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The Practical
**HORTI-
CULTURIST**
November 2022

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

Meet a Co-Hort: Darla Eeten

Why you grow horticulture crops, in 5 or fewer words: Connection to people and land

What is something you're excited about this year: We just got the garden all put to bed for the fall, but now seed catalogs started arriving in the mail – so I'm excited for spring! I'm looking at flower seeds to order – and especially disease resistant cucumber varieties. We had big disease problems in 2022.



Favorite PFI memory: We hosted a PFI field day a few years back (in 2017), and it was so much work, but it was also so amazing to have like-minded people on our farm to share a love of the land.

Favorite crop and why: How do I pick just one? Well, if I had to, it would be flowers. Then sweet corn. And I also love all the little lettuces in the spring!

It's just so amazing to share with other PFI members who care about the land so much. – Darla Eeten

PROGRAM UPDATES

Apply today for PFI's Produce Safety Cost-Share



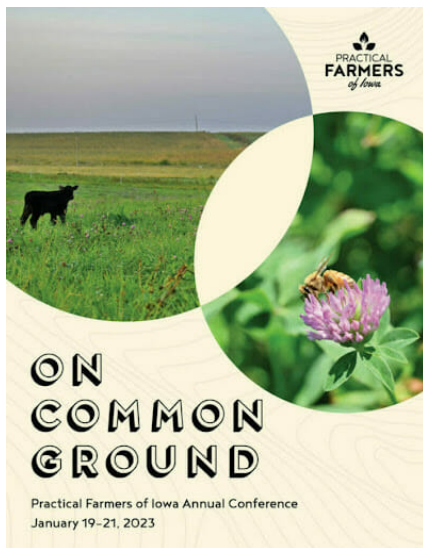
PFI is excited to announce the opening of our [Produce Safety Cost-Share](#) for fruit and vegetable farmers seeking to make on-farm food safety improvements.

Our goal is to open more markets to more farmers in Iowa. Learn more on [PFI's Produce Safety Cost-Share](#) webpage.

Applications due Dec. 15.

IN THE FIELD

Save the date for PFI's annual conference!



[PFI's annual conference](#) has been a keystone event for sharing knowledge, building connections and celebrating agriculture in Iowa (and good food!).

We are pleased to offer 60-plus sessions on a wide variety of agricultural topics, 70-plus exhibitors, locally sourced meals and a spirit of curiosity and community.

[Register today!](#)

Eat local this Thanksgiving



Looking for local this Thanksgiving?

Check out [PFI's Local Foods Directory](#) for local foods available near you.

Are you a member of PFI and want your farm added to the list? [Fill out this form](#) and we'll make the update.

Sign up today for PSA Grower Training



The [**Produce Safety Alliance \(PSA\) Grower Training Course**](#) is one way to satisfy the FSMA Produce Safety Rule requirement – and a requirement of PFI’s Produce Safety Cost-Share.

ISU is offering remote and in-person courses this winter.

\$20 for Iowa growers; \$120 for growers from other states.

[**Register here!**](#)

Meet-up with hort farmers in your area this winter



Every February and March, PFI teams up with members around the state to hold Horticulture Meet-ups.

These are informal gatherings often over coffee, in a local café or at a farmer’s home, to share ideas, enjoy a meal and strengthen networks.

Want to host a Horticulture Meet-up? Email Jacqueline at [**jacqueline.venner.senske@practicalfarmers.org**](mailto:jacqueline.venner.senske@practicalfarmers.org).

Register as a producer for the Iowa Local Food Purchasing Assistance Program

Do you know about the [**Iowa Local Food Purchasing Assistance Program?**](#)

This program funds local food purchases, pairing local farmers with community food access partners like food banks and churches. Visit the website to learn more and take part.



Producer registration is on a rolling basis, so you can still participate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

All events listed in central daylight time

Upcoming PFI horticulture events:

Jan 19-20: Short Course - Growing and Selling Cut Flowers in the Midwest
Full Day | Ames, IA

Jan. 20-21: Conference - PFI Annual Conference
Full Day | Ames, IA

Friends of PFI horticulture events:

Dec. 2-3: Virtual Event - Women in Food and Agriculture Virtual Gathering

Hosted by Women Food & Ag Network | Online

Jan. 13-14: Conference - Great Plains Grower Conference

Full Day | St. Joseph, MO

Jan. 26 & 27: Virtual Event - 2023 Organic Vegetable Production Conference

Hosted by University of Wisconsin | Online

Looking Ahead: Save the Date!

Feb. 3 & 4: Conference - 2023 Organic Vegetable Production Conference

Hosted by University of Wisconsin | Madison, WI

Feb. 22-23: Conference - Iowa Specialty Producers Conference

Hosted by Iowa Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association and Iowa Wine Growers Association | Ankeny, IA

Feb. 23-25: Conference - Marbleseed Organic Farming Conference

Hosted by Marbleseed (formerly MOSES) | LaCrosse, WI

[View more upcoming events](#)

POLL

What is the conference you're most excited to attend this winter?

Great Plains Grower Conference Jan. 13-14

Select

PFI Annual Conference Jan. 19-21

Select

**2023 Organic Veg. Production Conf. Jan. 26-27 Online + Feb 3-4 |
Madison, WI**

Select

Iowa Specialty Producers Conference Feb 22-23

Select

Marbleseed Feb. 23-25

Select

Something else

Select

No conferences for me this winter!

Select

Previous Poll Results:

For many hort farmers, the season is winding down. How do you feel as hard frosts set in?

- **Great! I'm ready for a break. Bring on winter! - 30.4%**
- Mixed! Sad to see things end but excited for next year. - 26.1%
- Devastated. I hate seeing the season end! - 21.7%
- No change for me! Production keeps on rolling. - 21.7%

Send us your poll ideas! We want to know what YOU want to know. Reply to this email with your ideas for the next poll.

STAY CONNECTED



CONTACT US

Jacqueline Venner Senske
Horticulture Education Coordinator

jacqueline.venner.senske@practicalfarmers.org

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*Not yet a member of Practical Farmers of Iowa? Visit our **Membership page** or call 515-232-5661 to join today!*