
Beginning Farmer News - Meet beginning farmer Maddy Bartsch + Register for the Iowa Farmers of Color Conference

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

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To Anna Pesek <anna.pesek@practicalfarmers.org>



November 2024

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.



Meet beginning farmer, Maddy Bartsch

Maddy Bartsch, who uses they and them pronouns, owns and operates Salt of the North Dye Garden at Get Bentz Farm near Northfield, Minnesota. While they have operated Salt and North Dye Garden for the past three years, they've been growing and teaching about plant-based dyes since 2016. For Maddy, growing

local color is their way of creating a thriving, decentralized textile economy in the Midwest.

PFI asked Maddy: What project are you most excited about on your farm?

Maddy: We are finishing the inside of the pole barn, including installing a wood-burning stove to host classes throughout the winter. I am excited to offer education, get messy, invite people to the farm to enjoy the day and dye together, but most importantly, to continue building community around the farm during our winter months.

Visit Maddy and Get Bentz Farm's [website](#) to learn about future events.

PROGRAM UPDATES

PFI's produce safety cost-share applications open on Nov. 15



PFI's produce safety cost-share is for specialty crop farmers seeking to make on-farm food safety improvements.

Participants must spend at least \$2,200 on improvements and will receive a \$2,000 reimbursement. Improvements include installing a cooler or CoolBot system, enclosing a packing area, purchasing fencing and more.

Eligible farmers must farm in Iowa and have a PSA Grower Training Certificate.

Applications open Nov. 15 and close Dec. 31. [Learn more today.](#)

Urban farming perspectives from the PFI magazine



Urban farmers face the same challenges as their rural peers – weather, finding markets, weed and pest control, accessing land and more.

They also face unique constraints, often running into a gauntlet of city, state and county rules, zoning laws and development pressures, all of which can complicate their desire to farm.

Read about what drives some PFI members to grow within the urban spaces they've found in ["Grow Where You're Planted"](#) from the Autumn 2024 Magazine.

Iowa NRCS sets Nov. 22 deadline for conservation program applications



Are you considering applying for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to help build a high tunnel or infrastructure for other natural resource concerns? Don't delay; applications for EQIP and other NRCS conservation programs are due Nov. 22.

Iowa agricultural producers and private landowners can apply for funding by visiting their local NRCS office. Iowa has 100 NRCS field offices located at USDA Service Centers in every county.

[Learn more about EQIP, CSP and RCPP.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Register for the Iowa Farmers of Color Conference happening this Saturday



Saturday, Nov. 16 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m. | Urbandale, IA

Are you a farmer of color in the Midwest looking for resources and kinship? Attend the Iowa Farmers of Color Conference hosted by the Iowa Farmers of Color. Hear from speakers about building your farm vision, starting a learning farm and getting involved with the IFOC.

[Register and learn more.](#)

Mark your calendars for PFI's 2025 Annual Conference



Thursday, Jan. 10-11 | Des Moines, IA

Since our founding, the **[PFI Annual Conference](#)** has been a keystone event for sharing knowledge, building connections and celebrating agriculture in Iowa.

View the schedule of more than 70 farmer-led sessions, learn about the pre-conference short courses and **[register on our website.](#)**

Upcoming PFI events

All events listed are in Central time.

[Nov. 21: Field Day – A Farmers Soil Health Journey: No-Till Cover Crop Synergies](#)

Hosted By: Keith Lovrien
9-11:30 a.m. | Plainfield, IA

[Dec. 4: Field Day – What Your Soil Can Tell You About Farm Aggregates](#)

Hosted By: Ryan Gibbs
4-6 p.m. | Hopkinton, IA

[View our events calendar](#)

Friends of PFI events

Nov. 14: Webinar – Agriculture in the Era of Climate Survival

Hosted by: Young Farmers Coalition
2-3 p.m. | [Online](#)

Nov. 17: Workshop – Field School

Hosted by: Young Farmers Coalition
9 a.m.-5 p.m. | Cedar Rapids, IA

Dec. 3: Conference – Iowa Organic Association's Annual Meeting

Hosted by: Iowa Organic Association
2-7:30 p.m. | Story City, IA

Nov. 15: Webinar – Forest Farming: Crop Selection - Economics and Marketing

Hosted by: Penn State Extension
5:30-7 p.m. | [Online](#)

Nov. 20: Webinar – How to Find a Customer Base

Hosted by: WFAN
12-1 p.m. | [Online](#)

Dec. 7-8: Workshop – New Farmer U

Hosted by: Marbleseed
St. Croix, MN

Contact our team

Rachel Burke

*Beginning Farmer Engagement
Coordinator*

rachel.burke@practicalfarmers.org

(612) 741-2492

Martha McFarland

*Senior Farmland Viability
Coordinator*

martha.mcfarland@practicalfarmers.org

(641) 229-6701

Savanah Laur

Business Viability Manager

savanah.laur@practicalfarmers.org

(515) 232-5661

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1615 Golden Aspen Dr Suite 101

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