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The Practical  
**HORTI-  
CULTURIST**  
January 2023

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*

## Meet a Co-Hort: Anna Geyer

**Anna Geyer** has explored a variety of agritourism enterprises on her farm, including cut flowers, a pizza oven and leading land-based classes. Now, she is transitioning to teaching entrepreneurship and growing agroforestry crops.

**Why you grow horticulture crops, in 5 or fewer words:** Growing things makes me happy

**What is something you're excited about this year:** I want to increase ecological balance and diversity, and I hope to explore crops that can coexist with each other. I'm working toward creating a forage farm for food, fiber, natural dyes, natural building materials and medicinals, so I'm excited about adding those kinds of plants.

**Favorite PFI memory:** The conference is always my favorite. Last year, I actually got to speak at the conference, so I got to meet more people. I loved interacting with people, hearing what they were thinking and their questions. It is such a thoughtful, creative, interactive, interested bunch of people. And I ran into a woman at the tea bar, we had a conversation, and now we've become really good friends. That's just so indicative of the PFI experience!





"Being a speaker at the conference meant I got to experience the beautiful people in the PFI community in a different way." - Anna Geyer

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Produce Safety Cost-Share expansion



The [Produce Safety Cost-Share](#) is expanding, and a new application period is now open!

Reimbursements for on-farm food safety improvements are available at \$1,500 or \$2,000 levels.

[Click here to learn more!](#)

## IN THE FIELD

### Online farm management resources from other states



The how-tos of farming practices are critical to success, but management, labor and finance decisions are just as key. The Michigan State University and University of Vermont both offer useful online resources available to all farmers.

Learn more about [Univ. of Vermont resources here](#) and [Michigan State resources here](#).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Upcoming PFI horticulture events:

*All events listed in central standard time*

## Commercial Apple Growers Workshop



**Join PFI at Wilson's Ciderhouse and Venue on Feb. 7 from 8 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Focused on **commercial-scale apple production**, this workshop will explore keys to successful and sustainable apple production in the Midwest.

You'll hear from regional experts on apple production, connect with other growers and venture out for a tour of the production orchard at Wilson's, led by owner Paul Rasch.

The workshop is **FREE**, but registration is required for lunch by February 26.

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## Explore new ideas with PFI Farminars



Farminars are Practical Farmers' version of a webinar – a farmer-led webinar! These 90-minute, online presentations are **FREE** for everyone, and we encourage attendees to come with questions for the chat box.

**Farminars are held Tuesdays, noon-1:30 p.m. Central Time, from January to March.**

**[See the full lineup and register.](#)**

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## Make connections at Hort and Flower Farmer Meet-ups



PFI Hort and Flower Farmer Meet-ups are great opportunities for farmers to network, share and collaborate ahead of the growing season.

Save the date for an upcoming gathering near you!

**[Learn more by clicking here.](#)**

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## Register today for the **Beginning Farmer Summit in Ames** on Feb. 13



Are you a beginning farmer? Thinking about starting a farm? Join us at the **Beginning Farmer Summit!** Choose from four tracks:

- Getting Ready for Land
- Beginning Farmer: Enterprise Budgeting
- Beginning Farmer: Marketing Plan Fundamentals
- Setting Goals and Taking the Next Steps for Landowners

**This event is FREE, but registration is required for lunch by February 9.**

### More upcoming events:

**Jan. 31: Farminar - Creating Space for Pollinator and Beneficial Insect Habitat on Small Urban Farms**

Noon-1:30 p.m. | Online

**Feb. 7: Workshop - Commercial Apple Growers Workshop**

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. | Iowa City, IA

**Feb. 11: Meet-Up - Horticulture Farmers Meet-up**

10 a.m.-noon | Woodbine, IA

**Feb. 14: Farminar - Magic Tarping Ride: Perspectives on a System for Soil Quality, Weed Control and More on Vegetable Farms**

Noon - 1:30 p.m. | Online

**Feb. 15: Meet-Up - Horticulture Farmers**

9-11 a.m. | Algona, IA

**Feb. 17: Meet-Up - Horticulture Farmers**

9-11 a.m. | Des Moines, IA

**Feb. 21: Meet-Up - Horticulture Farmers**

10 a.m.-noon | Decorah, IA

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

All day | Ankeny, IA

**Feb. 24: Meet-Up - Horticulture and Flower Farmers**

9-11 a.m. | Oxford, IA

**Mar. 3: Meet-Up - Horticulture Farmers**

9-11 a.m. | Sioux Center, IA

[View more upcoming events](#)

## POLL

From how many sources do you buy your spring seed?

1

Select

2-3

Select

4+

Select

I don't buy seed in spring

Select

### Previous Poll Results:

What excites you most about the PFI annual conference?

- **The people - 33.3%**
- **All of the above - 33.3%**
- Something else - 16.7%
- The sessions - 8.3%
- The potluck - 8.3%

*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.*

### STAY CONNECTED



## CONTACT US

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