Practical News - Pre-proposals due this Friday for Iowa RFSI infrastructure grants

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



### Gathering business insights at the Beginning Farmer Retreat

On Feb. 10, about 45 attendees gathered for the Beginning Farmer Retreat at Wilson's Orchard & Farm in Iowa City, Iowa. Beginning and aspiring farmers had the chance to consider business plans and structures with experienced farmers and professionals.

After several sessions, attendees split into small groups led by PFI members **Emma Barber, Alfred Matiyabo, Ross Kurash and Anna Hankins** to learn how their business plans grew and evolved as they established their farms. Are you a beginning farmer? **Subscribe to Beginning Farmer News** to hear about events and opportunities each month.

## **NEWS**

### **Pre-proposal deadlines approaching for Iowa RFSI grants**

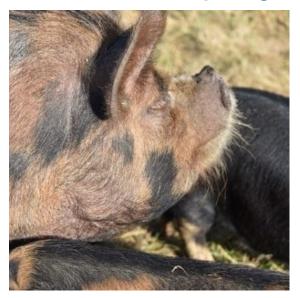


Please Note: In last week's issue of Practical News, we included the wrong dates for submitting grant preproposals to the <u>Iowa Resilient Food</u> <u>Systems Infrastructure Program</u>. The correct grant pre-proposal deadlines are as follows:

- Infrastructure grants from \$100,000 to \$1 million (preproposal 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)

The Iowa RFSI aims to build resilience into the food supply chain in Iowa. Farms and businesses selling and distributing wholesale food are encouraged to apply.

### **Exploring Kunekune pigs**



Recently, we shared our 2023 winter magazine article <u>"Pig Portraits"</u> detailing four producers' favorite pig breeds.

#### In a companion piece on the blog,

we take a closer look at Kunekune pigs, which **Kevin and Kendra Martin** raise on their farm near Mount Ayr, Iowa.

They share what worked well for them about the breed as well as infrastructure decisions that caused them to lean into goat production.

# **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Pre-register for the Midwest Covers and Grains Conference**



#### Monday, March 4 | Mankato, MN

Our upcoming <u>Midwest Covers and</u> <u>Grains Conference</u> is your opportunity to get answers to your questions about implementing cover crops and small grains on your farm – directly from other farmers.

This conference is free for PFI members and \$50 for non-members and includes a locally sourced breakfast and lunch.

Pre-register by Feb. 28.

# Shared learning call: "Frost-Seeding Clover Into Small Grains With Meadowlark Organics"



#### Friday, March 1 | Noon-1 p.m. | Online

Join us for our next shared learning call with **John and Halee Wepking**, who own and operate Meadowlark Farm and Mill in Ridgeway, Wisconsin.

They'll share how they seed red clover and tine-weed their small grains in one equipment pass.

Register to attend this online event.

**More upcoming events** All events listed are in Central time.

Feb. 20: Webinar – <u>Allies and</u> <u>Adversaries: Balancing Pollinator</u> <u>Habitat and Wild Spaces</u> *Hosted by: Jill Beebout & Rob Faux* Noon-1 p.m. | <u>Online</u> Feb. 21: Meet-Up – <u>Horticulture</u> Farmer Meet-Up Hosted by: Molly Schintler 9-11 a.m. | West Branch, IA Feb. 23: Meet-Up – <u>Horticulture</u> Farmer Meet-Up

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

Noon-1 p.m. | Online

Feb. 28: Meet-Up – <u>Horticulture</u> Farmer Meet-Up Hosted by: Mark Westbrock 9-11 a.m. | Waverly, IA

March 5: Webinar – <u>Developing a</u> <u>Meat CSA</u> Hosted by: Peter Allen Feb. 27: Webinar – <u>Revitalizing</u> Soil for a Small-Scale Hemp Farm in Iowa Hosted by: Megan & Scott Booher Noon-1 p.m. | <u>Online</u>

March 1: Meet-Up – <u>Horticulture</u> Farmer Meet-Up Hosted by: Calvin & Krissy Thiessen 9-11 a.m. | Okoboji, IA

March 12: Social – <u>Field Crops</u> Farmer Social Hosted by: Will & Cassie Cannon 1-3 p.m. | Prairie City, IA

View our events calendar

## IN THE NEWS

### **Members in the News**

Showcasing member voices and their diverse, independent viewpoints.

Ruth McCabe of State Center, IA, was featured on the "DonnaLonna Kitchen Show" podcast: <u>"087: Talking about the elephant with Ruth McCabe"</u>

Ashley Wenke of Montezuma, IA, Amanda Van Steenwyk of Peru, IA, Ethan Zierke of Calmar, IA, and Carly Zierke, PFI's digital content coordinator, were featured on the Iowa Farm Bureau webpage: <u>Poweshiek County farmer wins</u> <u>Iowa Farm Bureau's 'Grow Your Future' Award</u>

Wendy Johnson and Johnny Rafkin of Charles City, IA, were featured in Modern Farmer: On the Ground with the Midwest Farmers Going All-In On Agroforestry

James Holz of Grand Junction, IA, and Bill Frederick of Jefferson, IA, were featured on Iowa Agribusiness Radio Network: <u>Secretary Naig honors</u> <u>conservation leaders at Iowa agribusiness showcase</u>

**Chad Ingels** of Randalia, IA, was featured in The Des Moines Register: <u>Bill brings</u> <u>soil health focus to watershed management work, but some say effort is</u> <u>flawed</u>

**Rob Faux** of Tripoli, IA, was featured in Farm Progress: <u>Federal court revokes</u> <u>dicamba approval</u> Jennifer Breon of Iowa City, IA, and Aaron Lehman of Polk City, IA, were featured in Food & Water Watch: Iowa Legislators Introduce New Clean Water For Iowa Act

**Rob Faux** of Tripoli, IA, was featured on "DonnaLonna Kitchen Show" podcast: 085: Pesticide Action Network, Rob Faux

### **PFI in the News**

**Rachel Burke**, PFI's beginning farmer engagement coordinator, was featured on KCRG: <u>Retreat connects new farmers with experienced farmers</u>

Valeria Cano Camacho, PFI's senior Latino engagement coordinator, was featured in Public News Service: <u>High demand prompts IA farm group to increase</u> <u>Spanish-speaking services</u>

PFI was mentioned on KMCH Radio: Women & Soil Event Coming to Field of Dreams Site

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

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