

## Beginning Farmer News - Connect with PFI this fall

Rachel Burke <rachel.burke@practicalfarmers.org>

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To: Carly Zierke <carly.zierke@practicalfarmers.org>



*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



### Meet Amber Mohr, Farmland Access Navigator

**Amber Mohr** and her family started Fork Tail Farm seven years ago in Avoca, Iowa, where they produce pasture-raised meat and poultry. A beginning farmer herself, Amber has relied on the wisdom of experienced farmers to help her navigate farm decisions.

Three years ago, Amber became a [Farmland Access Navigator for Renewing the Countryside](#) to help others prepare to search for and access farmland.

**We asked Amber: What is the first step a beginning farmer should take when looking for land?**

"Identify your goals for the land considering your lifestyle and entrepreneurial endeavors. **Bring in your stakeholders**, family and partners early," Amber says. "Keep these goals in

mind while you look for land. **It is easy to quickly fall in love with land even though it may not meet your needs."**

Looking for land? [Reach out to Amber and other Farmland Access Navigators on the Renewing the Countryside website.](#)

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Become a PFI member today!



PFI can be a valuable resource for you in the early years of building your farm. [Join our community of farmers](#) and learn how others are building resilient farms and communities.

Our farmer-led programming spans from beginning to advanced topics for field crops, horticulture and livestock producers.

Beginning farmers can join with an access membership for just \$25.

[Join online today.](#)

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### Cost-share insect habitat on your urban farm



PFI and Xerces Society are partnering to help you fund and install beneficial insect habitat including insectary strips and beetle banks on your urban farm.

**Farms in urban and suburban areas in Iowa are eligible.** Apply now to install your habitat in 2024.

Special consideration will be given to historically underserved farmers.

[Learn more and apply!](#)

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### Attend WFAN's upcoming conference in Ames, Iowa



The Women Food and Agriculture Network (WFAN) is hosting their 2023 conference, Nourishing our Roots, Gathering our Community, from Oct. 7-9 in Ames. The theme is reunion, celebration and retreat.

This year's conference will include field tours at **PFI member farms Root to Rise Farm and Mustard Seed Community Farm**. Stop by PFI's booth and say hello!

[Register online.](#)

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## Register for the Dream to Farm course



Are you interested in becoming a producer of local food?

[Iowa Western Community College](#) and [Golden Hills RC&D](#) have partnered to build a 14 week comprehensive course titled [Dream to Farm.](#)

This class will help you create a comprehensive business and will cover the basics of farming techniques, soils, animals, irrigation and integrated pest management.

The course starts tomorrow on Thursday, Sept. 14, so [register ASAP!](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Field Day: Pastured Eggs 101



**Saturday, Sept. 16 | 10 a.m.-Noon**

**Mariel Barreras** operates Barreras Family Farm raising cattle, pigs, chickens, turkeys and pastured eggs, along with seasonal fruit and vegetables marketed through a CSA.

At this field day, Mariel will cover the fundamentals of pastured egg production, fencing, sales avenues and more. [RSVP](#)

**Following the field day, Mariel and PFI will host a Beginning Farmer Social.**

Join to network with your peers and learn more about the Barreras' livestock and horticulture enterprises. **Please RSVP by replying to this email.**

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## Upcoming PFI events

*All events listed in Central Time.*

**Sept. 13: Field Day – [Visual Soil Assessments and Johnson-Su Compost](#)**

*Hosted by: Rory & Lynette Van Wyk  
2-5 p.m. | Winterset, IA*

**Sept. 18: Field Day – [Cooperators' Trial With Soybeans Planted Green, Legume Covers and Strip-Till Corn](#)**

*Hosted by: Tracy & Sue Skaar and Mic Skaar  
10 a.m.-Noon | Hayward, MN*

**Sept. 19: Field Day – [Grazing Cover Crops for Soil Health](#)**

*Hosted by: Aaron Alons & Andy Getting  
10 a.m.-Noon | Ashton, IA*

**Sept. 21: Field Day – [Cover Crops Following Small Grains and Grazing Cattle](#)**

*Hosted by: Scott & Nancy Schultz and Family  
10 a.m.-Noon | Watertown, WI*

**Sept. 23: Field Day – [Aerially Seeding Cover Crops, Talking Farm Transfer and Cooperators' Program Research](#)**

*Hosted by: Mark & Melanie Peterson and Monroe Peterson  
10 a.m.-Noon | Stanton, IA*

**\*Due to dry conditions we will view a drone seeder demonstration instead of aerial seeding**

**Oct. 6: Field Day – [Mushroom Cultivation, Marketing and Tasting](#)**

*Hosted by: Kevin Novak  
1-4 p.m. | Honey Creek, IA*

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## Friends of PFI events

**Sept. 13: Field Day – [Agronomy in the Field](#)**

*Hosted by: Iowa State Extension, Doug & Denise Bishop*  
5:30-7 p.m. | Manchester, IA

**Sept. 13: Webinar – [Life Hacks for the Long Haul: Emotional Wellness for Agrarians and their Communities](#)**

*Hosted by: Quivira Coalition*  
7-8:30 p.m. | [Online](#)

**Sept. 13: Webinar – [Building Resilience With Perennial-Based Production Systems](#)**

*Hosted by: Rodale Institute*  
1-2 p.m. | [Online](#)

**Sept. 18: Webinar – [Five Steps to Protect Your Farm, Legally Speaking](#)**

*Hosted by: Illinois Extension*  
7 p.m. | [Online](#)

**Sept. 21: Webinar – [Dairy Goat Webinar Series: Producer Perspectives Panel](#)**

*Hosted by: Iowa State Extension*  
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

[View our events calendar](#)

## Contact our team

**Rachel Burke**

*Beginning Farmer Engagement Coordinator*  
[rachel.burke@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:rachel.burke@practicalfarmers.org)

(612) 741-2492

**Martha McFarland**

*Farmland Viability Coordinator*  
[martha.mcfarland@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:martha.mcfarland@practicalfarmers.org)  
(641) 229-6701

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1615 Golden Aspen Dr Suite 101

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