

Beginning Farmer News - Get funding for food safety improvements on your farm

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Fri 1/12/2024 3:57 PM

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



Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Meet Tyler Christianson, a 2023 Labor4Learning program participant

Tyler Christianson, a senior at Morningside University, is majoring in Applied Ag and Food Studies. She grew up on her family farm north of Omaha, Nebraska, where she watched and helped her father manage the farm.

Tyler's interest in sustainable farming led her to an internship in Bluffton, Georgia, at **White Oak Pastures** where she met a father-daughter team she hopes to emulate one day.

In 2023, she was a [Labor4Learning](#) trainee on **Matt and Jocelyn Vermeersch's Mud Ridge Ranch.**

We asked Tyler: **What was your greatest takeaway from working at Mud Ridge Ranch?**

Tyler: "Never be afraid to try, learn or do something new. My time with Matt and Jocelyn gave me a ton of confidence that I thought I would never have. I gained that confidence by doing what put me out of my comfort zone. Things that may have seemed scary or unfamiliar before. The outcome of my time at Mud Ridge Ranch gave me knowledge and experiences that I can use for the rest of my life"

PROGRAM UPDATES

Get funding to make food safety improvements to your farm



PFI is offering a [produce safety cost-share](#) for specialty crop farmers seeking to make on-farm food safety improvements.

You can receive reimbursement for up to \$2,000 in produce safety improvements on your farm!

Applications close when all cost-share slots are full, or on Dec. 31. [Submit yours today.](#)

Join the Circle of Resilience, a virtual gathering about risk management



Create a risk-management plan for your farm with **[Circles of Resilience](#)**, a free, four-part virtual gathering hosted by PFI and Farm Commons. Sessions will start on Tuesday, Jan. 9 and will run for four weeks.

We'll tackle the questions that matter most to your legal resilience, including land tenure, business structures, employment law and farm insurance.

Space is limited to ten participants, so be sure to **[register for this series ASAP](#)**.

Whole Farm Planning for Climate Change training series



Join the Land Stewardship Project and UMN Extension for a three-part training series for specialty crop growers.

In this series, you will be guided through a process of **[Whole Farm Planning for Climate Change](#)** including potential impacts of increasing climate variability, climate risk management and making and implementing climate resilient plans.

[Learn more about the hybrid series starting Feb. 1 and register online.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Register for PFI's 2024 Annual Conference today



Jan. 19-20 | Des Moines, IA

The **2024 PFI Annual Conference** will offer 60- plus farmer-led sessions including beginning farmer sessions like Farmers Market 101 and Introduction to Value Added Products. **[View the full lineup and register today.](#)**

Need funding? We offer scholarships with priority given to applicants from underrepresented or historically marginalized groups, beginning farmers and other applicants experiencing financial hardship. **[Apply for a scholarship.](#)**

Friends of PFI events

Dec. 15: Meet-Up – Producer Meetup at Cottonwood Hill Farms

Hosted by: Golden Hills RC&D, CFRA
10 a.m.-Noon | McClelland, IA

Dec. 15: Virtual Field Day – Growing Food for People Through Diversified Agriculture Systems

Hosted by: Wendy Johnson, Iowa Learning Farms
1-2 p.m. | **[Online](#)**

Dec. 18: Webinar – Land Leasing Basics: Legal Training for Illinois Small Farms

Hosted by: Illinois Extension
7-8 p.m. | **[Online](#)**

Jan. 3: Webinar – Can you Afford Employees?

Hosted by: Penn State Extension
11-11:30 a.m. | **[Online](#)**

Jan. 8: Webinar – Raising Your Prices Without Losing Customers

Hosted by: Penn State Extension
11-11:30 a.m. | **[Online](#)**

Jan. 16: Webinar – Farm Transition: Communication is Key

Hosted by: Penn State Extension
11-11:30 a.m. | **[Online](#)**

[View our events calendar](#)

Contact our team

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