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Beginning  
Farmer

NEWS

September 2021

PRACTICAL FARMERS OF IOWA  
**SAVINGS INCENTIVE PROGRAM**

## Join the 2023 SIP Class, Applications are Open!!

**Applications are now OPEN for the SIP class of 2023!** Getting a start in farming can be difficult, and sometimes you need a little guidance to keep you on track. The Savings Incentive Program was created to help beginners establish viable, sustainable farm businesses. The program was structured with input from beginning farmers and direction from established farmers.

### What will you get over the next two years?

#### Business Planning

Receive guidance with creating your own business plan

#### Network Building

Connect to a network of peers and mentors

#### Capital Investing

Savings investments will be matched up to \$2,400



### To be eligible, applicants must:

1. Applicants must either be farming on their own now and have farmed for seven or fewer years, or have experience working for a farm business.
2. Must reside in Iowa or farm in the state of Iowa or bordering counties in adjoining states.
3. Must be a member of Practical Farmers of Iowa.

Applications are due by **Monday, Oct. 12.**

Apply Today

## Discovering Resilience: A Legal Workshop for Farmers and Ranchers

Practical Farmers and Farm Commons are teaming up to offer a legal workshop just for farmers and ranchers starting Oct. 19.



Because of our partnership with Farm Commons, we are able to offer the workshop at a discounted rate of \$49, which includes a one-year membership and access to Farm Commons' guides, webinars, resource library and more!

**Oct. 19:** Farm Law as Your Creative Power

**Oct. 26:** Organize Your Farm Business for Legal Success

**Nov. 2:** Growing a Legally Resilient Workforce

**Nov. 9:** Access Farmland with Legal Confidence

**Nov. 16:** Diversify Farm Enterprises Without Adding Legal Risk

[Sign up and use coupon code PFI49 at checkout](#)

## ¡Unase con nosotros en Explorando la Agricultura!

PRACTICAL FARMERS  
*of Iowa*

# Explorando la Agricultura

**Jueves, 7 de Octubre -  
Jueves, 28 de Octubre**

¿Tienes una visión para comenzar una granja o un jardín?

El taller le ayudará a tomar su visión y a cultivar un camino para convertir las metas de su granja o jardín en una realidad. Las cuatro sesiones del taller serán gratis y alojado virtualmente por Zoom.

### **Sesión 1: Propósito**

Jueves, 7 de Octubre | 6-7:30 pm

### **Sesión 2: Personas**

Jueves, 14 de Octubre | 6-7:30 pm

### **Sesión 3: Planificación**

Jueves, 21 de Octubre | 6-7:30 pm

### **Sesión 4: Producto**

Jueves, 28 de Octubre | 6-7:30 pm

## 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).



*Check out these resources for beginning farmers*

**New Farmer U** | MOSES & Renewing the Countryside  
New Farmer U covers farm **financial and business management for intermediate beginning farmers**—3-6 years of farming experience—or anyone who is ready to plan for future success. New Farmer U will take place on Oct. 29th and 30th at Camp One Heartland in Willow River, Minnesota. The \$50.00 registration fee covers workshops, meals, and lodging. Language interpretation and scholarships are available.

[> Learn more and register](#)

**Models of Native Cooperative Ownership Series** | Center for Rural Affairs  
Join this online series to learn **about farming and art-based Native American-owned cooperatives** from around the country. Co-ops will present their businesses, aiming to inspire other individuals to start their own co-ops or quasi-cooperatives. Workshops will be hosted online from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on the following dates.

[> Register to tune in](#)

Sept. 23: Fond du Lac Farming Cooperative

Sept. 28: Soul Fire Farms

Sept. 30: San Xavier Farms

**Beginning Farmer Online Courses** | Cornell Small Farms Program  
Are you looking to **improve your technical or business skills** to benefit your farming operation? Consider joining one of our more than two dozen online courses during live instruction this upcoming online course season.

- [Quickbooks for Farmers](#)
- [Starting at Square One](#)
- [Reading the Land](#)

**3D Virtual Skill Share: Soil Carbon** | Soul Fire Farm

The 3D series is a multilingual and multidimensional workshop series designed to center B.I.P.O.C. (Black, Indigenous, &/or People or Color), to deepen skills in specific farming and homesteading practices in a culturally relevant, supportive, and joyful environment. In the next 3D workshop, on Thursday, September 23, at 2 p.m., **explore soil, soil health, and how building soil health relates to soil carbon sequestration.** > [Learn more and register.](#)

### **Business & Financial Training for Farmers** | FACT

FACT will offer a new **financial training program for livestock and poultry farmers to help their farm businesses thrive.** In partnership with the Food Finance Institute, we will provide three levels of programming: free webinars (see below!), subscriptions for on-demand online courses, and a virtual 4-day boot camp intensive workshop.

### **Report: Can direct-market vegetable farmers make a middle-class income?**

| PASA

The Pennsylvania Sustainable Agriculture (PASA)'s new report, **Financial Benchmarks for Direct-Market Vegetable Farms**, offers the most comprehensive review of direct-market vegetable farm businesses to date, sharing detailed financial benchmarks from 39 farms collected over three years.

> [Read a summary of PASA's findings on their blog.](#)

> [Register here to join PASA on October 5 for a webinar reviewing the report](#)

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## *Funding Opportunities*

### **Racial Justice and Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements**

USDA is investing up to \$50 million to support historically underserved farmers and ranchers with climate-smart agriculture and forestry. Racial Justice and Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements are available to expand the delivery of conservation assistance to farmers who are beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged, and veterans. **Applications must be received by October 25, 2021.**

### **Scholarships for Livestock and Poultry Farmers** | FACT

FACT will award **scholarships of up to \$400 for livestock and poultry farmers to attend educational events - including virtual events** - to learn knowledge, skills and best practices related to humane animal management, business and farm finance, and/or value-added production processes.

### **Applications to Help Cover Costs for Organic Certification** | USDA

Organic producers and handlers can now apply for funds to assist with the cost of receiving or maintaining organic certification. This program provides cost-share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products for the costs of obtaining or maintaining organic certification under the USDA's National Organic Program.

> [Learn more and apply by November 1.](#)

### **Farmer Rancher Grant** | North Central SARE

North Central Region - Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (NCR-SARE) Farmer Rancher Grant Call for Proposals is now open. Farmer Rancher grants are for ideas initiated by farmers and ranchers and are offered as individual grants (\$15,000 maximum) or team grants for two or more

farmers/ranchers who are working together (\$30,000 maximum). NCR-SARE expects to fund about 40 projects in the twelve-state North Central Region with this call. **Proposals are due on December 2, 2021, at 4 p.m. CST.**

> [Learn more and apply.](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Join us for free "Livestock on the Land" screenings in September



**Join Practical Farmers of Iowa for free outdoor screenings and panel discussions** of "Livestock on the Land," our feature-length documentary that tells the story of regenerative grazing and its promise for the Iowa landscape.

Following the film, the audience can ask questions and hear from a panel of farmers featured in the film.

#### Screening dates and locations:

- **Sept. 25** – Des Moines – Lauridsen Amphitheater at Water Works Park (2251 George Flagg Parkway)

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### 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.

#### **Going to Town: Opening a Local Foods Store for the Farm**

Friday, September 24 | 2-4 p.m.

*Host:* Danelle Myer, One Farm & One Farm Market | Harrison County

[jacqueline@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:jacqueline@practicalfarmers.org)

#### **Winter Greens Production in Heated High Tunnels**

Friday, November 12 | 1-3 p.m.

*Host:* Lee Matteson, Lee's Greens | Story County

[jacqueline@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:jacqueline@practicalfarmers.org)

#### **Organic Cropping Systems: Rotations with Small Grains, Weed Management**

Wednesday, September 29 | 10 a.m. – noon

*Hosts:* Daniel and David Rosmann | Shelby County

[stefan@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:stefan@practicalfarmers.org)

## Upcoming PFI events in the next two weeks

**Sept. 18: Field Day- Building a Small, Diversified Farm From Scratch**

4-6 pm | Milo, IA

**Sept. 29: Field Day- Raising 100% Grass-Fed Beef in Row Crop Country**

4-7 pm | Clarion, IA

**Sept. 25: Livestock on the Land Film Screening- Des Moines Water Works Park**

7:30 pm | Des Moines, IA

**Oct. 7: Explorando la Agricultura- Sesión 1: Propósito**

6-7:30 pm | Online

[View more events on our calendar](#)

STAY CONNECTED



Looking for more?

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