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Latest Beginning Farmer News & Updates

Savings Incentive Program Applications Close on October 10

Have you decided that farming is the path for you? Then you should apply for the Savings Incentive Program. This program aims to help beginning farmers succeed by matching a couple thousand dollars in start-up cash, providing access to an experienced mentor and support network, and offering resources to build a solid business plan. Click [here](#) for more details and [apply](#) before October 10.

Practical Farmers of Iowa's [Savings Incentive Program](#) is a two-year program designed to guide and support beginning farmers to reach the next level of their farming goals. The program helps to:

- build valuable farmer-mentor and peer relationships
- promote regular attendance at learning and networking opportunities
- promote good financial habits
- encourage participants to plan for their farm as a business
- motivate participants to take action steps toward their farming goals

"We encourage any beginning or early farmer to apply for SIP. The mentorship, savings, and discipline to finish a business plan is a real kick start to move your business forward."

Bill and Stacey Borrenpohl
SIP class of 2016

If you are accepted into the program and successfully complete all requirements, you will receive a one-to-one match on money you have saved during your time in the program, up to \$2,400, for a potential total of \$4,800 that may be used to help purchase a long-term asset (or assets) for your farm.

APPLY TODAY!

OPPORTUNITIES

[QuickBooks for Farmers - Part 1](#)

Tuesday, October 23, 3 - 4 p.m.

QuickBooks is a powerful tool that goes way beyond just tracking income and expenses for taxes; it can help you manage cash, understand how to increase profits, and plan for growth. Part 1 will cover:

- An overview of QuickBooks, and how to decide between online and desktop
- Basic accounting concepts that underlie QuickBooks
- Set-up including creating a customized chart of accounts

- Basic transactions such as entering expenses, creating wholesale customer invoices and recording bank deposits

2018 WFAN Annual Conference

November 1-2

Des Moines, Iowa

This two-day annual conference is an opportunity to learn from a group of diverse peers, build a stronger network, and foster connections for long-lasting change. The conference will feature women in the WFAN network through regional field tours; day-long intensives; a farm-to-table dinner; art + story gallery featuring work by women farmers; creative community building; and workshops.

[Register](#) by October 26.

RESOURCES

A Primer on Multispecies Grazing

This new publication, "Multispecies Grazing: A Primer on Diversity," discusses the financial, animal-health, and pasture-health benefits that can be attained by grazing multiple livestock species on the same ground. Written by NCAT Agriculture Specialist Lee Rinehart, it delves into the details of grazing planning for species with different grazing dynamics, and explores the practical implications of fencing and handling livestock with different requirements.

Download the publication for [FREE](#)

Save the Date for Beginning Farmer Retreat, Nov. 30 - Dec. 1

This year, we will gather at the Pilgrim Heights Retreat Center in Montour, Iowa. The event starts in the afternoon on Nov. 30 and runs through the following afternoon. 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. Stay tuned for more details and registration.

PFI EVENTS

**October 5: Field Day - [Cheese and Ice Cream Production at Kalona Creamery](#)
1 - 4 p.m. | Kalona | [RSVP for samples by Sept. 28](#)**

**October 13: Social - [Beginning Farmer Social at Uncle G's Farm](#)
5 - 7 p.m. | Ogden | [Potluck - RSVPs suggested](#)**

**October 14: CANCELLED Field Day - [Fall Vegetable Production and Planting](#)
Mechanicsville | **Cancelled****

**November 8: Field Day: [Root and Tuber Crop Production](#)
3 - 5 p.m. | Sioux Center | [RSVP for the meal by Nov. 3](#)**

**November 30 - December 1: [Beginning Farmer Retreat](#)
Montour | **Registration coming soon****

Labor4Learning

Labor4Learning helps beginning farmers get paid on-the-job training with experienced farmers, and pays experienced farmers for their time and effort. New positions are posted now.

[Check out more and see open positions](#)

Saving 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 and then we match is dollar for dollar up to \$2,400, to use toward the purchase of a farm asset. **Applications are open until October 10, 2018.**

[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 open positions](#)

STAY CONNECTED



Looking for more? Contact us today!

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