

The Practical Horticulturist - Horticulture meet-ups start this week - join us!

Jacqueline Venner Senske <jacqueline.venner.senske@practicalfarmers.org>

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



February 2024

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Meet a Co-Hort: Karri Rose

Karri Rose owns and operates Rose Farm farm near Norwalk, Iowa, where she raises floral crops that she sells through on-farm sales and events.

Why do you grow hort crops, in five words or less?: To share my farm's magic!

What is something you're excited about this year?: I'm excited about our Farm School. Farm School is a 45-minute program we offer on Fridays from June through August with lessons on pollinators, chickens, flowers and more for school-aged children. Thanks to sponsorship from Fareway, the program is fully complimentary. I love children and I'm passionate about educating and helping kids experience new things. Last year, we saw upwards of 250 kids each week, and for our carnival at the end, we had 638 kids!

What is one thing you would change about your industry?: I wish there were KPIs (key performance indicators) across the board and that we could take a deep dive into the profit and loss. I would love to have mentors who really understand business and could help farmers understand how to be more profitable.

Favorite PFI memory: The 2020 conference, which was my very first exposure to PFI. Every single educator and listening and learning with everyone was so excellent.

Your favorite crop and why: Ranunculus! It's the first flower of the season and represents the first of the year in so many ways.

I consider myself a riser and risers share with other people so they can be risers too.
- Karri Rose

PROGRAM UPDATES

New grant opportunity for infrastructure and equipment



The [Iowa Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Program](#) aims to build resilience into the food supply chain in Iowa. Through this program, two types of grants are available:

- **Infrastructure grants** from \$100,000 to \$1 million (pre-proposal and consultation call due by Feb. 23)
- **Equipment-only grants** from \$10,000 to \$100,000 for new, used or refurbished equipment (pre-proposals due March 8)

[Farms and food businesses are encouraged to apply.](#)

It's field day planning season – we want to hear from you



Farmer-led field days are among the best opportunities to learn about other farming systems and consider what might be possible on your own farm.

Planning is happening now for 2024 field days.

Do you have something you want to learn? Something you want to share?
Reply to this email to let Jacqueline know!

IN THE FIELD

Listen to the "What in the Weather?" podcast



Have you been tuning in to "What in the Weather?"

Hosted by ISU Extension's **Dan Fillius** and State Climatologist **Justin Glisan**, this horticulture-focused podcast is a great resource for navigating changing, extreme and variable weather.

[Listen online now](#) or find it by searching on your favorite podcast app.

Winter 2023 magazine: "Farming From the Heart"



For **Max Chavez**, sharing his harvest with others brings joy and helps him overcome barriers as a Latino farmer in Iowa. Despite the many challenges, Max has remained steadfast in pursuit of his dreams. He consistently shows up for his community – and appreciates that they, in turn, show up for him.

Learn more about Max and his journey as a vegetable farmer in central Iowa [in this article from our most recent magazine.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Meet up with horticulture farmers across the state

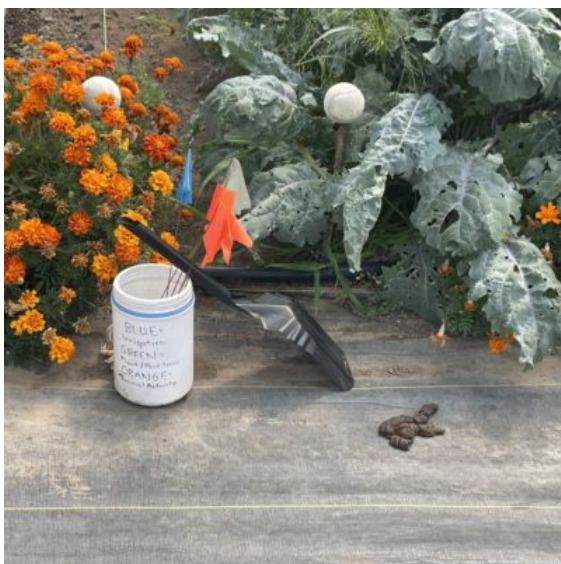


What are you excited to try this year? What questions do you have as the season gets started? Ask horticulture farmers in your community at one of our upcoming meet-ups!

Right now is the perfect time of year for horticulture growers to gather with peers in their area to talk about the upcoming season.

[Plan to join one of PFI's upcoming horticulture meet-ups.](#) Breakfast is on us!

Upcoming Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training



**Wednesday, Feb 28. | 8 a.m.-5 p.m. |
Fort Dodge, IA**

Do you know how to handle on-farm food safety risks like the one staged in this image? Not all produce safety practices are so obvious, but they are all important when your produce is being consumed by the public.

Register for the next **Produce Safety Alliance Grower Training** to make sure you're compliant with the Food Safety Modernization Act. Completing PSA's training is also required to be eligible for future rounds of **PFI's produce safety cost-share**.

Upcoming PFI events

All events listed in Central Time.

Feb. 16: Meet-up – Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up

Hosted by: Joanne Roepke Bode & Mary Beyerhelm Huey
9-11 a.m. | Algona, IA

Feb 20: Webinar – Allies and Adversaries: Balancing Pollinator Habitat and Wild Spaces with a Diversified Small-Scale Farm

Hosted by: Jill Beebout & Rob Faux
Noon-1 p.m. | **Online**

Feb. 21: Meet-up – Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up

Hosted by: Molly Schintler
9-11 a.m. | West Branch, IA

Feb. 23: Meet-up – Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up

Host: Emily Paulsen
9-11 a.m. | Harlan, IA

Feb. 28: Meet-up – Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up

Host: Mark Westbrook
9-11 a.m. | Waverly, IA

Mar. 1: Meet-up – Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up

Hosts: Calvin & Krissy Thiessen
9-11 a.m. | Okoboji, IA

Friends of PFI events

Feb. 22-24: Conference – Organic Farming Conference

Hosted by: Marbleseed

Mar. 13-14: Conference – 2024 Midwest Soil Health Summit

All Day | La Crosse, WI

Hosted by: Sustainable Farming
Association

All Day | Mankato, MN

[View our events calendar](#)

Contact our team

Jacqueline Venner Senske

*Senior Horticulture Education
Coordinator*

jacqueline.venner.senske@practicalfarmers.org

Natasha Hegmann

*Senior Horticulture and Local Foods
Coordinator*

natasha.hegmann@practicalfarmers.org

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1615 Golden Aspen Dr Suite 101

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