

Beginning Farmer News - Mentorship May

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Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

Meet Madison Royer, a Labor4Learning trainee



Madison Royer grew up in an Arizona suburb but always wanted to move to the Midwest to learn more about agriculture. She moved to Iowa and is earning a degree in horticulture with an emphasis in greenhouse management and a minor in entrepreneurship from Iowa State University.

Madison applied for **Naomi and Andrew Friend's** Labor4Learning position at Friend's Flowers because her goal is to have her own flower farm with a floristry aspect some day.

PFI asked Madison: What about Labor4Learning are you most looking forward to?

Madison: "I am excited to learn how a small scale farm runs and what tools, materials, and methods it takes to preserve the farm and contribute to my community like Naomi and Andrew do. I'm hoping Labor4Learning Learning can give me an idea of what going through tough and good times look and feel like in a farm business"

To get paid, on-the-job training with experienced PFI farmers in Iowa, [**apply for open Labor4Learning positions now.**](#)

PROGRAM UPDATES

Iowa Organic Association offers organic mentorship program



Get mentorship as you transition to organic.

The Iowa Organic Association's organic mentorship program can help you connect to experienced organic producers and give you the support you need during the organic transition process.

[Learn more about the program and apply to be a mentee.](#)

Applications open for USDA farm storage facility loan



The **[farm storage facility loan](#)** provides low-interest financing so producers can build or upgrade storage facilities and equipment.

This loan is for small or mid-sized farms and for new farmers. Loan terms vary from 3 to 12 years. The maximum loan amount is \$500,000 for storage facilities and \$100,000 for handling trucks.

[Check your eligibility and apply.](#)

Are you looking for land?



The **[Farmland Access Hub](#)** has financial and technical resources to aid in the search for land tenure.

Are you in need of one-on-one coaching for your land search, understanding or updating your lease, or assessing your readiness to take the next step? Fill out a farmland access navigator **[intake form](#)** to get started.

[Sign up](#) for the Farmland Access Hub listserv to connect with landowners and other land seekers.

Applications open for advocacy fellowship program



Apply for the Young Farmers Coalition's **[Root and Bloom Fellowship](#)**, an advocacy opportunity for farmers.

Fellows will explore how many of the challenges young and BIPOC farmers face are rooted in federal agriculture policy and how they can use their knowledge to make change at home.

[Learn more and apply.](#)

Get on-farm mentorship this season



The Women, Food and Agriculture Network is accepting applications for their **[Harvesting Our Potential program](#)** until June 1.

WFAN partners seasoned and beginning women, non-binary and genderqueer farmers for mentorship.

Mentors work side by side with mentees to set mentorship goals. Mentees receive support through a program stipend and additional education funding opportunities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Connect with Spanish-speaking farmers near you



Meet Spanish-speaking farmers and ranchers in your area. We're collaborating with local organizations to host **Spanish community socials** across the state this summer.

Join us for our first social with Emprendimiento 5M and Global Food Project on Saturday, May 18 in Iowa City, Iowa. **View details and our full list of events.**

For monthly updates about our Spanish programming and events, subscribe to Sembrando Resiliencia.

Beginning farmer field day sneak peek



Sunday, Sept. 1 | 4-6 p.m. | Calmar, IA

Beginning farmers **Carly and Ethan Zierke** own and operate Sweet Season Farm, a 2-acre certified organic veggie farm. They're scaling up mindfully by purchasing equipment and building infrastructure with versatility in mind to fit their current needs and their vision for the future.

Keep an eye out for the release of our 2024 field day lineup and guide, coming soon!

Friends of PFI events

All events listed are in Central time.

May 7: Webinar – National SARE Food Loss and Waste Program

Hosted by: SARE
11 a.m.-Noon | **Online**

May 9: Workshop – Affording Your Farm

Hosted by: Ohio Ecological Food and Farm Association
2-3:30 p.m. | **Online**

May 7, 8, 14, 15: Workshop – How to Build a High Tunnel: Hands on Experience

Hosted by: SD State University Extension
9 a.m.-4 p.m. | Brookings, SD

May 9: Webinar – Living on a Few Acres: Tree and Small Fruit Production

Hosted by: Penn State Extension
5-7 p.m. | **Online**

May 11: Workshop – Working With Goats

Hosted by: Whippoorwill Creek Farm
10 a.m.-1 p.m. | Lovilia, IA

May 15: Workshop – Whole Animal Butchery

Hosted by: Whippoorwill Creek Farm
1-3:30 p.m. | Lovilia, IA

[View our events calendar](#)

Contact our team

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