

Beginning Farmer News - Farm jobs available now with Labor4Learning

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April 2024

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Meet beginning farmer, Todd Western IV

Todd Western IV is the owner and operator of Freedom Farms. On his farm, which has been in the Western Family for 160 years, he's tapping into the knowledge of generations of traditional row crop farmers, while also diversifying to provide culturally significant produce to Minneapolis, Minnesota.

PFI: What advice would you give to other beginning farmers hoping to make changes to their family's generational farm?

Todd: Learn to balance and appreciate the context of where the previous generations are coming from. Balance your newfound excitement to try new things against the values and practices that have been in place for decades.

Look for ways to get them involved in the learning that feel manageable and less scary. You may not get to convert the full 100 acres into no-till, but you might be able to convince them to test it on one acre.

PROGRAM UPDATES

Labor4Learning positions are open



Are you looking to get paid, on-the-job training with experienced farmers in Iowa?

PFI's **Labor4Learning trainers** are experienced PFI farmer members hiring for the upcoming growing season.

To apply, send your resume and three work-related references directly to the trainer and include any questions you may have.

Meet Savannah, PFI's new business viability manager



Meet **Savannah Laur**, PFI's business viability manager.

In her role, she finds access to capital for farms and farm-based businesses, offers business coaching for farmers and oversees the Savings Incentive Program.

She has a B.S. in agricultural studies from Iowa State University and an M.S. in horticulture from the University of Georgia. **[Learn more about Savannah.](#)**

Looking to brush up on ag skills? Explore DMACC's Ag Certification Programs!



Earn a certificate in agronomy, animal science, farm management, and sales and service from the DMACC Agribusiness Department.

Learn valuable, hands-on agricultural experiences, such as grain and animal handling, at the DMACC Dallas County farm.

[View details and enroll.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Webinar: "Diversifying Pollinator Habitat on a Multi-Generational Illinois Farm"



Tuesday, Apr. 23 | Noon-1 p.m. | Online

In this winter webinar, **Nancy and John Brannaman** will showcase their ongoing conservation efforts on their farm. [Register today.](#)

The Brannamans have planted native prairie mixes, wetland mixes and pollinator habitat. Learn about the seeds and equipment they use, plus how they handle bed prepping, mowing, weeding and burning.

Field days, coming soon to a farm near you



Watch for our **2024 field day schedule, coming in May.**

At PFI field days, you'll find a welcoming atmosphere, a spirit of curiosity, a culture of mutual respect and farmers openly sharing their knowledge and experience.

All PFI field days are free for anyone to attend; membership in PFI is not required or expected. Watch your inbox for details!

Upcoming PFI events

All events listed are in Central time.

April 16: Webinar – Precision Conservation: Increasing Profitability and Conservation Your Farm

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

April 18: Spanish virtual course – Breeding, Gestation and Parturition Part 1

6-8 p.m. | [Online](#)

Friends of PFI events

April 10: Conference – Regenerative Agriculture Conference

Hosted by: Minnesota Farmers Union

9:30 a.m - 3:30 p.m. | Braham, MN

April 18: Workshop – Three Crucial Steps to Build Your Profitable Farm

Hosted by: Sustainable Farming Association

8 a.m - 5 p.m. | St. Joseph, MN

April 22: Webinar – Holistic Management and Hope: Experiences & Insights in Regenerative Ranching

Hosted by: HMI, Alejandro Carillo

5-6:30 p.m. | [Online](#)

April 23: Webinar – Reducing Risks from Food Allergens on the Farm and Egg Safety

Hosted by: Carolina Farm Stewards

3-4:30 p.m. | [Online](#)

May 1: Webinar – Overcoming Common Barriers to Organic Certification

Hosted by: Rodale Institute

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

View our events calendar

Contact our team

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