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The Practical HORTI- CULTURIST

December 2022

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

Meet a Co-Hort: Kim Anderson

Located near Brighton, Iowa, **Kim Anderson** owns and operates Blueberry Bottom, which she describes as "a small, diverse, organic farm in southeast Iowa still owned and operated by family since 1894."

Why you grow horticulture crops, in 5 or fewer words: Create diversity on the farm.

What is something you're excited about this year: Partnering with a tea maker and dabbling in blueberry leaf tea.



What do you wish you could change about your industry: In thinking about organic production, I would change the misconceptions about organic farming.

Favorite PFI memory: Oooh, the annual conference potluck! For several years, I brought a blueberry cheesecake. One year, as soon as I walked in, someone working in the kitchen saw me and said, "Oh. My. Gosh. You're back." That stopped me in my tracks! The woman told me that last year, she missed out on my "amazing blueberry cheesecake."

"This year," she said, "I'm reserving a piece for myself!"

So for the upcoming Pickles & Preserves Potluck, I think I have to bring a blueberry cheesecake!

I can't wait to get together at the potluck at the upcoming conference!

- Kim Anderson



PROGRAM UPDATES

Short course: Growing and Selling Cut Flowers in the Midwest



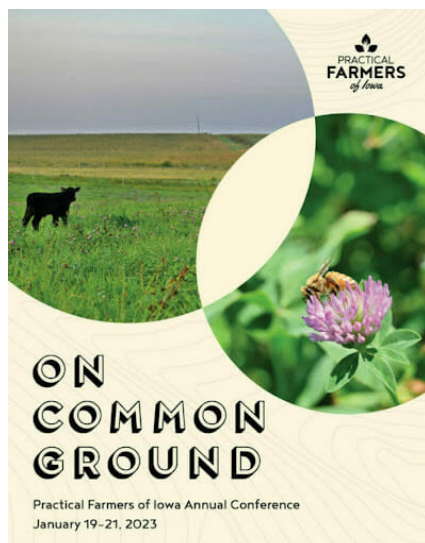
Flower farming is one of the hottest trends in specialty crops in Iowa and across the country.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear from new and experienced farmers from across the Midwest on Jan. 19-20 as a lead-in to the annual conference.

[Register today!](#)

IN THE FIELD

Register today for On Common Ground: PFI's annual conference



If you haven't yet registered for **[PFI's annual conference](#)**, it's not too late! Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind event for sharing knowledge, building connections and celebrating agriculture in Iowa (and good food!).

This year's event will feature 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!](#)

Don't miss 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 for trainings here!](#)

Save the Date: 2023 PFI Commercial Apple Growers Workshop Feb. 7



Do you operate a commercial apple orchard in Iowa? If so, plan to join us in Wilson's Ciderhouse & Event Venue in Iowa City, Iowa, for the 2023 Commercial Apple Growers Workshop.

We'll hear from regional experts, connect with other Iowa apple growers and take a tour of the orchard and cider facility - and do some tasting - with owner **Paul Rasch**.

Registration details coming soon!

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 standard 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

Feb. 7: Workshop - Commercial Apple Growers Workshop

Full Day | Iowa City, IA

Friends of PFI horticulture events:

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

Full Day | St. Joseph, MO

Jan. 26: Meeting - Field to Family's Annual Producer Planning Meeting

11:30 a.m. | Iowa City

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

Hosted by University of Wisconsin | Online

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

Looking Ahead: Save the Date!

Feb. 16-17: Fair - Local Food & CSA Fair

Hosted by CULTIVATE Local Food Connections

Full Day | West Des Moines, IA

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

Conference

Hosted by University of Wisconsin |
Madison, WI

Hosted by Marbleseed (formerly
MOSES) | LaCrosse, WI

[View more upcoming events](#)

POLL

What excites you the most about the PFI annual conference?

The people

Select

The sessions

Select

The potluck

Select

All of the above

Select

Something else

Select

Previous Poll Results:

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

- **PFI Annual Conference Jan. 19-21 - 28.6%**
- **2023 Organic Veg. Production Conf. Jan. 26-27 Online + Feb 3-4 | Madison, WI - 28.6%**
- Iowa Specialty Producers Conference Feb 22-23 - 14.3%
- Something else - 14.3%
- No conferences for me this winter! - 14.3%

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.

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CONTACT US

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