m. | Cedar Rapids, IA

Following the Matthew 25 Field Day, PFI will host a beginning farmer social at Groundswell Café just a couple blocks away.

Aspiring farmers, beginning farmers, and experienced farmers looking to mentor the next generation are welcome. Snacks will be provided!

You will get a chance to meet other beginning farmers in your area, network and learn more about PFI. To RSVP, please respond to this email.

Upcoming PFI events
All events listed in Central Time.

Aug. 20: Field Day – Collaborating to Scale Up Local Food Production
Hosted by: Carmen Black, Maja Black, Helaina Thompson & Carlos Williams
1-3 p.m. | Solon, IA

Sept. 9: Field Day – Pastured Pigs
Hosted by: Dayna Burtness
10 a.m.-Noon | Spring Grove, MN

Sept. 6: Field Day – Microgreens and Marketing to Build a Food System in Northwest Iowa
Hosted by: Calvin and Krissy Thiessen
10 a.m.-1 p.m. | Spirit Lake, IA

Friends of PFI events

Aug. 14: Field Day – Hemp Farm Field Day Event
Hosted by: Women Land and Legacy, Four Winds Farm
9 a.m.-Noon | Amana, IA

Aug. 15: Field Day – Introduction to Beekeeping
Hosted by: SFA, Jadell Cavallin
10 a.m.-Noon | Two Harbors, MN

Aug. 18-19: Workshop - Organic Transition Academy
Hosted by: Center for Rural Affairs, NCAT, Organic Academy Roadshow
10 a.m.-4 p.m. | Aurora, NE

Aug. 22: Workshop – Hard Cider Workshop
Hosted by: UW Madison Department of Food Science
10 a.m.-3 p.m. | Verona, WI

Aug 26: Webinar – A Year in the Life of a Poultry Producer
RESOURCES

Check out these additional resources for beginning farmers

Farm small, farm smart podcast: the profitable mini farm series
Jodi Roebuck, of Roebuck Farm, is hosting a podcast series about profitability in small-scale farming while staying true to his sustainable values. “You can’t stay green while you’re in the red,” he says. Listen on Spotify or Apple Podcasts.

Soul Fire Farm guide: "How Alive is My Soil?"
This Soul Fire Farm guide provides details on in-field soil health measurement protocols with strategies for building soil health to call carbon back to the land. Follow the guide step by step to assess and remedy your soil health.

Online agroforestry courses from the Savannah Institute
Savannah Institute’s agroforestry courses focus on key tree crops and practices, marketing, land access and finances, agroecology and climate change. Each course features multimedia lessons with video and audio with all you need to dig deep into each subject. The self-paced courses can be taken individually or in sequence.

STAY CONNECTED WITH PFI

Looking for more?

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