

## Beginning Farmer News - Meet Iowa's USDA beginning farmer coordinator

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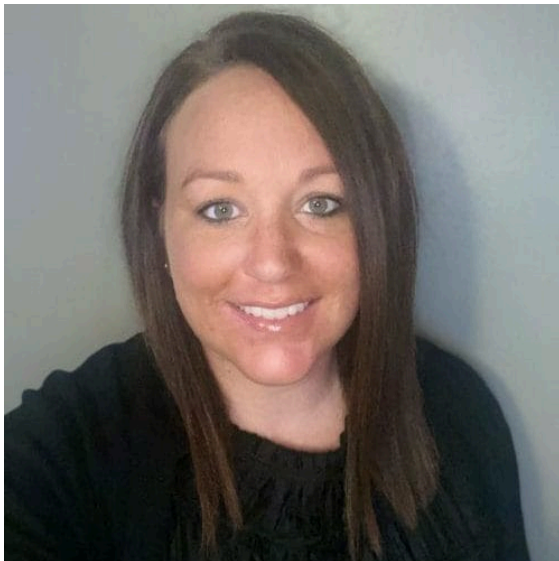
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**July 2024**

*Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.*

### Meet Becky Kilburg, USDA's Iowa beginning farmer and rancher coordinator



The USDA can help you start or grow your farming operation through a variety of programs and services. Each state has a beginning farmer and rancher coordinator to educate farmers about programs and resources to meet their specific needs. Meet Iowa's USDA beginning farmer and rancher coordinator, Becky Kilburg.

**PFI asked Becky:** What is a resource all beginning farmers should know about?

**Becky:** I advise beginning farmers to reach out to their USDA beginning farmer coordinator and their local FSA and NRCS office to set up an in-person meeting. They will explain finance opportunities and have advice specific to your operation. They can also help you enroll in programs to protect your farm during times of disaster, both environmental and financial. Your local NRCS team will work with you to develop a plan. Everyone's farm is unique. The USDA does a great job working to meet every operation's needs. I always advise new farmers and ranchers to network, be involved in your local extension programs, get advice

from your neighboring farmers and attend the "coffee shop" to get the latest news in your area!

**You can email Becky Kilburg at [rebecca.kilburg@usda.gov](mailto:rebecca.kilburg@usda.gov) or call her at (563) 652-3237.**

## PROGRAM UPDATES

### Is FairShare's Farm Coaching Program right for you?



**FairShare CSA Coalition** is a midwestern based non-profit organization building a more resilient food community by investing in farmers and empowering eaters.

FairShare CSA's Farm Coaching is guided by certified coaches who are experienced producers and will help you build skills to support your farm business and quality of life.

**Sign up for farm coaching** to dig deep on topics like work-life balance, family dynamics, communication and success-oriented mindsets.

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### The Land Stewardship Project Farm Beginnings class application is open now



**2024-2025 Farm Beginnings**  
Beginning and prospective farmers are invited to apply to LSP's Farm Beginnings, a year-long training program that focuses on the goal-setting, marketing, and financial skills needed to establish a successful farm business.  
Read more at [landstewardshipproject.org/farm-beginnings-class](http://landstewardshipproject.org/farm-beginnings-class)

Managing a successful farm requires a variety of skills. If you need to sharpen your goal-setting, marketing and financial skills, check out **The Land Stewardship Project's Farm Beginnings class!**

This class is a 12-month training session that helps beginning farmers clarify their goals and strengths, establish a strong enterprise plan and start building their operation. The course uses a mix of farmer-led classroom sessions, on-farm tours and an extensive farmer network.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

## Field day: "Organic U-Pick Blueberries and Day-Neutral Strawberries at Blueberry Bottom Farm"



**Thursday, Jul. 11 | 10 a.m.-Noon | Brighton, IA**

*Host: Kim Andersen*

Attend and learn about establishing and maintaining organic blueberries; pest control methods for blueberries, including OMRI-labeled products and exclusion fencing; and running a successful U-pick operation.

**Register today.**

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## Attend the "Communicating Cuts Workshop: From Carcass to Consumer"



**Saturday, Jul. 13 | 9 a.m.-3 p.m. | Spring Grove, MN**

*Hosts: Cecka Parks and Tiffany Alexandria*

Learn about preparing grass-finished meat, where cuts come from on a carcass, basic cooking rules based on the source of cuts and how to take good photos of food.

**Register today.**

**\*\*Attendance is limited and registration is required. \*\***

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## Field day: "Setting Up a Multi-Species Grazing Operation"



**Tuesday, Jul. 16 | 3–5:30 p.m. |  
Oconomowoc, WI**

*Hosts: Courtney and Micheal  
Gutschenritter*

Join to learn about building beginner-friendly fencing, planning ways to add wildlife habitat into a grazing operation, financial planning, value-added products and creating a multi-species grazing operation.

**Register today.**

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## Upcoming PFI events

*All events listed are in Central time.*

**July 19: Field Day – Going with the Grain: Diversified Small Scale Grain Farming with On-Farm Processing**

*Hosted by: Andrea Hazzard  
4-6:30 p.m. | Pecatonica, IL*

**July 23: Field Day – Centering Sustainability From Farrow to Finish**

*Hosted by: Andrew VanDerPol  
9 -11 a.m. | Kerkhoven, MN*

**August 4: Field Day – Adaptive Marketing Through a Collaborative CSA, Value-Added Products and On-Farm Sales at Buffalo Ridge Orchard**

*Hosted by: Emma and Marcus Johnson  
1:30-4 p.m. | Central City, IA*

**July 20: Field Day – Growing Food for Habitat: Supporting Pollinators and Beneficial Insects in a Community Garden**

*Hosted by: Kamyar Enshayan  
10 a.m.- Noon | Waterloo, IA*

**July 28: Field Day – Growing Opportunity: Season Extension, Organic Production and Scaling Up at Bridgewater Farm**

*Hosted by: Dale Raasch  
4-7 p.m. | Bridgewater, IA*

**August 13: Member Day – PFI Member Day at the State Fair**

*8 a.m.-Noon | Des Moines, IA*

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## Friends of PFI events

**July 10: Webinar – What, When and Why of Choosing to Farm and Expanding Your Operation**

**July 15: Workshop – Wisconsin Body Mechanics Workshop**

Hosted by: *Rodale Institute*  
1-2 p.m. | [Online](#)

**July 18: Webinar – [Market Ready Series](#)**

Hosted by: *Center for Rural Affairs*  
1-2 p.m. | [Online](#)

**August 1, 8, 15: Webinar – [Using Quickbooks to Manage your Farm Business: Instructor Guided](#)**

Hosted by: *Penn State Extension*  
11 a.m.-4 p.m. | [Online](#)

Hosted by: *Women Food and Agriculture Network*

1-3 p.m. | Verona, WI

**July 25: Social – [LSP's Twin Cities Cookout and Potluck](#)**

Hosted by: *Land Stewardship Project*

5:30-9 p.m. | Minneapolis, MN

**August 2: Conference- [Sewing Seeds for Generations: Sydney Women in Agriculture Conference](#)**

Hosted by: *Center for Rural Affairs*  
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. | Sydney, NE

[View our events calendar](#)

## Contact our team

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