

## Practical News - Welcome Global Greens to PFI's Tedesco Farm

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



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*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*



## Welcome Global Greens to the Tedesco Farm

We're excited to announce that **Global Greens, a program run by Lutheran Services of Iowa, will be our new tenant at the 13-acre Tedesco Farm near Granger, Iowa**, donated by Angela and John Tedesco to PFI in 2016.

Global Greens provides farmers who came to Iowa as refugees with land access, business development assistance and technical support.

For years, the organization has provided farmers with quarter-acre plots in West Des Moines. Now, farmers who have gained more experience at that scale will

have the chance to expand and grow their operations at the Tedesco Farm, fulfilling a longstanding land access need.

"The farmers' excitement is contagious," says **Jennie Erwin**, farm management specialist at Global Greens.

## NEWS

### Gathering insights from our 2023 membership survey



In early 2023, more than 1,000 households from the PFI membership completed our member survey.

[This Winter 2023 magazine article](#) by **Steve Carlson**, PFI's membership and office manager, explores the knowledge we gleaned from your responses and guidance for the future.

Thank you to all who took part in this survey to help drive PFI's direction and shape our impact.

### Optimizing combine setup for food-grade oats



[In the latest video in our "Practical Cover Croppers" series](#), **Martin Larsen**, who farms in Byron, Minnesota, shares how he sets up his combine for straight combining of food-grade oats.

Learn more about Martin's experiences with small grains at our upcoming [Midwest Covers and Grains Conference](#) on March 4 where he'll discuss the value of bringing small grains back into rotation.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Register by Feb. 5 for the Beginning Farmer Retreat**



**Saturday, Feb. 10 | 10 a.m.-7 p.m.**

Calling all beginning farmers! Join us at Wilson's Ciderhouse in Iowa City, Iowa, on Feb. 10 for our Beginning Farmer Retreat.

We'll do a deep dive into business planning and business structures and explore how several experienced farmers' plans have changed over time as their businesses evolved.

**[RSVP to this free event by Feb. 5.](#)**

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## **Explore sustainable apple production at our upcoming workshop**



**Tuesday, Feb. 6 | 8 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Join us for our Commercial Apple Growers Workshop next week where we'll explore keys to successful and sustainable apple production in the Midwest.

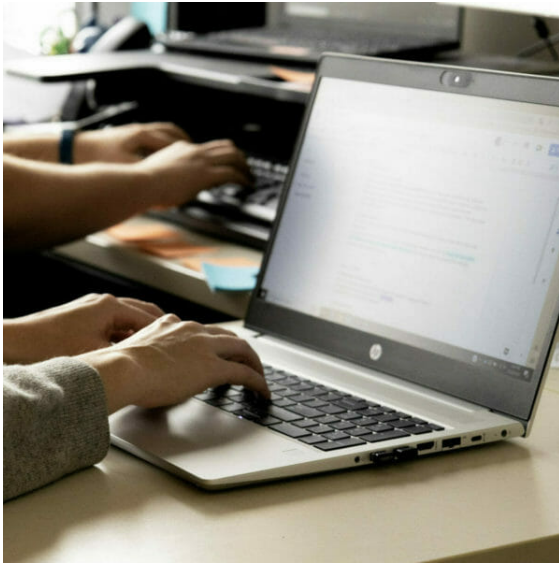
**Growers of all experience levels are invited to participate in a pruning workshop during this free event.**

Lunch featuring local foods will be provided. **[Register by Jan. 30.](#)**

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**Check out our winter webinar schedule**





**Tuesdays, January-April | Noon-1 p.m.**

Winter webinars begin tomorrow, starting with our Spanish-interpreted session, "Cabras Lecheras para Principiantes" (Goat Milk? Dairy Goats 101).

Winter webinars are 60-minute, online presentations that are free for everyone and are held Tuesdays, from Noon to 1 p.m. Central time through April. [View our upcoming topics and register.](#)

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## More upcoming events

*All events listed in Central time*

**Feb. 2: Shared Learning Call – [Improving Resilience and Profitability Through Oat Breeding](#)**

Hosted by: Melanie Caffee  
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

**Feb. 6: Webinar – [Turning Point: Key Moments for Two Farms Over Two Decades](#)**

Hosted by: Jill Beebout & Rob Faux  
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

**Feb. 13: Webinar – [Figuring Out Funding: Conventional and Unconventional Sources](#)**

Hosted by: Anna Hankins & Shae Pesek  
Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

**Feb. 15: Meet-Up – [Virtual Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up](#)**

9-11 a.m. | [Online](#)

**Feb. 16: Meet-Up – [Horticulture Farmer Meet-Up](#)**

Co-hosted by: Healthy Harvest of North Iowa  
9-11 a.m. | Algona, IA

**March 4: Conference – [Midwest Covers and Grains Conference](#)**

All Day | Mankato, MN

[View our events calendar](#)

## IN THE NEWS

### Members in the News

*Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.*

**Kristine Lang** of Brookings, SD, was featured in [Morning Ag Clips: SDSU Extension to Host Virtual Training Series on Vegetable Production](#)

**Aaron Stark** of Ewing, MO, was featured in [Missouri Ruralist: Young farmer dives into organic ag movement](#)

**Zack Smith** of Leland, IA, was featured on the [Realfoodology](#) podcast: [Your Food Choices Make a Difference, Cultivating a Sustainable Food Future + Supporting Farmers | Zack Smith](#)

**Chris Henning** of Cooper, IA, was featured on [Raccoon Valley Radio: Women who own land or farm urged to sign up for unique listening session program](#)

**Wendy Johnson** and **John Rafkin** of Charles City, IA, **DaQuan Campbell** of Waterloo, IA, **Carolyn Adolphs** of Traer, IA, and **Louis Beck** of Buckingham, IA, were featured in [The Courier: Organic producer Wendy Johnson to speak at annual Farm to Fork Dinner Feb. 7](#)

**Joel Gruver** of Macomb, IL, was featured on the [Western Illinois University](#) webpage: [Gruver Selected as PFI 2024 Sustainable Agriculture Achievement Award Recipient](#)

**Nathan Anderson** of Aurelia, IA, was featured on [Brownfield Ag News: Iowa farmer having success with wide variety of cover crops](#)

**Roger Wilcox** of Pierson, IA, was featured on [Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network: How to adjust your planter for no-till fields](#)

**Loran Steinlage** of West Union, IA, was featured on the [Iowa Soybean Association](#) webpage: [Relay cropping diversifies conservation efforts](#)

**Martin Larsen** of Byron, MN, was featured in [The Associated Press: Latest EPA assessment shows almost no improvement in river and stream nitrogen pollution](#)

**Sam Bennett** of Galva, IA, was featured on [Brownfield Ag News: Iowa farmer sees benefits from cover crops ahead of soybeans](#)

**Alice McGary** of Ames, IA, and **Amie Adams** of Ames, IA, were featured in [Iowa State Daily: Community farm extends education, collaboration in locally produced food](#)

**Mark Peterson** of Stanton, IA, was featured on [Brownfield Ag News: Iowa farmer looking for a spring repeat](#)

**Meghan Filbert** of Spring Green, WI, was featured in [Wallaces Farmer: Learn what's new at Iowa Forage and Grassland Conference](#)

## **PFI in the News**

**Stefan Gailans**, PFI's senior research manager, was featured on the [Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research](#) webpage: [FFAR Grant Reduces Nitrogen Inputs, Lower Greenhouse Gas Emissions](#)

PFI was mentioned in [Farmers' Advance](#): [How farming is changing](#)

**Have you been featured in the media?** If you're a PFI member, tell us when and where to find a link to the article, and we'll feature you in a future issue of Practical News.

**Contact:** [elizabeth.wilhelm@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:elizabeth.wilhelm@practicalfarmers.org)

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