

Beginning Farmer News - Last call to pre-register for the annual conference!

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*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



## Meet Claire Wilson, a beginning farmer at West Fork Farmstead

**Claire Wilson** farms at [West Fork Farmstead](#) with her sister, **Natasha**, and her parents, **Brian and Nancy**. Claire is a social worker with an aptitude for mechanical jobs and a passion for all things animals and outdoors. She returned to the farm in 2023 and is learning to care for the animals, assisting Brian with creative farm projects and scheming up ways she could live by the farm pond.

## **We asked Claire: How has your perspective of your family farm changed over the years?**

**Claire:** "If you'd asked me as I was growing up if I'd ever have considered coming back to our family farm, I would've told you 'absolutely no way.' I greatly disliked the conventional side of farming – it felt tedious, stinky and disconnected from the animals we raised.

When my parents and sister decided to transition the farm from wholly conventional to include more diverse and regenerative practices, my perspective began to change. The way we farm now allows for more connection with our animals.

I hope anyone who feels the way I used to about farming has opportunities to be exposed to the more symbiotic practices of regenerative agriculture."

## **PROGRAM UPDATES**

### **2024 Young Farmers Grant applications due Jan. 15**



The National Young Farmers Coalition is providing grants to support beginning farmers and ranchers to start and grow their businesses with flexible funding that can be applied to a wide range of personal and farm expenses.

The program will provide 50 farmers and ranchers with \$5,000 each in 2024.

Applications are due Jan. 15 at 2 p.m. Central Time. [Learn more or apply now!](#)

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### **Check if your small business needs to file new beneficial ownership information reports in 2024**



Beginning Jan. 1, 2024, most small entities, including single-member LLCs, must file online reports with the federal government disclosing information about the 'beneficial owners' of your business.

Don't worry, though – you can file online in just a few minutes.

**[View this article from Iowa State Extension for more information and file online here when you're ready.](#)**

## Specialty crop farmland available for rent in Eastern Iowa



**Nancy and John Brannaman** have 15 acres available for rent in 2024 in 1 to 3-acre segments with deer fencing and water available. Rent is per acre and payable monthly from April 1 to October 1.

Located near Sutliff, Iowa, the farm's location offers easy access to farmers markets in Iowa City, Cedar Rapids, Mt. Vernon and Solon, Iowa.

**Text Nancy for more information. (515) 357-0054.**

Have questions about seasonal leases and working with landowners? **[Reach out to Renewing the Countryside's Farm Land Access Navigators.](#)**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Last chance to pre-register for the annual conference**



**Jan. 19-20 | Des Moines, IA**

The **PFI 2024 Annual Conference** is an event for sharing knowledge, building connections and celebrating agriculture in Iowa. Join us, for the first time, in Des Moines, Iowa.

You'll have the chance to attend beginning farmer sessions like "Farmers Market 101" with **Whitney and Jordan Clasen** of Grade A Gardens and "Building a Wool Enterprise" with **Kathryn Ashley-Wright** of Ewetopia.

Pre-registration is due Thursday, Jan. 11. **Register now to get the best rates!**

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## **Join us in Iowa City for the Beginning Farmer Retreat**



**Saturday, Feb. 10 | 10 a.m.-5 p.m. | Iowa City, IA**

Whether you've been farming for several years, or are in the beginning stages of your farming journey, we hope you'll join us at our **Beginning Farmer Retreat**.

During this daylong intensive you'll learn from experienced farmers and farm business coaches. Retreat topics will include business models and structures, business plans and Q&A with experienced farmers by enterprise. **Register for this free event.**

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## **Whole Animal Butchery course**





**Tuesday, March 5 | 1-3:30 p.m. | Lovilia, IA**

PFI member, **John Hogeland** of Whippoorwill Farm is offering a **Whole Animal Butchery** class focusing on goat and lamb. You'll learn about various cuts and the best cooking methods.

This class is for farmers and chefs interested in utilizing the whole animal who want to discuss cuts with their customers more fluently. **Learn more and sign up.**

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## Upcoming PFI events

**Feb. 6: Workshop – Commercial Apple Growers Workshop**  
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. | Ames, IA

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## Friends of PFI events

**Jan. 11-13: Conference – Great Plains Growers Conference**  
*Hosted by: University of Missouri Extension, SARE*  
9 a.m.-5 p.m. | St. Joseph, MO

**Jan. 17: Course – Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training Course**  
*Hosted by: Produce Safety Alliance*  
8 a.m.-5 p.m. | **Online**

**Jan. 16: Webinar – Newborn Kid and Lamb Care in Cold Weather**  
*Hosted by: Penn State*  
6-7 p.m. | **Online**

**Jan. 17: Webinar – Recordkeeping and Farm Planning**  
*Hosted by: Dan Brisebois, Maine Organic Farmers and Gardners*  
4-6 p.m. | **Online**

**Jan. 30-Mar. 5: Course – Beekeeping 101**  
*Hosted by: Julia McGuire*  
6-8 p.m. | Johnston, IA

**Feb. 17: Workshop – Livestock Roadshow**  
*Hosted by: USDA*  
9-12 p.m. | **Online**

**View our events calendar**

## Contact our team

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