

Beginning Farmer News - Collaborating to make farming better at Camp Creek Organic Produce

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Fri 3/22/2024 2:28 PM

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March 2024

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Meet Corbin Scholz, co-owner of Camp Creek Organic Produce

Corbin Scholz is the former owner of Rainbow Roots Farm in Iowa City, Iowa, and a pre-med graduate from the University of Iowa. Upon graduation, she realized growing nutrient-dense food, taking care of the environment and serving marginalized communities can often be the best form of healing.

Corbin has been farming for seven years and is undergoing a big change.

Rainbow Roots Farm is merging with Organic Greens, owned by **James Nisly**, and moving to Kalona, Iowa, to become Camp Creek Organic Produce. Camp Creek runs a food hub, grows vegetables for wholesale, serves a 200-member CSA and attends the Iowa City Farmers Market.

PFI: What advice would give to a farmer going through a similar situation?

Corbin: "Working together is *always* going to be better. Giving up a little control, by collaborating, has gained me a ton of personal and professional growth. There is no way we can make it work long-term, individually, with the limited resources offered to us. My goal with this move is to be able to maintain longevity in farming and create a better opportunity for my crew and myself."

PROGRAM UPDATES

USDA Value-Added Producer Grants deadline approaching



The [Value-Added Producer Grant Program](#) helps farmers create and expand marketing opportunities through value-added products.

Preference will be given to beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers and small or medium-sized farms.

This grant requires a 100% match in funding. [Apply by April 11.](#)

Catch the replay of our beginning farmer funding webinar



[In this webinar recording](#), **Anna Hankins and Shae Pesek**, owners of Over the Moon Farm, share their experiences accessing lines of credit, local programs, statewide grants and PFI programs to build and sustain their farm business.

Did you miss a winter webinar you were hoping to see? [Browse PFI's YouTube playlist of past webinars.](#)

Let us help you establish insect habitat on your urban farm



The [beneficial insects cost-share](#), supported by PFI and Xerces Society, provides funding for native plants and costs associated with establishment so you can create insectary strips or beetle banks on your farm.

Urban and suburban farmers located in Iowa may be eligible.

Available throughout 2024 or until funding lasts. [Apply today.](#)

Tune up your farm tax preparation skills



Need help wrapping up your taxes? Watch our ["Tax Preparation for Your Farm,"](#) webinar featuring farmer **Matt Russell** and attorney and agricultural tax specialist **Kristine Tidgren**.

Learn proper record keeping, what records you need to keep, how key tax provisions impact you and how the Schedule F works.

Still have questions? Take a look at the [farmers guide to Iowa taxes](#) from the Iowa Department of Revenue.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter webinar: "Trees and Bees: How Agroforestry Benefits Insects and Farmers"



Tuesday, March 26 | Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Adding trees to your farm can offer pollinator habitat for overwintering and nectar sources. **Ann Novak and Sally McCoy** (the Bouska sisters) will discuss some of their conservation practices including woodlots and pollinator plots.



Zach Burhenn, of Iowa Native Trees and Shrubs, will share tips on site and species selection, long-term maintenance and the benefits of planting trees on your farm. [RSVP](#)

Winter webinar: "Establishing and Grazing Native Perennials"



Tuesday, April 2 | Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Kevin Fulton, of Clear Creek Land and Livestock in central Nebraska, will share how he establishes native perennial pasture and tips for grazing it successfully.

Learn how including native perennials in your grazing system can have a range of benefits, from boosting drought resilience in a forage chain to adding important wildlife habitat.

[RSVP](#)

Upcoming PFI events

All events listed are in Central time.

March 19: Webinar – [An Alternative Third Crop? Relay Cropping Winter Camelina with Soybeans](#)

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

April 3: Meet-Up – [Meet and Greet: Practical Farmers and Pheasants Forever](#)

Noon-3 p.m. | Mankato, MN

April 11: Social – [Field Crops Farmer Social](#)

Hosted by: Troy Benjegerdes
5-7 p.m. | Northwood, IA

Friends of PFI events

March 13: Webinar – [Unlocking the Benefits of Biochar](#)

Hosted by: Rodale Institute

March 14: Webinar – [Deep Dive With Your Organic Certifier](#)

Hosted by: ATTRA

1-2 p.m. | [Online](#)

March 20 : Webinar – [Hiring and Retention: Onboarding and Mentoring Employees](#)

Hosted by: Penn State Extension

1-2:30 p.m. | [Online](#)

2-3 p.m. | [Online](#)

March 27: Webinar – [Sustainable Iowa Land Trust with Breanna Horsey](#)

Hosted by: Iowa Organic Association

Noon-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

April 4-5: Workshop – [2024 Badger Sheep Short Course](#)

Hosted by: University of Wisconsin Extension

8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. | Arlington, WI

[View our events calendar](#)

Contact our team

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