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Beginning
Farmer
NEWS
September 2019

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



SAVINGS INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Savings Incentive Program applications are NOW OPEN for the 2020-2021 class.

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION BEFORE OCTOBER 11, 2019!

Are you a beginning farmer struggling to find direction and support? Caleb and Jacqueline Shinn of Osceola [applied to the Savings Incentive Program](#) in hopes of getting help with creating their farm business plan.

"Going through the business plan portion [of SIP] showed us many options to tweak and guide our plans," Jacqueline says.



"Hearing from other farmers and professionals helped us improve and increase efficiency on our farm," Caleb says. Through SIP, the Shinn family learned about marketing methods to help them sell halves and wholes of the livestock they raise.

[Read more about the Shinn family's farming journey](#) in the summer issue of "the Practical Farmer." To be part of the 2021 Savings Incentive Program class, apply before Oct. 11.

Submit your Application Today!

Did you miss our pop-up Farminar?

If you missed our pop-up farminar on [Farm Lease Law](#), you are in luck. We have uploaded the recording in our farminar archive. Watch it today to answer your leasing questions!

Watch it Here



Check out these resources for beginning farmers

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.

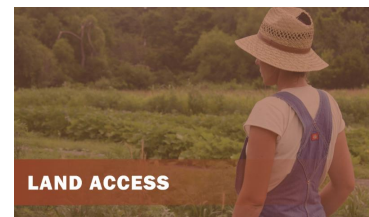
We will continue to build this list and add new resources as they are available. If you see any resources missing that you find helpful please share them with us. You can send them to Greg Padget at greg@practicalfarmers.org.



BUSINESS PLANNING



FINANCIAL



LAND ACCESS

National Conference for Women in Ag

October 17-19

St. Paul, MN

Connect with people from across the country who work in sustainable ag to exchange ideas, find new resources, and network. Workshops cover leadership skills, personal growth, farm business success, and more. Food justice advocate Miah Ulysse presents the keynote, "Working in Harmony to Transform the Food System."

Farm Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)

FACT recently published a series of materials that spotlight the nutritional benefits of pasture raised food. FACT created seven handouts in all that look at the different food-producing animals: beef cattle, dairy cows, laying hens, meat birds, pigs, sheep and goats, and an overview that summarizes all of the animals.

Organic Soil Health Management Training Available Online

Organic Farming Research Foundation has introduced a free online training program for beginning farmers, organic farmers, and farmers in transition. The first module is Organic Soil Health Management. The self-paced training program focuses on organic specialty crop production in California and combines descriptive essays, video lectures from university faculty, and virtual field trips to demonstrate organic principles and practices.

Land Available near Jefferson, Iowa

Owner is offering 26-acre farm and a greenhouse business. Farm includes fruit trees, newer barn, out-buildings, pasture, large garden, woods, sauna, and root cellar. Greenhouse business is located in Boone.

[Check out this Find A Farmer profile to learn more.](#)

Looking for help seeking land?

Farmland Access Hub can help

The Farmland Access Hub was created to help new farmers navigate the



Farmland Access

gotfarmland.org

increasingly difficult process of finding affordable land to farm in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa.

Farmland Access Navigators are available to help. They are trained to guide beginning farmers through the process of finding property and securing land tenure. [Click here](#) to learn more about connecting to a Farmland Access Navigator.

How long have you been farming?

Select your response below

I'm planning to start farming in the next 3 years

Select

I'm planning to start farming in the next 5 years

Select

I've been farming 1-5 years

Select

I've been farming 6-10 years

Select

I've been farming over 10 years

Select

UPCOMING PFI EVENTS

Save the Date! ↘

BEGINNING FARMER RETREAT

DECEMBER 13-14 | AMES, IOWA

You are invited to attend the Beginning Farmer Retreat in Ames! If you are starting or thinking about starting a farm you should plan to attend this annual retreat. In addition to networking with other farmers, attendees will make progress on goal setting and creating action plans for achieving them. Programming will be offered for both aspiring farmers and beginning farmers, with experts and peers facilitating the sessions and assisting with work time. Registration will open in October.

Find out more details at practicalfarmers.org/beginning-farmers-retreat.

Sept. 21: Field Day - [Rotationally Raising Poultry on Pasture](#)
2-4 p.m. | Iowa City

Sept. 22: Field Day - [Beekeeping in Iowa](#)

4-7 p.m. | Glenwood

Sept. 28: Field Day - Goats for Ecological Restoration

1-5 p.m. | Chelsea

Oct. 6: Field Day - Extending the Vegetable Season

3-5 p.m. | Mt. Vernon

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 and see open positions](#)



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](#)



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](#)



STAY CONNECTED



Looking for more?

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