

Beginning Farmer News - Savings Incentive Program now open + New business incubator program

From Rachel Burke <rachel.burke@practicalfarmers.org>

Date Tue 9/17/2024 8:45 PM

To Emily Yaddof <emily.yaddof@practicalfarmers.org>



September 2024

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Grow your farm with the Savings Incentive Program

Calling all farmers with less than seven years of experience! Applications are now open for PFI's Savings Incentive Program.

Since the program's launch in 2010, PFI's Savings Incentive Program has helped beginning farmers develop sustainable business plans and invest in tangible farm assets through a 1:1 financial match or a 1:2 financial match for farmers of color.

The Savings Incentive Program focuses on business planning, network-building and capitol investing.

[Apply to be part of the next class of SIP participants](#) and **[read about past SIP participants on our website.](#)**

PROGRAM UPDATES

Funding alert: Heartland Regional Business Builder Grants



The Heartland Regional Food Business Center's Business Builder grants range from \$5,000 to \$50,000 each and support projects focused on meeting regional needs and increasing capacity among food and farm businesses.

For support with your grant application, reach out to PFI's Business Viability Manager **Savanah Laur** at **savanah.laur@practicalfarmers.org**.

[Applications are due on Oct. 15.](#)

Save the date for the 2025 Practical Famers of Iowa Annual Conference



Since our founding, the annual conference has been a keystone event for sharing knowledge, building connections and celebrating agriculture in Iowa.

We are pleased to offer pre-conference short courses, farmer-led sessions on a wide variety of agricultural topics, exhibitors, locally sourced meals and a spirit of curiosity and community.

We hope to see you at our 2025 Annual Conference, Jan. 10-11, at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines, IA.

Check out PFI's new Sustainable Agriculture Business Incubator



Our **Sustainable Agriculture Business Incubator** is a two-phase program in partnership with Grey Swan to support agricultural businesses looking to scale up and explore private equity investment.

All businesses accepted into the program will receive high-level coaching that will address barriers and bottlenecks to success.

[Apply for the program.](#)

Is it time to renew your PFI membership?



Have you checked the status of your PFI membership to see if it's time to renew?

Fall is a great time to renew to ensure you can take advantage of all the benefits PFI membership has to offer, including steep discounted rates to our annual conference in January.

[Renew your membership today.](#)

Looking for land? PFI has 1:1 land matching



Securing land access to farmland can pose major challenges.

PFI has resources to help. **Martha McFarland**, senior farmland viability coordinator, offers 1:1 consulting, connecting landowners and beginning farmers with one another.

[Schedule a consultation with Martha today.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Field day: "Developing Infrastructure on a Diversified Farm"



Friday, Sep. 20 | 4-6 p.m. | Exira, IA

In recent years, **Emily & Nathan Paulsen**, owners and operators of Brun Ko Farm, have used diverse funding sources to repurpose a hog barn into a packing shed, add a high tunnel to extend their vegetable season and install additional waterlines to better use their pastures.

Join us to learn how they have enhanced their farm's infrastructure to increase their revenue.

[Register for the Paulsen's field day.](#)

****Field days are free and open to the public.****

[View our events calendar](#)

[Contact our team](#)

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