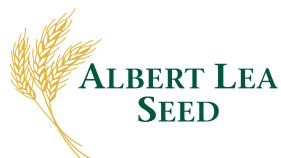


2018

FIELD DAY GUIDE 2018

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Table of Contents

Introduction	pgs. 4 – 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farmer-Led Events• Open to Everyone• Civility Commitment at Practical Farmers Events• How to Read This Guide• Field Day Logistics• Spring Cover Crop Series• Other Events Throughout the Year• Symbols to Look For• Visit Us on Social Media	
List of 2018 Field Days and Events	pgs. 6 – 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Practical Farmers Field Days (pgs. 6 – 7)• Friend-of-PFI Events (pg. 8)	
Map of Event Locations	pg. 9
PFI Events	pgs. 10 – 49
Membership Form	pg. 51
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Benefits of Membership (pg. 52)	
Friend-of-PFI Events	pgs. 53 – 79



Introduction

Welcome to Practical Farmers' 2018 Field Day Season!

We are offering another full schedule of events and are excited to see many of you as our field day season gets underway! Field days are a foundation of Practical Farmers, providing an opportunity for our friends to share in PFI's vision: an Iowa with healthy soil, healthy food, clean air, clean water, resilient farms and vibrant communities.

FARMER-LED EVENTS

At Practical Farmers of Iowa, we have a unique learning model: Our field days (and other events) are led by our farmer members. We know farmers are the experts on their farming systems, decisions, challenges and solutions, and we are thankful so many farmer-leaders understand that sharing their knowledge, discoveries, mistakes and successes benefits everyone.

Be prepared to explore topics that span the agricultural spectrum – our field days explore production, land stewardship, conservation, local foods and more.

FIELD DAYS ARE OPEN TO EVERYONE

At Practical Farmers, we take pride in our big tent that includes farms of all sizes and production practices, as well as many non-farmers who support our work, values and the sense of community that membership brings. **You don't need to be a member to attend!** We welcome and invite anyone to attend and learn from our field days.

Bring a friend! PFI field days are an excellent place for farmers to see what their neighbors are trying, or to share their perspective and insights with other farmers.

Families and friends of farmers will also benefit from attending to learn more about the diverse scope of Iowa agriculture.



CIVILITY COMMITMENT AT PRACTICAL FARMERS EVENTS:

Our commitment is to learn from one another. We acknowledge differences in beliefs, values, politics, culture, interests and experiences.

We commit to:

- Listen respectfully to each other
- Refrain from personal insults and other disrespectful actions
- Recognize and respect different levels of understanding
- Actively seek common ground

HOW TO READ THIS GUIDE

This guide is organized chronologically and divided into two sections: PFI events (pages 10 – 49) and friend-of-PFI events (pages 53-79), which are non-PFI events organized by other groups or independently by farmers in our network.

All events are color-coded by geographic region. A map on page 9 shows the color scheme and locations of all events in the guide.

FIELD DAY LOGISTICS

Most PFI field days are free. **All PFI events occur rain or shine.**

When traveling to our field days, look for this sign along your route.

(Please Note: Because friend-of-PFI events are run independently, we have no control over changes or cancellations.)



SPRING COVER CROP SERIES

Each spring, Practical Farmers of Iowa coordinates spring cover crop field days. While these are over for this year, look for event announcements next spring on our website and via our weekly e-newsletter (Practical News).

WATCH FOR OTHER EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!

In addition to the events listed in this guide, Practical Farmers organizes events and workshops all year long. Be sure to check our website often (practicalfarmers.org) for the most up-to-date schedule – or become a PFI member to get notified about upcoming events (you can join online, or flip to page 51 to fill out a membership application).

★ **QUESTIONS?** Contact the PFI office at (515) 232-5661.

LOOK FOR THESE SYMBOLS IN THE GUIDE:



Enjoy food or a meal
at the field day



PRACTICAL FARMERS OF IOWA
**COOPERATORS'
PROGRAM**

Learn about PFI Cooperators'
Program research at this event

VISIT US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



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[youtube.com/user/
pfivideos](https://youtube.com/user/pfivideos)

List of 2018 Field Days and Events

Practical Farmers Field Days pg.

NOTE: All events are plotted on the map on page 9. The number in parentheses after the event title corresponds to the number you should look for on the map.



MAY 31 • JOHNSTON 10
Growing Garlic and Marketing the Farm (1)



JUNE 19 • WELDON 11
Wows and Woes of Diversifying With Cover Crops and Small Grains (2)



JUNE 20 – 23 • RAPID CITY, SD 12
GrassFed Exchange Conference in South Dakota (3)



JUNE 21 • DECORAH 13
Teaming Up and Starting a Vegetable Farm (4)



JUNE 26 • WASHINGTON 14
Thinking Outside the Box With Cover Crops (5)



JUNE 27 • GRUNDY CENTER 15
Combine Clinic for Small Grains Harvesting (6)



JUNE 28 • BEDFORD 16
Small Grains, Big Opportunities – Graze, Brew, Harvest, Build Soil (7)



JUNE 28 • LA MOTTE 17
Conservation Infrastructure on a Diverse Livestock Farm (8)



JULY 7 • IOWA CITY 18
Landing a Farm – Long-Term Leases and Other Options (9)



JULY 11 • BRIGHTON 19
Mechanical Weed Control for Organic Crop Production (10)



JULY 12 • JANESVILLE, WI 20
Small Grains, Modest Gains: A Pragmatic Approach (11)



JULY 14 • MAYNARD 21
New Beginnings: Organic Transition at a Diversified Dairy Farm (12)



JULY 17 • DAYTON 22
Expanding Conservation With Cover Crops, Livestock and Small Grains (13)



JULY 18 • GRUNDY CENTER 23
Cover Crops and Soil Health at the Grundy County Fair (14)



JULY 20 • PAULLINA 24
Improving Organic Crop Production (15)



JULY 24 • MADRID 25
RAGBRAI – Top of the Hill at Full Circle Farm (16)



JULY 26 • CRESCENT 26
Terry's Techniques: Seed-Saving and Cultivation Equipment (17)



JULY 30 • MANKATO, MN 27
CONFERENCE: Rotationally Raised – Making Small Grains Work (18)



JULY 31 • RED OAK 28
Farmland Owner Legacy Award Celebration + Soil Health Event (19)



AUGUST 7 • JEFFERSON 29
Weed Control for Organic Row Crops (20)



AUGUST 9 • SPENCER 30
Raising Prairie: Seeds, Plants and Restoration (21)



AUGUST 10 • GRINNELL 31
Planning and Installing Beneficial Insect Habitat (22)



AUGUST 15 • ROSEVILLE, IL 32
Bus Trip to Joel Gruver's WIU Organic Research Farm (23)



AUGUST 23 • NEWTON 33
Next Generation Summit (24)



AUGUST 24 • WINTERSET 34
DIY Watering and Corral Systems for Cattle and Pigs (25)



AUGUST 25 • HASTINGS 35
AgArts Field Day of Family, Food and Fun (26)



AUGUST 27 • DALLAS CENTER 36
Livestock Integration on a Small-Scale Vegetable Farm (27)



AUGUST 28 – 30 • BOONE 37
Visit Cover Crop Farmer Experts at the Farm Progress Show (28)



SEPTEMBER 5 • WAPELLO 38
Tree Crop Field Class (29)



SEPTEMBER 6 • MARBLE ROCK 39
Cover Crops and On-Farm Conservation (30)



SEPTEMBER 8 • EXIRA 40
Grass-Fed Beef: From Production to Marketing (31)



SEPTEMBER 10 • STANTON 41
Cover Crops + Small Grains = A Perfect Pair for Soil Health and Water Quality (32)



SEPTEMBER 13 • JEFFERSON 42
Cider and Pumpkins at Historic Deal's Orchard (33)



SEPTEMBER 14 • SAC CITY 43
Hands-On Livestock Care With a Veterinarian (34)



SEPTEMBER 16 • VAN HORNE 44
Production to Market at Pheasant Run Farm (35)



SEPTEMBER 22 • GRANT CITY, MO 45
From Rotational Grazing to Regenerative Grazing (36)



OCTOBER 5 • KALONA 46
Cheese and Ice Cream Production at Kalona Creamery (37)



OCTOBER 14 • MECHANICSVILLE 47
Fall Vegetable Production and Planning (38)



NOVEMBER 1 – 3 • WEST BRANCH 48
Forage Chains and Forage-Finishing – 3 Days With Anibal Pordomingo (39)



NOVEMBER 8 • SIOUX CENTER 49
Root and Tuber Crop Production (40)

(Continued on page 8 →)

List of 2018 Field Days and Events

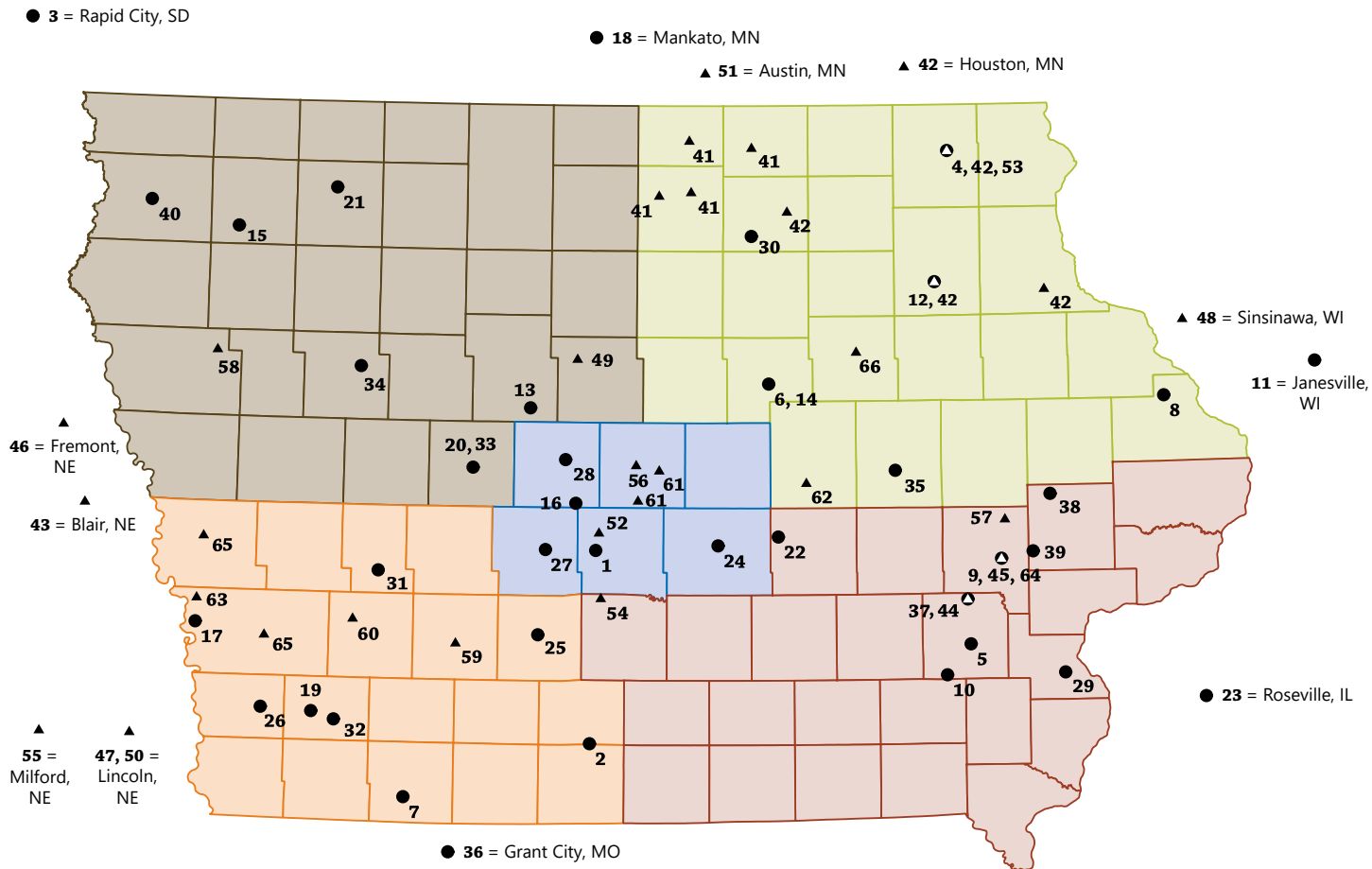
Friend-of-PFI Events		pg.
MULTIPLE DATES • NORTHEAST IOWA		43
Northeast Iowa Food and Farm Network (33)		
MULTIPLE DATES • MADISON COUNTY		44
Greenhorn Grazing Series (34)		
JUNE 20 • DYSART		45
Establishing and Evaluating Native Prairie Plantings (35)		
JUNE 21 • ATLANTIC		46
SILT Showcase Day – Rolling Acres Farm (36)		
JUNE 22 • NASHUA		47
Establishing and Evaluating Native Prairie Plantings on Farms (37)		
JUNE 29 • PRAIRIE CITY		48
Iowa Forage and Grassland Council Summer Grazing Field Day (38)		
JULY 12 • GARBER		49
SILT Showcase Day – Oak Savanna Mushrooms and Veg (39)		
JULY 22 • VAN BUREN COUNTY		50
J40 Farm Crawl (40)		
AUGUST 6 • GLENWOOD		51
Night at the Harvest Table (41)		
AUGUST 7 • AMES		52
2017 ISU Fruit and Vegetable Field Day (42)		
AUGUST 13 • MT. VERNON		53
SILT Showcase Day – Abbe Hills Farm (43)		
SEPTEMBER 7 • LUTHER		54
Ag Technologies for Max Yield in Organic and Conventional Systems (44)		
SEPTEMBER 9 • GRINNELL		55
Fall Field Day – Middle Way Farm (45)		
SEPTEMBER 10 • ATLANTIC & ELK HORN		56
Local Food and Farm Celebration (46)		
SEPTEMBER 16 • POLK & STORY COUNTIES		57
Farm Cruise (47)		
SEPTEMBER 20 • CEDAR FALLS		58
Establishing and Evaluating Native Prairie Plantings on Farms (48)		
SEPTEMBER 20 • WAPELLO		59
SILT Showcase Day – Red Fern Farm (49)		
SEPTEMBER 21 • DIKE		60
Establishing and Evaluating Native Prairie Plantings (50)		
OCTOBER 7 • HARRISON & POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTIES.....		61
Harvest Spoon Tour (51)		

Map of Event Locations

MAP KEY

- = PFI Field Days and Events
- ▲ = Friend of PFI Field Days and Events

Note: Out-of-state locations are not shown to geographic scale; they have been placed to give you an approximate representation of their position relative to Iowa.



Growing Garlic and Marketing the Farm

To compete in the Des Moines local food scene, Jordan and Whitney knew they needed a strong brand and quality product. Join them at their field day to learn about both. They'll begin the day in the field, discussing garlic production and soil fertility using mobile chicken coops. After a break for lunch, Jordan and Whitney will discuss their farm's branding and marketing techniques and materials.

THURSDAY, MAY 31 • 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Lunch provided

HOSTS:

Jordan Clasen and Whitney Brewer
Grade A Gardens

9050 NW 62nd Ave. • Johnston • 50131
 (515) 554-4306 • gradeagardens@gmail.com
gradeagardens.com • Instagram: [gradeagardens](#)

TOPICS:

- Seed garlic selection
- Fall planting and mulching
- Crop fertility
- Harvest and drying
- Garlic sales
- Social media
- Marketing materials and tools
- Mobile chicken coops
- Farm branding
- Market stall set-up

THE FARM:

After working in produce departments during his early years, Jordan launched Grade A Gardens in 2009. Beginning with a half-acre of garlic, Grade A now includes 8 acres of certified organic fruits and vegetables in Johnston. Whitney Brewer joined the farm in 2016, and is a member of PFI's Savings Incentive Program. Grade A Gardens markets through a CSA, the Downtown Des Moines Farmers Market and Des Moines restaurants and specialty grocers.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
 (515) 232-5661 by **Friday, May 25.**



DIRECTIONS:

From NW 86th Street in Johnston: Turn west onto NW 62nd Avenue. In 0.2 mile at the top of the hill, the farm is on the south side of the road (look for the barn quilt on the shed). You will need to make a U-turn around the median to enter the driveway.

SPONSORS:



Wows and Woes of Diversifying with Cover Crops and Small Grains



This field day will focus on the benefits and challenges of cover crops, especially focused on corn production following rye and the challenges of seedling diseases. Alison Robertson will share research her lab has conducted to understand the role of seedling disease in yield drag, and discuss best management strategies to reduce disease. You will also learn about incorporating small grains production into traditional row crop rotations, and the unique cover crop opportunities this provides. After lunch, stay for a tour of the depopulated layer facility.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19 • 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Lunch served after the discussion

HOSTS:

Arlyn and Sue Kauffman • Kauffman Structures

25186 Popcorn Road • Weldon • 50264

(641) 414-4470 • arlynakak@gmail.com

TOPICS:

- Cereal rye cover crop for corn and soybeans
- Mitigating potential corn seedling disease after a cover crop
- Adding wheat, rye and triticale into a cropping system
- Benefits and challenges of sharing labor and machinery with family

SPEAKER:

- **Alison Robertson** – Plant Pathology and Microbiology, Iowa State University

THE FARM:

Arlyn and Sue Kauffman farm about 250 acres of crops, including corn, soy, alfalfa and several small grains, and aim for 100 percent cover crop coverage on row crop acres. They share equipment and labor with extended family and neighbors. Arlyn and Sue are especially excited about warm-species cover crops following small-grains harvest, for soil amendment and grazing. They also raise cage-free, non-GMO eggs from 20,000 layers in one barn.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Wednesday, June 13.**



DIRECTIONS:

From Humeston: Take County Road J22 / Guy Porter Street west for 12 miles. Co Rd J22 becomes Popcorn Road. Kauffman Structures will be on the right (north) side of the road just before the junction with Co Rd R48.

From I-35: Take Exit 22 for Van Wert. Go east on Line Street / 120th Street / Co Rd J14 through Van Wert to U.S. 69, turn right (south) and go 1 mile to Co Rd J22 / Popcorn Road. Turn left (east) and drive for 2.25 miles. Kauffman Structures will be on the left (north) side of the road.



GRAIN MILLERS

GrassFed Exchange Conference in South Dakota



Practical Farmers of Iowa will provide transportation to this national conference, which takes place June 20 – 22 in Rapid City, South Dakota. Because of travel time, we will return very early on June 23. This annual event promotes the grass-fed industry and grass-fed genetics through education and displays.

Note: You are responsible for your conference registration and lodging arrangements. Register for the conference at grassfedexchange.regfox.com/2018-grassfed-exchange-conference.

WEDNESDAY – SATURDAY, JUNE 20 – 23

TRANSPORTATION DETAILS:

Transportation is free for PFI members. If you are interested in going but are not currently a member, visit practicalfarmers.org for membership information, call the office at (515) 232-5661 or fill out the membership form on page 51 of this guide.

Ames Departure: The bus will leave Ames at 7 a.m. on June 20 from Quality Inn & Suites, Starlite Village Conference Center (2601 E 13th St.). **Note:** Please park on the east or west sides of the building, not in the front.

Additional pick-up locations: Additional pick-up locations will be offered along the route to South Dakota and will be determined based on the location of riders.

Post conference: We will depart the conference by 6 p.m. on June 22, and return to Ames by about 4 a.m. on June 23.

MEALS:

Snacks will be provided during travel days, but lunch and dinner are not included. You are responsible for all meals not covered through the conference. There will be scheduled stops to purchase food along the way.



FOR EVENT QUESTIONS OR TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT:

Meghan Filbert – meghan@practicalfarmers.org or (515) 232-5661.

If you are interested in sharing a hotel room with a fellow member, Meghan will keep a list of names and help match people who want to share a room.

Teaming Up and Starting a Vegetable Farm

Hannah and Emily built a farm from the ground up in 2017. At this field day, you will see how a hay field was transformed into a working diversified organic farm, and discuss what is left to be built. Hannah and Emily's collaboration is unique; they are not a nuclear family, and have structured their business to function like a cooperative. They will share their business plan and structure, as well as financials for the business.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21 • 3 – 6 p.m.

A potluck will follow the field day. The main dish will be provided; please bring a side dish to share

HOSTS:

Hannah Breckbill and Emily Fagan
Humble Hands Harvest

2742 Hidden Falls Road • Decorah • 52101
(507) 513-1502 • humblehandsharvest@gmail.com
humblehandsharvest.com

TOPICS:

- Collaborative farming
- Farm financials
- Enterprise budgets
- Infrastructure needs
- Farming new ground

THE FARM:

Humble Hands Harvest is a 2-acre organic vegetable farm operated by Hannah Breckbill and Emily Fagan. The farm sells to local restaurants, at farmers markets and through a CSA. Hannah has been farming since 2009 and started Humble Hands Harvest in 2013; Emily joined the farm in 2017. They're developing a perennial polyculture system, integrating nut and fruit crops, and incorporating livestock.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Monday, June 18.**



DIRECTIONS:

From Decorah: Go north on County Road W38 / Locust Road for 4 miles. Turn right (east) on Canoe Ridge Road. In 4 miles, turn right (south) on Hidden Falls Road. Go to the end of Hidden Falls Road; enter the farm by the greenhouse on the right.

SPONSOR:



Thinking Outside the Box With Cover Crops



PRACTICAL FARMERS OF IOWA
COOPERATORS' PROGRAM

Learn about a wide variety of ways to use cover crops in your operation. Whether you are interested in using a single species such as cereal rye, or diverse multi-species mixes, this field day has you covered. Mike and Denny will discuss the benefits and challenges they've experienced thus far on their cover crop journey. Alison Robertson, ISU extension plant pathologist, will share research her lab has conducted to understand the role of seedling disease in yield drag. She will also discuss best management strategies to reduce disease.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26 • 5 – 8 p.m.

Dinner will be provided

HOSTS:

Michael and Denny Vittetoe

2630 IA Hwy 92 • Washington • 52353

(319) 461-3702 • mvittetoe761@gmail.com

TOPICS:

- Cereal rye cover crop for corn and soybeans
- Mitigating potential corn seedling disease following a cover crop
- Diverse cover crop mixes
- Interseeding corn with cover crops in early summer

THE FARM:

Mike and Denny operate a multi-generation family farm in Washington County raising corn, soybeans and hogs. Family members strive to be good stewards of the land by using no-till and cover crops, and they conduct on-farm research to continue searching for ways to learn and improve their practices. The Vittetoos have been experimenting with early interseeding into corn as a way to increase cover crop species diversity.

DIRECTIONS:

From U.S. 218: Take IA Hwy 92 west toward Ainsworth. The farm is located about 5 miles west of U.S. 218 on the right (north) side of IA Hwy 92.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Wednesday, June 20.**



From Washington: Take IA Hwy 92 east out of town for about 1.5 miles. The farm is located on the left (north) side of IA Hwy 92.

SPONSORS:



Combine Clinic for Small Grains Harvesting

In theory, harvesting small grains standing in the field with a soybean combine head is possible. In practice, however, many farmers experience high grain loss when they try this harvest method. In this clinic, learn about combine adjustments in the gathering (head), threshing and cleaning areas to increase the ability of the combine to capture as much grain as possible, as cleanly as possible.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27 • 10 a.m. – Noon

Lunch will be served following the program

HOST:

Titan Machinery

23604 Diagonal Road • Grundy Center • 50638
(319) 404-4200 • misty.wells@titanmachinery.com
titanmachinery.com

TOPICS:

- Combine adjustments and settings for small grain crops
- Maintenance and equipment for small grains harvest

THE BUSINESS:

Titan Machinery founder David Meyer owns and operates a network of full-service agriculture and construction equipment stores in the United States and Europe. Customers can buy or rent new and used construction and agriculture equipment; purchase parts; and get service support. Titan Machinery represents its manufacturing partner, the CNHi family of brands – including Case IH, Case Construction, New Holland Agriculture and New Holland Construction.

DIRECTIONS:

From the junction of U.S. 20 and IA Hwy 14: Take IA Hwy 14 south toward Grundy Center. Once in Grundy Center, IA Hwy 14 becomes 4th Street and runs into a T-intersection with G Avenue / IA Hwy 175. Turn left (east) on G Avenue / IA Hwy 175; just outside of town



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Friday, June 22.**



this becomes Diagonal Avenue. Titan Machinery will be on the right (south) side of the road.

From Marshalltown: Take IA Hwy 14 north to IA Hwy 175 and turn right (east) onto IA Hwy 175 / IA Hwy 14. Continue on IA Hwy 175 east through Grundy Center. IA 175 becomes Diagonal Avenue; Titan Machinery will be on the right (south) side of the road.

Small Grains, Big Opportunities – Graze, Brew, Harvest, Build Soil

In partnership with Taylor County Soil and Water Conservation District

A panel of local producers (Rick Sprague, Paul Ackley and Mick Ware) will discuss small grains from beginning and experienced farmer perspectives. Some of the panelists are also involved with a group of Taylor County locals that has decided to grow small grains to brew a locally grown beverage. All the panelists use a rotational grazing system, including a traditional pasture mix, small grains and cover crops. Hear their experiences, then walk to two fields adjacent to the event location to view small grains and see a “pasture score” demonstration. Whether for grazing, erosion control or a third commodity crop, small grains have much to offer!

THURSDAY, JUNE 28 • 5 – 8 p.m.

A meal will be provided

HOSTS:

Rick and Pam Sprague • Sprague Bees and Beef
(712) 542-8765

LOCATION:

United Christian-Presbyterian Church
1500 Industrial Ave. • Bedford • 50833

SPEAKERS:

- **Rick Sprague** – farmer, Bedford
- **Paul Ackley** – farmer, Bedford
- **Mick Ware** – farmer, Bedford
- **Aaron Saeugling** – ISU Extension field agronomist
- **Erin Ogle** – Taylor County Water Quality Initiative project coordinator

THE FARM:

The Spragues have recently added small grains to their crop rotation. They also raise corn, soybeans, pasture, cattle, horses and bees. They practice no-till and their 60 acres of pasture includes multiple water systems for their cattle.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Monday, June 25.**



DIRECTIONS:

From IA Hwy 2, just east of Bedford: Turn left (south) onto Industrial Avenue. The church building and parking will be on the west side of the road at the end of the pavement.

Conservation Infrastructure on a Diverse Livestock Farm

Bill and Stacey will lead a tour of their diverse livestock farm while discussing their multi-species grazing management practices. They have made many infrastructure improvements to their farm, including to fencing and watering systems. Using funds from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), they added paddocks and watering to their pastures.

Local staff from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office will talk about the Borrenpohls' conservation plan and ways they have used EQIP to execute this plan. Bill and Stacey have been working to grow their direct-market customer base and will share their approach to doing this. They will also discuss how they use direct-marketing to sell meat produced on their farm.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28 • 2 – 5 p.m.

Snacks provided

HOSTS:

William and Stacey Borrenpohl • Woven Strong Farm

23078 Centerville Road • La Motte • 52054

(563) 773-8548 • wovenstrongfarm@netins.net

facebook.com/WovenStrongFarm

TOPICS:

- Multi-species grazing
- On-farm conservation plan using EQIP funding
- Direct meat marketing and increasing customers

THE FARM:

Woven Strong Farm, just south of Dubuque in northern Jackson County, was started by William and Stacey in 2010. The family raises Lowline cattle, hogs, chickens and meat goats on pasture.

DIRECTIONS:

From Dubuque: Take U.S. 61 south to Haxbylane Road and turn left (east). In 1.5 miles, Haxbylane becomes Centerville Road. Continue on Centerville Road for about 0.3 mile; the farm is on the north side of the road.



From Maquoketa: Take U.S. 61 north to Haxbylane Rd; turn right. In 1.5 miles, Haxbylane becomes Centerville Road. Continue on Centerville Road for about 0.3 mile; the farm is on the north side of the road.

★ **Please note: GPS and online maps correctly locate the road but often improperly locate the address of the farm.**

Landing a Farm – Long-Term Leases and Other Options

When farmland is expensive and hard to come by, how can beginning farmers use leases to build equity? Join Kate as she gives a tour of her farm, and learn how her unique lease works. The lease has components that allow her to build equity and gain security while fulfilling her landlord's conservation practice requirements. The discussion will also cover other land access options.

SATURDAY, JULY 7 • 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Potluck will follow the program. A main dish will be provided; please bring a side dish or dessert to share

HOST:

Kate Edwards • Wild Woods Farm

3167 Rapid Creek Trail NE • Iowa City • 52240
(319) 333-2980 • kate.wildwoodsfarm@gmail.com
wildwoodscsa.com • Instagram: [wildwoodsfarm](https://www.instagram.com/wildwoodsfarm)

TOPICS:

- Vegetable production
- Land access
- Leases
- Farm buildings
- Financial planning
- Financing
- Profitability

THE FARM:

Kate Edwards began Wild Woods Farm in 2010. She raises vegetables for her 200-family CSA, delivering to Iowa City, Coralville and Solon. In December 2015, she moved her farm to its second site, where she built a packing and equipment shed on leased ground.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-80: Take the IA Hwy 1 exit and go north. Turn right on Rapid Creek Road, just past the BP gas station, and go 1 mile to Rapid Creek Trail; turn left. At the top of the hill, you will see two red barns and a greenhouse. Kate's barn is the one closest to the greenhouse; the other is her landlord's home.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Friday, June 29.**



SPONSOR:



Mechanical Weed Control for Organic Crop Production

Attendees will learn how a tine weeder and mechanical cultivation can complement each other for effective weed control. Nelson uses a Treffler tine weeder, and will discuss why he prefers this over a rotary hoe. He will also share why longer crop rotations are of utmost importance for weed control in organic crop production.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11 • 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

A light lunch served after the field day

HOST:

Nelson Smith

1546 305th St. • Brighton • 52540

(319) 461-9008 • sawport@gmail.com

TOPICS:

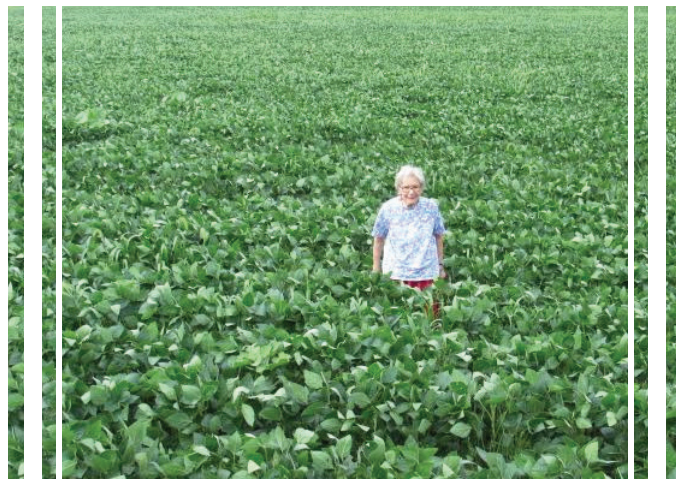
- Tine weeder vs. rotary hoe
- Mechanical cultivation
- How longer crop rotations can assist weed control

THE FARM:

The Smith farm has been organic certified since 1997. Nelson raises 300 acres of row crops and 150 acres of alfalfa. Crop rotation includes soybeans, corn, oats and alfalfa, with buckwheat and rye occasionally injected in the rotation.

DIRECTIONS:

From Brighton: Go 1 mile west on IA Hwy 1 / IA Hwy 78 to Fir Avenue / County Road W21. Turn right (north) on Fir Avenue and go 2.5 miles to 305th Street. Turn right (east) and go 0.5 mile; 305th Street dead-ends at the farm.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Friday, July 6.**



SPONSORS:



**Washington County Soil
and Water Conservation
District**

Small Grains, Modest Gains: A Pragmatic Approach

In partnership with Organic Grain Resource and Information Network (OGRAIN)

Learn why growing small grains as part of an extended crop rotation benefits the other cash crops in both conventional and organic cropping systems. Find out how cover crops can serve as green manure, control weeds, reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. In addition, learn about growing organic and non-GMO corn and soybeans; and how to increase yields, provide crop protection and gain a premium for these crops. During the day, hear a presentation from Organic Seed Alliance on managing risk through variety selection, and UW Extension on transitioning to organic.

THURSDAY, JULY 12 • 8:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Coffee, pastries and lunch provided. **Note:** The lunch is a networking event to help small grains buyers and sellers connect with one another. **If you are a small grains buyer, please contact us to reserve your free spot.**

HOSTS:

The Hughes Family

4031 South U.S. 51 • Janesville, Wisconsin • 53546
(608) 359-1800 • whildenvi@gmail.com
whughesfarms.com/our-story

TOPICS:

- Small grains: conventional and organic
- Cover crops as green manures, and for weed control, soil erosion reduction and water quality improvements
- Corn and soybean production for organic and non-GMO

SPEAKERS:

- **Nick Baker** – Rock County Extension
- **Dave Gundlach** – Rock County NRCS
- **Matt Leavitt** – Organic Seed Alliance
- **Erin Silva** – Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin – Madison

THE FARM:

Hughes Farms is owned and operated by Randy and Judy Hughes, who own and rent over 5,000 acres of tillable land in Rock County, Wisconsin. The farm



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Friday, July 6.**



mission is to grow and produce wholesome food in an environmentally sustainable way. Randy and Judy strive for a good quality of life that exemplifies solid family and community values.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-90: Take Exit 177, head west on WI Hwy 11 and turn left (south) on U.S. 51.

SPONSORS:



ALBERT LEA
SEED



Hughes Farms



New Beginnings: Organic Transition at a Diversified Dairy Farm



In partnership with Iowa Organic Association

Spend a day on a vibrant organic dairy farm in northeast Iowa learning about organic transition, medium-scale dairying, rotational grazing, on-farm innovation and adapting to changing markets. Visitors will tour the dairying facility, walk through grazing paddocks and see the infrastructure the Wedemeiers have built over the last two decades to support their growing herd. Aaron Anderson, district conservationist with the Natural Resource Conservation Service in Fayette County, will speak on soil health and water drainage in relation to the organic transition. This event will also serve as one of the Northeast Iowa Food and Farm Network's monthly gatherings.

SATURDAY, JULY 14 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Lunch will be catered by Iowa Organic Association and Organic Valley / Organic Prairie

HOSTS:

Gary and Scott Wedemeier

18663 110th St. • Maynard • 50655
(319) 231-3312 • swedem@netins.net
grasswayfarmiowa.com

TOPICS:

- Grazing management for dairy production
- Transition of both crop and livestock systems to organic
- On-farm research feeding apple cider vinegar to cattle
- Pig production
- Marketing streams

THE FARM:

Gary Wedemeier and his son, Scott, own and operate an 1,100-acre family farm. Scott is the third generation to farm this land. The Wedemeiers recently transitioned their herd and, as of November 2017, are now part of the Organic Valley Cooperative. The Wedemeiers also have a small herd of sheep and pigs, maintain a natural wetland and raise steers for direct markets.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Tuesday, July 10.**



DIRECTIONS:

From Maynard: Take County Road W33 / 100th Street west. Turn right (north) on R Avenue, then left (west) on 110th Street.

From Westgate: Take Co Rd W33 / 100th Street east. Turn left (north) on R Avenue, then left (west) on 110th Street. The farm is less than a mile west of Co Rd W14 / R Avenue.

Expanding Conservation With Cover Crops, Livestock and Small Grains

Kellie and A.J. will share how they've steadily increased their use of cover crops while also reducing tillage. The Blairs will explain how grazing cattle on their cover crops and conducting on-farm research with the Iowa Soybean Association have helped them expand their cover crop usage. Come learn more about their experiences and research results, as well as one of their newer endeavors: raising their own cover crop seed!

TUESDAY, JULY 17 • 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Lunch provided

HOSTS:

Kellie and A.J. Blair

3531 Paragon Ave. • Dayton • 50530

kellieblair@akrfarm.com • homeagainfinnegan.blogspot.com

Facebook: Home Again Finnegan • Twitter: @BlairKellie

TOPICS:

- Cover crops and reduced tillage
- Cover crops and livestock
- Raising your own cereal rye cover crop seed

THE FARM:

Kellie and A.J. are lifetime members of Practical Farmers who raise corn, soybeans, cattle and pigs with a focus on conservation and continual improvement.

DIRECTIONS:

From Dayton: Take IA Hwy 175 west to the junction with U.S. 169. Turn right (north) on Paragon Avenue. and go 0.75 mile; the farm will be on the left (west) side of the road.

SPONSORS:



Photo courtesy of Iowa Soybean Association

RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Thursday, July 12.**



Cover Crops and Soil Health at the Grundy County Fair

In partnership with Grundy County Extension, and Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District

Farmers and landowners who attend this field day will learn more about ways to make soil health improvements on their farms for better corn, soybean and cattle production. Learn about cover crops, managed intensive grazing, edge-of-field practices, no-till and soil health testing as ways to make your farm more sustainable. Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has organized an event during the Grundy County Fair for several years to help farmers and landowners learn more about ways to improve their soil health. Admission is free to both the fair and the workshop.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18 • 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

PT Grillers from Morrison will serve roasted meat and side dishes



RSVP to Denise Freeseman, Grundy County SWCD, at denise.freese@ia.nacdn.net or (319) 824-3634, ext 3, by Wednesday, July 11 • grundyiaswcd.com

HOST:

Grundy County SWCD

LOCATION:

Grundy County Fairgrounds

1308 4th St. • Grundy Center • 50638

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Fred Abels – (319) 640-2002

farmerfred1981@hotmail.com • grundyiaswcd.com

Twitter: @abelsfred

TOPICS:

- Soil health and prairie potholes
- Reducing herbicide usage while maintaining yield
- Rotational grazing systems to benefit soil health
- Wildlife habitat
- Haney Soil Test
- Landowner-tenant collaboration to improve soil health through no-till, cover crops and diverse rotations
- Pollinator habitat
- Wetlands
- Buffer strips



SPEAKERS:

- **Doug Adams** – farmer and soil conservation technician, Humboldt County
- **Chris Henning** – landowner, Jefferson
- **Mitchell Hora** – soil health entrepreneur, Washington
- **Seth Watkins** – farmer, Clarinda

DIRECTIONS:

From the intersection of IA Hwy 14 and IA Hwy 175 in Grundy Center (near Rouse Motor): Go south 5.5 blocks on 4th Street; the fairgrounds will be on the left. The event will be held in the Alumni Building near the cattle barns.

Please note: There will be areas roped off, so follow the gravel road to the north of the fairgrounds over to the parking area.

Improving Organic Crop Production

The Wilson family will share their experiences and efforts to improve their organic crop production systems. They'll start the day with some machinery shop talk and make their cultivators, planters and drills available for viewing. After a potluck lunch, they'll offer a hay wagon farm tour. Attendees will see cover crops seeded after small grains harvest; cover crops interseeded to corn in June; and a solid-seeded mix of corn and forage sorghum for silage.

FRIDAY, JULY 20 • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

A potluck lunch will be served at noon. The Wilsons will provide meat and beverages; please bring a dish to share.

HOSTS:

The Wilson Family • Seven W Farm

4375 Pierce Ave. • Paullina • 51046
(712) 229-7782 • the7wilsons@gmail.com
sevenwfarm.com

TOPICS:

- Mechanical weed control – timing is key
- Planter and drill setup for success in organic crop production
- Diverse cover crops including a winter pea variety trial
- Direct-cutting vs. swathing oats for food-grade markets
- Corn and forage sorghum mix for silage

THE FARM:

Dan, Lorna, April, Torray, Erin, Jaron and Liz Wilson make up Seven Wilson Farm – a 660-acre diversified, organic farm. The family grows organic corn, soybeans, hay and a variety of small grains. The farm also includes an organic dairy, a grass-fed beef herd, a sheep flock, pasture-raised broilers and laying hens, and farrow-to-finish hogs.

DIRECTIONS:

From Paullina: Take IA Hwy 10 west out of town for 2 miles, then turn right (north) onto Pierce Avenue and drive 2.25 miles. The farm will be on the left (west) side of Pierce Avenue.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Friday, July 13.**



From Primghar: Take County Road B40 / 390th Street 4 miles west; turn left (south) onto Pierce Ave. and travel 4.75 miles. The farm will be on the right (west) side of Pierce Avenue.

SPONSORS:



GRAIN MILLERS

UPDATED: RAGBRAI Near Newton

★ **Note:** Due to flooding and high water at Ledges State Park (and across swaths of central and northwest Iowa), officials have had to re-route RAGBRAI around the park, forcing a change to our original booth location and date.

Will Cannon invites RAGBRAI riders and others to share a corner of his farm, whether you are a RAGBRAI rider in need of refreshment or a spectator watching the ride. Riders will pass by Will's farm on their voyage to Newton during Day 4 of the ride (the Cannon farm is a few miles before the last stop of the day at Newton). Will has a corn and soybean farm, and puts a focus on sustainability. This includes efforts to prevent erosion, build soil and use regenerative agriculture practices. Some of Will's farm practices include no-till, strip-till, cover crops and variable-rate application of nutrients.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25 • Noon – 5 p.m.

Fresh local veggies will be served, and a water refill will be available



HOST:

Will Cannon

5101 Hwy S52 • Newton • 50208

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Debra Boekholder – debra@practicalfarmers.org or (515) 232-5661

DIRECTIONS:

From I-80: Take Exit 159 toward Hwy F48W and turn north. Drive 0.6 mile, turn left on County Road S52 and go about 3.5 miles to Hwy F36W; Will's farm is at the corner of Co Rd S52 and Hwy F36W.

★ **Note:** RAGBRAI riders will be coming on Co Rd S52 from the north and turning east on Hwy F36W.

If you are driving, you will not be able to park directly on Will's farm. But you can park on the side of Co Rd S52 and walk the short distance to his farm.



Terry's Techniques: Seed-Saving and Cultivation Equipment

Formerly a casual seed-saver, Terry now saves several varieties of tomato and pepper seed for High Mowing Organic Seed Company, based in Vermont. Come hear how this process works, and how it contributes to her farm's revenue. Terry will also do a demonstration with several types of small, modified cultivating tractors she uses on her vegetable crops.

THURSDAY, JULY 26 • 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Light dinner provided following the field day

HOST:

Terry Troxel • Iowana Farm

17652 Badger Ave. • Crescent • 51526
(712) 545-9300 • terry@iowanafarm.com
iowanafarm.com

TOPICS:

- Tomato and pepper seed-saving technique
- Variety selection for seed-saving
- Saving seed as a farm enterprise
- Using an Allis Chalmers G tractor
- Modified mowers for cultivation (Merle's "superweapon")

THE FARM:

Iowana Farm is a 66-acre farm in the Iowa Loess Hills. Of that, 20 acres are under cultivation – 6.5 acres in certified organic vegetables and the rest in alfalfa hay. The fields are surrounded by oak savannah and grasslands. Iowana Farm uses three high tunnels and in-field low tunnels to support a 60-member CSA and wholesale sales. The farm also markets to restaurants and sells at the Village Pointe and Rockbrook Village farmers markets.

DIRECTIONS:

Iowana Farm is 6 miles north of Omaha, just east of the town of Crescent. **From I-29:** Take Exit 61A toward Crescent / Pottawattamie County and head east on Old



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Monday, July 23.**



Mormon Bridge Road for 2 miles until the road dead-ends at Old Lincoln Highway. Turn left (north) and go about 0.2 mile into the town of Crescent. Turn right (east) on Badger Avenue / E. Welch Street; the farm is 0.75 mile, on the left.

SPONSOR:



CHAPTER 1 OF IA

CONFERENCE: Rotationally Raised – Making Small Grains Work

In partnership with Freeborn Area Soil Health Team

This day-long conference will cover a variety of topics about growing small grains and the benefits of an extended rotation. Nine breakout sessions throughout the day will include sessions on integrating animals with a small grains operation, marketing small grains, the agronomy behind successfully raising small grains and more.

MONDAY, JULY 30 • 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Lunch served and a reception will follow the conference



Registration is required for this conference

Please register online at practicalfarmers.org/small-grains, or by calling (515) 232-5661, by Monday, July 23.

Free for PFI members; \$40 for non-members

If you are not currently a member but would like to join Practical Farmers of Iowa, please visit practicalfarmers.org, call (515) 232-5661 or complete the membership form found on page 51 of this guide.

Schedule:

- 9 – 10 a.m. – Registration
- 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Conference, including lunch
- 4:30 – 5:30 p.m. – Reception

HOST:

Practical Farmers of Iowa

LOCATION:

Centennial Student Union

Minnesota State University-Mankato campus
620 S Rd. • Mankato, Minnesota • 56001

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Contact Alisha Bower, alisha@practicalfarmers.org or (515) 232-5661, or visit practicalfarmers.org/small-grains



DIRECTIONS:

The Centennial Student Union is on the southwest side of the Minnesota State University-Mankato campus. Approach campus on Stadium Road, turn north on Ellis Avenue and then west on S Road.

For detailed driving directions, please visit csu.mnsu.edu/about/maps.html.

Parking is in the visitor pay lot across the street from the Centennial Student Union. Parking passes will be distributed at registration.

SMALL GRAINS

Farmland Owner Legacy Award Celebration + Soil Health Event

Please join us in celebrating Maggie McQuown and Steve Turman, Practical Farmers of Iowa's 2018 Farmland Owner Legacy Award recipients! The Farmland Owner Legacy Award is granted annually by Practical Farmers to landowners who use their land to help the next generation get started, advance land stewardship and promote long-term sustainability of farm businesses, environmental quality and rural communities. With this award, Practical Farmers calls attention to the important role non-operator farmland owners are playing in the future success of sustainable agriculture.

TUESDAY, JULY 31 • 5 – 8 p.m.

Schedule:

- Soil health presentation at 5:30 p.m.
- Award presentation at 6:15 p.m.
- Light dinner at 6:45 p.m.; cash bar available

RSVPs required: Dinner is free, but RSVPs are required. Contact Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org or (515) 232-5661, by Friday, July 27.

HOST:

Practical Farmers of Iowa

LOCATION:

Red Coach Inn & Restaurant
1200 Senate Ave. • Red Oak • 51566

ABOUT MAGGIE AND STEVE:

In 2012, Maggie and her husband, Steve, moved to a farm that had been in her family since 1899; they renamed it Resilient Farms to reflect their goal of sustainability. The 170-acre farm features corn, soybeans, produce, historic buildings and a new energy-efficient PassivHaus home. Maggie and Steve work closely with farm operators Bryan and Lisa Huff to incorporate conservation practices that improve soil health; reduce erosion and nutrient loss; create habitat; and increase biodiversity, including a riparian buffer, native prairie strips, cover crops and no-till. They also increase



awareness of healthy, local food with a CSA, by co-managing and selling at the Red Oak Farmers Market, and by hosting on-farm educational events.

DIRECTIONS:

The Red Coach Inn & Restaurant is located just off U.S. 34 on the north side of Red Oak. Detailed directions are available at redcoachredoak.com/location-and-directions-to-red-oak-iowa.php.

Weed Control for Organic Row Crops

The Shrivers have collected numerous tools and tried different practices throughout the years to battle weeds in organic row crops. They will discuss the pros and cons of the equipment they use for weed control, including hoes, harrows, cultivators and flamers. They will also review the practice and equipment for no-till planting of soybeans into cereal rye to achieve a "cover crop mulch."

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7 • 5 – 8 p.m.

Dinner provided

HOST:

Scott Shriver • Shriver Farms, LLC

1276 270th St. • Jefferson • 50129

(515) 370-0036 • shriverfarms@gmail.com

TOPICS:

- Mechanical weed control: hoes, harrows, cultivators
- Flame weed control
- Mulch weed control: soybeans seeded into roll-crimped cereal rye

THE FARM:

Shriver Farms is a 2,000-acre organic farming operation located near Jefferson. The Shrivers grow about 1,500 acres of row crops (corn and soybeans) every year, with the remainder in small grains and alfalfa.

DIRECTIONS:

From Jefferson: Take IA Hwy 4 south for 2 miles to 270th Street and turn right (west). In 1.75 miles, the farm will be on the right (north) side of the road.

From the junction of IA Hwy 4 and IA Hwy 141: Take IA Hwy 4 north for 8.25 miles to 270th Street and turn left (west). In 1.75 miles, the farm will be on the right (north) side of the road.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Wednesday, August 1.**



SPONSORS:



**ALBERT LEA
SEED**



CHAPTER 1 OF IA



WEED CONTROL

Raising Prairie: Seeds, Plants and Restoration

Interested in having on-farm prairie but unsure how it can generate profit for your farm? Join the team at The Prairie Flower for a fascinating tour of their expansive prairie and wetlands. Learn how they worked with local ecotypes to grow their prairie and wetlands, and built ponds to enhance their ecosystems. They'll also share how they have managed invasives and added multiple enterprises as part of their prairie-farming business.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9 • 9 – 11 a.m.

A light lunch provided

HOSTS:

Dwight and Bev Rutter • The Prairie Flower

1760 290th St. • Spencer • 51301

(712) 262-5864 • dwt@evertek.net

theprairieflower.com

TOPICS:

- Prairie seed harvest (hand and machine)
- Seed cleaning and sales
- Invasive species management
- Site selection for restored prairie, wetland and ponds

THE FARM:

Since 2002, Dwight and Bev Rutter have made prairie their full-time business, converting much of their corn and soybean acreage back to native habitat. The square-mile property includes a prairie remnant, native wetland, 60 acres of native grasses, restored short-grass and tall-grass prairie, engineered ponds and the Little Sioux River. Their business provides local-ecotype native prairie and wetland plants and seeds; pasture; and hay seed and lawn grass mixes. In addition to managing their own prairie, the Rutters consult and assist on prairie restoration projects in the region.



DIRECTIONS:

From Spencer: Take U.S. 18 W / Highway Boulevard north out of town. After about 2 miles, turn left (west) at the junction of U.S. 71 and U.S. 18. Continue on U.S. 18W as it turns west and becomes U.S. 18 W / 320th Street / W 44th Street. In 4 miles, turn right (north) onto 180th Avenue.

After 3 miles, turn left (west) onto 290th Street. The Prairie Flower will be the first house on the north side of the road, just before the Little Sioux River. The Rutter name is on the black mailbox and there are two large solar arrays in the driveway.

SPONSOR:



Planning and Installing Beneficial Insect Habitat

In partnership with Xerces Society

The Dunhams will show and discuss several beneficial insect strategies they use on their farm, including beetle banks that were installed among their organic vegetable fields in 2012. Sarah Foltz Jordan, a pollinator conservation specialist with the Xerces Society, will join the conversation, providing additional insight from her experience with on-farm habitat projects around the Midwest. During the break between the field day and dinner, attendees are invited to carpool to Grinnell College's Conard Environmental Research Area (CERA) for a prairie walk with Elizabeth Hill and Sue Kolbe, both with Grinnell College.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10 • Noon – 3 p.m.

Schedule:

- Noon – 3 p.m. – Field day at Grinnell Heritage Farm
- 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. – Grinnell College's Conard Environmental Research Area (CERA)
- 5 p.m. – Pizza Night at Grinnell Heritage Farm! Enjoy free wood-fired oven pizza made with farm ingredients.

HOSTS:

Andrew and Melissa Dunham • Grinnell Heritage Farm

1933 Penrose St. • Grinnell • 50112
(641) 990-0018 • farmers@GrinnellHeritageFarm.com
grinnellheritagefarm.com • Twitter: @G_Heritage_Farm

TOPICS:

- Beneficial insect diversity
- Beetle banks
- Establishing and managing habitat
- Native plant species and communities
- Habitat site selection
- Insect identification
- Hedge rows
- Starting native plants

THE FARM:

Andrew and Melissa raise 25 acres of certified organic vegetables, herbs and flowers. Andrew is a fifth-generation Iowa farmer. The 80-acre farm has been in the family for over 150 years and is counted among the oldest family farms in Iowa.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Monday, August 6.**



DIRECTIONS:

From Grinnell: Take U.S. 6 east out of Grinnell for about 1 mile. Turn north (left) onto Penrose Street and go about 0.8 mile. The farm will be on the left. (Directions to CERA for the prairie walk will be provided at the field day.)

SPONSORS:



Bus Trip to Joel Gruver's WIU Organic Research Farm

Join Practical Farmers of Iowa on a bus trip to tour Western Illinois University's (WIU) Organic Research Farm in Roseville, Illinois, with Dr. Joel Gruver. You will see several large-scale replicated field trials and demonstrations, as well as some smaller-scale plots. Strategies for cover crop diversification will be a major theme. We'll hear about diverse cover crop mixtures, interseeding cover crops and diversifying crop rotations. We'll also explore ways to reduce tillage frequency and intensity while achieving tillage objectives. Other topics will highlight mechanical weed control, pollinator strips, managing for high-yielding corn and more.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15 • Noon – 4 p.m.

Lunch prepared by a local Amish bakery

This free event is open to PFI members only. If you are interested in going but are not currently a member, visit practicalfarmers.org for membership information, call the office at (515) 232-5661 or complete the membership form on page 51 of this guide.

To register: Visit practicalfarmers.org or call (515) 232-5661. You must register by Thursday, July 26. Seating on the bus is limited, so reserve your spot early!

HOST:

**Joel Gruver • Western Illinois University
WIU Organic Research Farm**

Northwest corner of the junction of 20th Avenue and 20th Street • Roseville, Illinois • 61473
j-gruver@wiu.edu • wiu.edu/cbt/agriculture/farms/organic

DETAILS:

Ames Departure: The bus will leave at 7:30 a.m. from Quality Inn & Suites Starlite Village Conference Center (2601 E 13th St.). **Note:** Please park on the east or west sides of the building, not in front.

Second pick-up location: A second pick-up spot in east-central or southeast Iowa will be decided based on registrants' locations. The bus will leave from the second pick-up location at 9:30 a.m.



Return: We will leave the farm a little after 4 p.m. and should get back to Ames by around 8:30 p.m.

Meals: Lunch will be provided at the event. You are welcome to bring your own food. There is space on the bus for coolers. Snacks will be provided during the return trip to Iowa.

THE FARM:

The WIU Organic Research Farm is a 77-acre site rented for almost 30 years by Western Illinois University for practical farm-scale agricultural research. The farm has never been managed conventionally, and has been certified organic since 2009. The farm's main crops include corn, soybeans, small grains, peas, sunflowers and mixed hay. Recent research has focused on nutrient management, weed management (with and without tillage), cover crops and genetic evaluation.

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Stefan Gailans – stefan@practicalfarmers.org or (515) 232-5661



Next Generation Summit

Save Aug. 23 for Practical Farmers' first Next Generation Summit! This event will bring together beginning and retiring farmers in a way that allows for education and networking to help overcome the challenge of farmland access.

Beginning farmers in our network have identified access to farmland as one of their greatest barriers to starting a farm. Fifty-six percent of Iowa farmland is owned by people over the age of 65, and 30 percent of Iowa farmland is owned by those older than 75 years of age.

"The need for land transfer education and discussion is crucial since more than half of Iowa's farmland will be handed over to new owners and stewards of the land over the coming decades," says Gail Hickenbottom, PFI lifetime member.

Evening reception: The evening will conclude with a reception open to all: supporters, farmers, landowners, aspiring farmers and friends of farmers. Learn how Practical Farmers is making an impact getting the next generation of farmers on the land. We will welcome new friends, and honor supporters funding this vital work. Network and enjoy free appetizers and beverages. Please join us in celebrating and supporting all generations of farmers!

Watch for more details as we finalize workshops and speakers for this event.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23 • TBD

Stay tuned for full details

HOST:

Practical Farmers of Iowa

LOCATION:

Maytag Event Complex

403 W 4th St N • Newton • 50208

THE FACILITY:

The Maytag Event Complex is part of the 472,000-square-foot complex that until 2006 served as the headquarters for the Maytag Corporation. The historic red-brick complex consists of seven buildings, now renamed Legacy Plaza, and features large windows, exposed ceilings, scenic courtyards, meeting spaces and more.



Photo courtesy of John Lee Photography

DIY Watering and Corral Systems for Cattle and Pigs

If you want to learn do-it-yourself solutions for livestock infrastructure, this field day is for you! Jake will show five styles of cattle and pig watering systems that he installed himself, each fed by different water sources, and will discuss their pros and cons. He'll show us five different cattle corral set-ups, pointing out problem spots, what works well with each one, and different brands of chutes and head gates he recommends. We'll also see old grain bins that have been converted into finishing barns for his pigs. We'll travel on hayracks to different pastures, but this field day will involve walking.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 24 • 2 – 6 p.m.

A potluck lunch will follow the field day, with brats provided by Bigelow Family Farm; please bring a side dish to share.

After dinner, guests are welcome to camp at nearby Pammel State Park, 1818 Pammel Park Rd, Winterset. For camping reservations, visit mycountyparks.com.

HOSTS:

Jake and Crystal Bigelow • Bigelow Family Farm, LLC
1854 275th St. • Winterset • 50273
(515) 313-5703 • bigelowfamilyfarm.com

TOPICS:

- Watering systems in pastures and lots
- Cattle corral set-up
- DIY infrastructure

THE FARM:

Bigelow Family Farm consists of 40 Hereford-Angus cattle and four Hereford sows – all born and finished on the farm. Livestock are fed non-GMO corn, with no antibiotics or hormones. Jake rents 100 acres of pasture and helps his father farm 300 acres of row crops. The Bigelows strive to farm in ways that meet their goals of sustainability, conservation, diversification and education.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Tuesday, August 21.**



DIRECTIONS:

From Winterset: Head south on U.S. 169 and go 5 miles to 270th Street. Turn right (west), go 2 miles to a T intersection and turn left (south) onto Carver Road. In 0.25 mile, turn right (west) onto 275th Street and drive 1 mile to the white house with a yellow barn on the south side of the road.

SPONSORS:



AgArts Field Day of Family, Food and Fun

Come learn how the arts – from visual, to literary, to theatrical – can be used to imagine and promote healthy food systems. Tina Bakehouse of Maple Edge Farm and Golden Hills RC&D will conduct a storytelling workshop, then the audience will be treated to a reader's theater production of "Farmscape" by playwright and AgArts co-founder Mary Swander. The performance will include a talk-back with Mary and feature Jon Bakehouse on guitar and PFI member Stephen McGrew playing music on a saw. We will also discuss how food is medicine, and share simple local recipes anyone can make.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25 • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

A local foods lunch will be prepared by Chef Robert Poehling of Milk and Honey, with ingredients from PFI member Ellen Walsh-Rosmann of FarmTable Delivery.

RSVPs are required for lunch: Lunch is limited to 75 people. The cost is \$15 for adults; \$5 for children and students. RSVP to Debra Boekholder at (515) 232-5661 or debra@practicalfarmers.org by Tuesday, August 21.

HOSTS:

Jon, Tina and Anderson Bakehouse; Bach and Nancy Bakehouse • Maple Edge Farm

55755 370th St. • Hastings • 51540

(712) 789-0158 • tina@goldenhillsrkd.org

THE FARM:

Maple Edge Farm is nearly 150 years old; son Anderson is the sixth generation. Currently, the farming operation includes corn, soybeans, alfalfa, cover crops and livestock (cattle, chickens and goats). The Bakehouses continue to explore new opportunities to diversify the farm. They've partnered with universities, Practical Farmers of Iowa, Golden Hills RC&D and others to increase their knowledge of soil health. This summer, Tina is hosting ag arts camps to educate, communicate and create. Through art, she is teaching the importance of understanding agriculture and where our food comes from.



DIRECTIONS:

From the east: Take I-80 west to the Avoca exit (Exit 40). Take U.S. 59 south to U.S. 34 and travel west to M16 / 370th Street; travel 3 miles north on County Road M16 / 370th Street.

From the west: Take I-80 east to I-29 south; take the Glenwood exit (Exit 35) and take U.S. 34 east to 370th St / M16 and go north 3 miles.

Please note: The bridge on Co Rd M16 / 370th Street is closed; thus, the U.S. 34 to Co Rd M16 is the best route.

SPONSORS:



Livestock Integration on a Small-Scale Vegetable Farm

Come see how Kelly is working to integrate livestock into her small-scale vegetable farm. Her poultry, draft pony and honeybees all play an important part in growing vegetables for CSA and farmers market customers. Everything from fertilization to pollination and draft power is provided by livestock on the farm. Kelly will share her approach to producing and direct-marketing pasture-raised poultry. Over the years, Kelly has improved her on-farm poultry processing system. She will showcase the equipment she uses and the lessons she's learned in getting started. For those interested, she will also offer a live demonstration of processing Red Ranger broilers at the end of the event.

MONDAY, AUGUST 27 • 2 – 6 p.m.

A potluck will follow the field day, with meat provided by Hoof Beet Farm; please bring a side dish to share

HOST:

Kelly Clime • Hoof Beet Farm

23423 R Ave. • Dallas Center • 50063

(515) 809-2338 • kelly@hoofbeetfarm.com

facebook.com/HBFarmIowa • Twitter: @BeetHoof

Instagram: hoofbeetfarm

TOPICS:

- Integrating livestock into a vegetable farm
- Small-scale vegetable production
- On-farm poultry processing
- Draft power
- Direct-marketing poultry
- Beekeeping

THE FARM:

Hoof Beet Farm is an intensively managed, draft-powered farm focused on building sustainability through diversity. Kelly raises a mix of new vegetable hybrids and heirloom varieties, which she markets through spring, summer and fall vegetable CSA shares; market-share options with two farmers market pick-up points in Johnston and Grimes; and on the farm. Eggs are sold seasonally from a flock of free-range hens. Kellys also sells organically fed, pasture-raised chickens and turkeys on a pre-order basis.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Thursday, August 23.**



DIRECTIONS:

From Dallas Center: Take IA Hwy 44 east; turn left (north) on R Avenue on the edge of Dallas Center. The farm will be 0.6 mile on the left side.

Visit Cover Crop Farmer Experts at the Farm Progress Show

Visit the PFI booth at the Farm Progress Show, Aug. 28 – 30. Practical Farmers of Iowa staff and cover crop farmer experts will answer production questions and share practical advice at the booth. Visit to learn more about cover crops as part of a conventional or organic corn-soybean system. Hear how cover crops can be used for livestock grazing; for better manure handling and weed control; and planted as part of a diversified system that includes small grains. Get your specific cover crop questions answered; view live potted cover crops; browse informative cover crop-related resources – and more!

TUESDAY – THURSDAY, AUGUST 28 – 30

Tickets must be purchased to enter the show, but parking is free and all booths are free to visit once inside the show. Visit farmprogressshow.com for more details.

Schedule:

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Tuesday and Wednesday)

8 a.m. – 4 p.m. (Thursday)

HOST:

Practical Farmers of Iowa

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Sarah Carlson – sarah@practicalfarmers.org

Twitter: @hmgrwn1

LOCATION:

Farm Progress Show • Varied Industries Tent

Booth 9515

1827 217th St. • Boone • 50036

DIRECTIONS:

The event will be held at the permanent Farm Progress Show site, located at the intersection of U.S. 30 and IA Hwy 17 northeast of Boone.

From U.S. 30: Take Exit 137 toward Madrid. Head north off the exit and go about 0.5 mile; you should see signs directing you.



Tree Crop Field Class

This field class will focus on a variety of tree crops suitable for forest farming systems in Iowa. Attendees will learn about the production, maintenance and marketing of a handful of the 75 species of crop trees and shrubs found at Red Fern Farm. Tom and Kathy will take guests on a tour through their agroforestry farm that specializes in nut, fruit and berry crops, as well as medicinal forest plants, and discuss how they market their crops through U-pick. There will also be an opportunity to sample some of the non-traditional crops featured throughout the day.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 • 1 – 4 p.m.

Snacks provided, including samples of tree crops

Registration is required: This event is free, but attendance is limited to 50 people. To register, contact Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org or (515) 232-5661 by Monday, September 3.

HOSTS:

Tom Wahl and Kathy Dice • Red Fern Farm

13882 I Ave. • Wapello • 52653

(319) 729-5905 • kathy@redfernfarm.com • redfernfarm.com

TOPICS:

Growing, maintenance and marketing of:

- Chestnut
- American persimmon
- Heartnut
- Pawpaw
- Asian pear

THE FARM:

Red Fern Farm is a family-run nursery and farm, owned and operated by Tom Wahl and Kathy Dice since 1986. It is the site of ongoing research on a variety of tree crops and forest farming systems. They raise and sell container-grown tree seedlings and medicinal planting roots well-suited for the Midwest.

Check their website for a complete inventory, and to place an order. (**Note:** They will not be taking new orders at the field day).



DIRECTIONS:

From the junction of U.S. 61 and IA Hwy 92: Travel into Grandview (eastward) to the four-way stop at Jackson and Main streets. Turn right (south) onto Main Street and continue south out of town; the road will turn to gravel.

When the road intersects with 145th Street, ease left and continue about 1 mile. You'll see a large tree planting on the right. The field day will be in the tree planting just off the gravel road.

Note: Park along the gravel road on either side of the farm entrance, or travel 400 feet down the farm lane for Red Fern Farm. **Do not park in the neighbors' gravel parking area on the right.**

SPONSORS:



Cover Crops and On-Farm Conservation

Come learn about the advantages of long-term no-till and cover crops. Discover how machinery modifications to accommodate deep-banding of fertilizer after planting can be successful when using cover crops. Dennis will share details about multiple Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) practices, including those that foster habitat for upland game, pollinators and forests. Erin Hodgson, extension entomologist with Iowa State University, will share research her team is conducting on the role of host-plant resistance for soybean aphids, and how this can be an effective pest management practice.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6 • 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Lunch provided

HOST:

Dennis Carney

2790 Jersey Ave. • Marble Rock • 50653
(641) 330-6545 • dacarney27@gmail.com

TOPICS:

- Cover crops + no-till
- On-farm conservation
- Host-plant resistance for soybean aphid

THE FARM:

This fifth-generation family grain farm has always been non-GMO and went to all no-till in 1983. Dennis has used aerially applied cover crops on all acres for the past three years and has 430 acres in CRP using several different practices. The farm is nearing the end of family operation and Dennis hopes to empower future operators to continue the farm's ethic of conservation.

DIRECTIONS:

From Marble Rock: Take 270th Street / County Road B60 east for 1 mile to Jersey Avenue / Co Rd T34 and turn right (south). In 1 mile, look for the farm on the left (east) side of the road.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Monday, September 3.**



From Greene: Take IA Hwy 14 north for 3.5 miles to 280th Street, turn left (west) and travel 2 miles. Turn right (north) on Jersey Avenue / Co Rd T34; the farm is on the right (east) side of the road.

SPONSORS:



Grass-Fed Beef: From Production to Marketing



PRACTICAL FARMERS OF IOWA
COOPERATORS' PROGRAM

Dave and Meg will share strategies for raising grass-fed beef, including summer and winter grazing management, grass-finishing at different times of the year and results from an on-farm research trial analyzing meat samples for fatty acids, including omega-3 content. They will share their approach to direct-marketing grass-fed beef, and their plans for future marketing streams. Dave and Meg have served as mentors for the Savings Incentive Program. Their mentee, Matthew Wiese, of Heirloom Farm near Earlham, will join them to share his experience in the program.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Lunch provided

HOSTS:

Dave and Meg Schmidt • Troublesome Creek Cattle Co.

2858 Quail Ave. • Exira • 50076

(319) 530-9999 • dave@troublesomecreekcattle.com

troublesomecreekcattle.com

THE FARM:

Dave and Meg started Troublesome Creek Cattle Co. in 2012 when they got married. In 2014, they purchased 80 acres of the Century Farm where Meg grew up, and where her parents still raise row crops. This year, the Schmidts will finish converting the row crop ground they purchased to perennial pasture. The farm operation consists of a herd of about 30 red and black Angus cows, plus a small flock of Katahdin hair sheep. The Schmidts retain their best calves for breeding or grass-finishing and direct market 100 percent grass-fed and finished beef and lamb to customers in Des Moines, Omaha and surrounding areas. In addition to the cattle and sheep, they raise and market a few hogs every year.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-80: Take the Anita / Corning exit (Exit 70), head north on County Road F58 / Littlefield Drive and Go 7 miles to 300th Street. Turn right, go about 1 mile and turn left on Quail Avenue. The farm will be on the right in 1 mile.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Wednesday, September 5.**



From IA Hwy 44 (from the north): Take Co Rd N36 south 6.4 miles to Co Rd F58 / Littlefield Drive. Go east 1.7 miles to 290th Street, turn left and go 1 mile to Quail Avenue. Turn north and go 0.5 mile; the farm will be on the right.

SPONSOR:



Cover Crops + Small Grains = A Perfect Pair for Soil Health and Water Quality

In partnership with Iowa Soybean Association

Explore the possibilities of adding a small-grains crop to your rotation, which allows a wider use of cover crops to cut down on needed inputs for the next corn crop. You will learn how to successfully integrate grazing with cover crops. We'll also discuss water quality in Iowa and sample nitrate concentrations coming out of tile lines from the small-grains field. Come find out how small grains and cover crops can work together for better soil and water quality!

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 • 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Dinner provided by the Mills / Montgomery County Cattlemen

HOSTS:

Mark and Melanie Peterson • Bent Gate Farm

2311 N Ave. • Stanton • 51573

(712) 370-4004 • markpete@myfmtc.com

facebook.com/petersonbentgatefarm

TOPICS:

- Cover crops after small grains
- Cattle nutrition
- Soil health and water quality with small grains and cover crops
- Nitrogen application timing
- No-till soybeans into living rye

SPEAKER:

- Staff from Iowa Soybean Association

THE FARM:

Mark and Melanie farm about 500 acres outside Stanton. They are primarily corn and soybean farmers, and are working to add small grains into the rotation along with cover crops and grazing.



DIRECTIONS:

From Stanton: Take Frankfort Street / County Road H42 west out of town. This turns into 225th Street and curves south through an underpass; the farm is 0.6 mile farther.

SPONSORS:



GRAIN MILLERS

Cider and Pumpkins at Historic Deal's Orchard

The first apple trees were planted at Deal's Orchard in 1917. Since then, the orchard has involved four generations of the Deal family, and has grown beyond apples to diversify and become a destination for family fun. See how the Deal family manages two aspects of their diversified farm: pumpkin production, and the processing and marketing of both fresh and hard cider.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 • 9 a.m. – Noon

Lunch provided

HOSTS:

Chris and Tracy Deal; Benji Deal; and Jerald and Cindy Deal • Deal's Orchard

1102 244th St. • Jefferson • 50129

(515) 386-8279 • dealsorchard@gmail.com

dealsorchard.com • facebook.com/DealsOrchard

TOPICS:

- Fresh cider production
- Hard cider production
- Pumpkin production

THE FARM:

Deal's Orchard is a fourth-generation apple orchard located in Jefferson. The orchard has 45 acres of apple trees – including 25 apple varieties – as well as sweet corn, tomatoes, squash, pumpkins and Christmas trees. The Deals also produce fresh apple cider, apple cider donuts and hard apple cider. On weekends in September and October, Deal's Orchard is a popular family destination. In addition to selling at the farm, Deal's Orchard apples, cider and hard cider can be found at grocery stores throughout central Iowa. Their hard cider can be found on tap at many popular spots in the Des Moines area, including the Iowa Taproom, el Bait Shop, Fox Brewing and New American Brewing Co.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Monday, September 10.**



DIRECTIONS:

From Jefferson: Head west at the intersection of IA Hwy 4 and County Road E53 / W Lincoln Way (at the Shell station) and go 1.2 miles to the T intersection. Turn right (west) on 237th Street / Co Rd E53, go 2.2 miles and turn left (south) on K Avenue (a gravel road). The farm will be on the left in 0.25 mile. A parking lot is available on the farm.

Please note: Deal's Orchard is open to the public from July through December. Please follow the PFI field day signs to join the field day.

Hands-On Livestock Care With a Veterinarian

At this hands-on field day, veterinarians Kurt Van Hulzen and Trevor Schwartz, both of Suidae Health and Production and Lake City Veterinary Clinic, will teach how to give a physical exam, where to properly give injections and how to castrate livestock. We'll discuss what to have ready when calling the vet – such as the animal's temperature and dehydration status. The vets will also demonstrate a necropsy (open-body examination) on a dead pig.

Learn to take useful photos of your sick or dead animals to send to the vet, and how "telemedicine" (using digital media to diagnose disease) is most effective. Ask the veterinarians your questions and discuss the Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD). This field day is geared toward beginning livestock farmers or those who want to brush up on their animal care skills. The focus will be on making the best use of your and the veterinarian's time when dealing with sick livestock.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 • 2 – 5 p.m.

A potluck will follow the field day. The Wheelocks will provide meat; please bring a side dish to share.

HOSTS:

Julie and Ryan Wheelock • Wheelock Farm

3381 230th St. • Sac City • 50583

(712) 830-2402 • juliebwheelock@gmail.com

TOPICS:

- Livestock health and treatment
- Physical exam, injections, castration
- Necropsy
- Telemedicine
- Photos and recordkeeping
- Q&A with veterinarians

THE BUSINESS:

Lake City Veterinary Clinic is a mixed practice, caring for large and small animals in northwest Iowa. Julie Wheelock is a veterinary assistant at the clinic and raises a few livestock at her family farm. Kurt Van Hulzen and Trevor Schwartz are swine specialists at the clinic. Julie and Kurt serve on PFI's board of directors.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Monday, September 10.**



DIRECTIONS:

From U.S. 20: Turn north onto Wadsley Avenue, travel 0.25 mile and turn west on 230th Street.

Production to Market at Pheasant Run Farm



PRACTICAL FARMERS OF IOWA
COOPERATORS'
PROGRAM

Join the Franzenburgs at Pheasant Run Farm as they take us through the production and marketing of two of their farm's enterprises – cut flowers and produce. We will tour their fields and greenhouses, and they will share the post-harvest handling techniques that allow them to deliver high-quality products to markets. Teresa Hermesen, a local florist from Timber Gate Gardens in Belle Plaine, and Mike Krough, a produce buyer from New Pioneer Food Co-op, will both share their expertise on the characteristics they are looking for when purchasing flowers and produce directly from the farm.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 • 2:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Dinner provided

HOSTS:

Eric, Ann and Calvin Franzenburg • Pheasant Run Farm

6925 19th Ave. • Van Horne • 52346

(319) 228-8758 • eafran@netins.net

pheasantrunfarmiowa.com

TOPICS:

- Cut flowers, production to market
- Fruits, production to market (blueberries and strawberries)
- Vegetables, production to market (tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers)
- Post-harvest storage and packaging

THE FARM:

Pheasant Run Farm was established in 1994 by Eric and Ann Franzenburg. The couple's operation began while farming with Eric's father on a traditional corn, soybean and farrow-to-finish swine operation. Based on the size of the farm, they quickly decided to diversify the operation for greater profitability per acre. They started by adding botanical crops for the health food industry; they now grow five different botanicals on about 120 acres. About 10 years ago, they added cut flowers, fruits and vegetables. Eric and Ann farm with their son, Calvin, who recently joined the operation full-time.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Monday, September 10.**



DIRECTIONS:

From the east: From U.S. 30, turn north (right) onto U.S. 218 and go 3 miles. Turn left (west) on County Road E44 and travel through Van Horne. About 1.5 miles west of Van Horne, turn right (north) on 19th Avenue (a gravel road). Look for the first farm on the left (west) side of the road – you'll see the five greenhouses.

From the west: From U.S. 30, turn left (north) on IA Hwy 200. Travel through Keystone and turn east (right) on Co Rd E44. In 5 miles, turn left (north) on 19th Avenue (gravel road). It's the first farm on the west (left) side of the road – you'll see the five greenhouses.

SPONSOR:



From Rotational Grazing to Regenerative Grazing

Andy started rotationally grazing with weekly moves in 1995, and has intensified his grazing management since. In 2012, he rented out his row-crop acres so he could focus on his cattle herd. For the last five years, cattle have been moved almost daily. Without any inputs, Andy's once fescue-dominant pastures have turned into diverse cool- and warm-season mixes, and he's been able to graze stockpiled pastures all winter for the last four years. Andy is a member of The Green Hills Farm Project, which will participate in the field day. Green Hills is a non-profit grassroots organization in Missouri focused on sustainable agriculture and grazing. Find them on Facebook (facebook.com/GreenHillsFarmProject).

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 • Noon – 4 p.m.

The field day will start with a potluck lunch. Barbecued meat and drinks will be provided; please bring a dish to share.

HOST:

Andy Welch • Welch Family Farms

16796 160th St. • Grant City, Missouri • 64456
(660) 541-3675 • welchfarms81@gmail.com

TOPICS:

- Transitioning row-crop acres into pasture
- Grazing stockers on summer and winter annuals
- Stockpiling
- Creating shade in pasture
- Camels for brush control
- PastureMap app

SPEAKERS:

- **Doug Peterson** – soil health specialist, NRCS

THE FARM:

Welch Family Farms is primarily a 60-head cow-calf enterprise focused on regenerative grazing and minimal inputs. Andy and his sons also own 280 acres of row crop land, which is farmed by a tenant. Andy currently sells his cattle at a local sale barn, but has future goals to finish and direct-market grass-fed beef. He also plans to further integrate his cattle on cover crops, and this year, he will



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Tuesday, September 18.**



take 50 acres out of row crop production to plant a warm-season cover crop for grazing.

DIRECTIONS:

From the north: From Grant City, Missouri, drive west on MO Hwy 46 for 5 miles, then turn south on Garnet Avenue and go 1.5 miles to a T intersection. On the south side of the road you'll see a red shed with a trailer.

From the west: From Sheridan, Missouri, go east on MO Hwy 246 (which turns into MO Hwy 46) for 6 miles. Turn south on Garnet Avenue.

★ **Please note: Google Maps does not take you to the correct location.**

GRAZING

Cheese and Ice Cream Production at Kalona Creamery

Join us for a tour of Kalona Creamery. Creamery staff will share the history of the creamery, explain how different dairy products are produced – including cheese curds, ice cream and Kalona SuperNatural organic products – and discuss the technology used in the receiving bay. We'll talk about the local farmers they work with, and milk quality. On the tour, the group will rotate between the Kalona Creamery shop and deli, the production area and the Kalona Farms receiving bay across the street.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5 • 1 – 4 p.m.

Kalona Creamery will provide snack trays, ice cream, cheese and Kalona SuperNatural organic dairy products

HOST:

Kalona Creamery

2206 540th St. SW • Kalona • 52247

kalonacreamery.com • Twitter: @KalonaCreamery

TOPICS:

- Production of various dairy products
- Future production plans
- Kalona SuperNatural brand
- Dairy farmer profiles
- Milk receiving bay technology

THE CREAMERY:

Kalona Creamery, the newest member of Open Gates Group, is located just north of Kalona and includes a shop and deli featuring house-made ice cream and a cheese curd production facility. Farmers Creamery, another member of Open Gates Group located just down the road from Kalona Creamery, makes Kalona SuperNatural organic dairy products.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Friday, September 28.**



DIRECTIONS:

From the north: Take U.S. 218 south to the Kalona exit, turn west onto IA Hwy 1. In about 11 miles, turn left (east) on 540th Street. Turn right immediately to park at the milk receiving facility on the south side of the road.

From the south: Take IA Hwy 1 north through Kalona and turn right (east) onto 540th Street. Turn right immediately to park at the milk receiving facility on the south side of the road.

Fall Vegetable Production and Planting

**EVENT
CANCELLED**

If you grow vegetables and use Youtube, you've probably seen the paper pot transplanter. Derek and Molly will discuss the system's pros and cons, and run a demo in the field. They will also discuss their planting, management, harvest and curing processes for heirloom garlic, which they will be preparing to plant; and they will discuss a variety of roots, greens and shiitakes. In 2018 they bought a moveable overhead irrigation system, and will share their experience from the first year of its use.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14 • 3 – 5:30 p.m.

A potluck will follow the field day. A main dish will be provided; please bring a side dish to share.

HOSTS:

Derek Roller and Molly Schintler • Echollective Farm

879 Echo Ave. • Mechanicsville • 52306

(347) 331-5115 • echocsa@gmail.com • echollectivecsa.blogspot.com • Instagram: [echollective_farm](https://www.instagram.com/echollective_farm)

TOPICS:

- Paper-pot transplanter demo
- Overhead irrigation
- Fall-planting garlic
- Shiitake mushroom production
- Garlic varieties
- Root vegetables
- Garlic harvest and curing
- Fall and winter greens

SPEAKER:

- **John Hendrickson** – Small Farm Works

THE FARM:

Derek and Molly are the primary farmers at Echollective Farm, a cluster of farmers, interns and volunteers cultivating 14 acres. The farm includes a variety of vegetables, herbs and flowers, and specializes in several heirloom hard-neck garlic varieties. The farm distributes produce through a CSA, New Pioneer Food Co-op, restaurants and farmers markets in Iowa City and Cedar Rapids. Derek and Molly value social justice, soil restoration, and healthy food and communities.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 252-5661 by **Monday, October 10.**



Echollective also stewards 20 forested acres, including a creek and oak stands.

DIRECTIONS:

From U.S. 30: Take County Road X40 and travel south about 3 miles until the S-curve. Don't follow the S-curve; instead go straight onto Fox Avenue. After 1 mile, turn right onto 170th Street, then turn left onto Echo Avenue. The farm will be on the right after 1.5 miles.

Please note: There is a small stretch on Echo Avenue between U.S. 30 and the farm that is a level-B road, and can be impassible depending on the weather. If an alternate route is needed on the day of the field day, call (641) 325-1121 for directions.

UPDATED ADDRESS and STATUS:

Forage Chains and Forage-Finishing – 3 Days With Anibal Pordomingo

Practical Farmers of Iowa welcomes Dr. Anibal Pordomingo, senior researcher at the National Institute of Agriculture Research of Argentina. Over the course of three days, we will dive into grass-fed beef production. We'll cover cow-calf fattening and finishing windows, grass-finishing genetics, sequencing and managing forage chains, using supplements and stored feeds, and what we've learned about pasture-finishing over the last 20 years. We'll also tour Lipes Family Farm on Saturday.

THURSDAY – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1 – 3

8 a.m. – 5 p.m. (Daily)

This event is open to PFI members only, and is limited to 24 attendees. If you are interested in attending but are not currently a member, visit practicalfarmers.org for membership information, call the office at (515) 232-5661 or complete the membership form found on page 51 of this guide. ***UPDATE: The class is full. To join the waiting list, contact meghan@practicalfarmers.org or call (515) 232-5661.***

HOST:

UPDATED: Scattergood Friends School

1951 Delta Road • West Branch • 52358

Questions: Contact Meghan Filbert, (515) 232-5661 or meghan@practicalfarmers.org

DETAILS:

Cost and Registration: The cost is \$150 per person. To register, please contact Meghan Filbert, meghan@practicalfarmers.org or (515) 232-5661. **You must register by Sunday, September 30.**

Meals: A light breakfast, snacks and lunch will be provided each day. Dinner will be on your own. On Friday, Nov. 2, there is an optional meal with Anibal at a restaurant in West Branch.

Lodging: Attendees are responsible for their own lodging arrangements. Plenty of hotels are available near Iowa

City, which is about 30 minutes from the Lipes farm. There is a Days Inn in West Branch.

THE FARM:

Greg and Katie operate Lipes Family Farm, a diversified farm producing humanely raised livestock using sustainable farming practices. They specialize in pastured meats and eggs.



DIRECTIONS:

From I-80: Take the West Branch exit (Exit 254) and head north. Turn left onto Main Street, go 1 block and turn right onto S Downey Street / County Road X30. S. Downey Street becomes Baker Avenue as you leave town. In about 4 miles, turn right onto 250th Street, go 2 miles and turn left onto Plato Road. Lipes Family Farm will be on the right hand (east) side of the road in about 1.5 miles.

Please note: If coming from the north or west, Google Maps sends drivers to a level-B road that you should avoid.

Root and Tuber Crop Production

Few vegetable harvests feel as efficient as a good harvest of root crops. John has a passion for efficiency, which makes root crops among his favorites to grow. At this field day, John and Janna will show several crops still in the ground and share their production methods for each crop. They will demonstrate implements, including a bed lifter (undercutter), and will show their walk-in cooler and root cellar. The field day will begin at the potato planting, which is located adjacent to 1768 Harrison Ave. Dinner will be served at the farm (3681 Ibex Ave.) following the field day.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8 • 3 – 5 p.m.

Dinner provided

HOSTS:

John and Janna Wesselius • The Cornucopia

1768 Harrison Ave. • Sioux Center • 51250

(712) 490-8218 • jhw@premieronline.net

thecornucopiacsa.com

TOPICS:

- Root and tuber crops (potatoes, carrots, sweet potatoes, beets, turnips)
- Irrigation
- Crop varieties
- Seeding
- Harvest tools, implements and techniques
- Weed management
- Packing and storing

THE FARM:

John and Janna raise Certified Naturally Grown vegetables, pastured broilers and Berkshire pigs for farmers markets, CSA customers and wholesale accounts in Sioux City, Sioux Falls and Sioux Center. With an addition to their house, they added a root cellar in 2017. For better or worse, strong sales in the fall have kept them from needing to use it! 2018 was the farm's 13th growing season. They farm on their own land and on several nearby rented parcels.



RSVP FOR MEAL TO:

Debra Boekholder, debra@practicalfarmers.org;
(515) 232-5661 by **Monday, November 5.**



DIRECTIONS:

To the field day starting location: From Hwy 75 south of Sioux Center, head east on 410th Street / 20th Avenue SE. In 1 mile, turn left (north) onto Harrison Avenue. The field will be the first drive on the right (east) side.

SPONSOR:





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PFI MEMBERSHIP

A Membership in Practical Farmers of Iowa Comes With a Host of Benefits!

1 Subscription to our quarterly newsletter, "the Practical Farmer"

5 Eligibility for special programs, such as our Savings Incentive Program and Labor4Learning program

2 Access to our members-only email discussion groups

6 Opportunities to find new markets for your products

3 The opportunity to explore topics of interest through our on-farm research Cooperators' Program

7 Access to events from field days to farminars, retreats to workshops on topics requested by our members (most PFI events are free)

4 Steep discounts to our annual conference each January

8 Many opportunities to network with fellow farmers and supporters of a vibrant, diverse agricultural system



Do you know someone who could benefit from PFI?

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FRIEND-OF-PFI EVENTS

The following pages showcase other agricultural events being held across Iowa this season. They are not organized or hosted by Practical Farmers of Iowa.

Please note:

- Practical Farmers has no control over changes to these events.
- For more information on these events, please contact the host listed.

North Iowa Local Food Connection 2018 Field Days

The North Iowa Local Food Connection is a network of local farm and food businesses and friends building relationships, collaborating, learning together and creating connections that build business and productive communities. Curious about north Iowa local food businesses? This series of events will provide an excellent opportunity for everyone from farmers to eaters. Get a behind-the-scenes peek at what makes these entrepreneurs tick! Please join us!

MULTIPLE DATES

These events are part of the North Iowa Local Food Connections program, a partnership of Healthy Harvest of North Iowa and local food and farm businesses. Support is provided by USDA Rural Development.

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Visit healthyharvestni.com, or contact Jan Libbey at (515) 851-1690 or libbey.jan@gmail.com for more information.

Sunday, June 24 • 3 – 5 p.m.

Aaron Thomas
The Thomas Farmstead
816 410th St. • Kensett • 50448
County: Worth
Got a farming dream? Whet your appetite with a tour and overview of The Thomas Farmstead.

Sunday, July 22 • 3 – 5 p.m.

Jake Rajewsky and Molly Angstman
Fat Hill Brewery
17 N. Federal • Mason City • 50401
County: Cerro Gordo
Brewer Jake will discuss the ingredients that go into beer, how beer is made and how the used grain is used by a local farmer for his sheep.



Sunday, August 12 • 2 – 4:30 p.m.

Steve Strasheim
Twisted River Farm
195 S. Madison St. • Mitchell • 50461
County: Mitchell
Bridge the urban-rural divide at this budding urban garden. Explore tools and techniques these farmers use.

Sunday, September 23 • 2 – 4:30 p.m.

North Iowa Fresh & One Vision
1200 W. 9th St. N • Clear Lake • 50428
County: Cerro Gordo
From the packing table to the corporate table, learn what's new with North Iowa Fresh, One Vision aggregation center and the new worksite wellness partnerships.

Northeast Iowa Food and Farm Network

Northeast Iowa Food and Farm network is a gathering of local food farmers and friends building relationships, finding common interests, collaborating, learning and working together to strengthen the local food system. Are you an aspiring, beginning, transitioning or experienced local food or niche producer who wants to connect? Are you an eater who wants to help support local food growers? If so, this network is for you. Please join us for an afternoon of networking and a farm tour. Come to one, or come to all. Everyone is welcome!

MULTIPLE DATES

Unless otherwise noted, all gatherings begin with farm tours and end with a potluck.

These events are facilitated by the Northeast Iowa Food and Fitness Initiative; Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Allamakee County; and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Local Food Team, with support from Practical Farmers of Iowa and the USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program.

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Contact Kayla Koether at koether@iastate.edu or (563) 568-6345 for more information.

Sunday, June 24 • 5 p.m.

Barb Kraus
Canoe Creek Produce
2912 Manawa Trail Road • Decorah
County: Winneshiek

Saturday, July 14 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Scott and Gary Wedemeier
Field day with PFI and Iowa Organic Association
18663 110th St. • Maynard
County: Fayette
* Lunch provided

Saturday, August 18 • 5 p.m.

Will Lorentzen and Adrian White
Jupiter Ridge Mushrooms and Veg
35217 Jupiter Road • Garber
County: Clayton

* Optional campout and spit-roasting workshop to follow at Turkey River Farm, 23719 Hazel Road, Elkport

Sunday, September 9 • 5 p.m.

Wendy Johnson and Johnny Rafkin
Jóia Food Farm
2038 March Ave., Charles City
County: Floyd

Sunday, October 7 • 4 p.m.

Dayna Burtness and Nick Nguyen
Nettle Valley Farm
County Road 19 (1 mile west of Hidden Bluffs Resort),
Spring Grove, Minnesota
County: Houston, Minnesota

Intro to Risk Management for Women Landowners Farm Tour

Participants will take a walking tour to view grazing lands, pollinator habitat and more. Learn how the operator and non-operator work together on the ranch, the conservation practices applied and other examples of risk management in practice. This farm tour is part of a series on risk management for women non-operator landowners to observe risk management practices learned in previous workshops, but can be attended as a stand-alone event as well.

FRIDAY, JUNE 1 • 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Refreshments provided

RSVPs requested. Please contact Sandra Renner, sandrar@cfra.org or (402) 320-3444, by May 30.

HOSTS:

Center for Rural Affairs and Stephanie O'Keefe
cfra.org • Twitter: @cfra

LOCATION:

O'Keefe Grasslands Ranch
14215 U.S. 75 • Blair, Nebraska • 68008

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Sandra Renner – sandrar@cfra.org or (402) 320-3444

TOPICS:

- Operator and non-operator collaboration
- Conservation practices applied
- Examples of risk management in practice

THE FARM:

O'Keefe Grasslands Ranch is a soybean, corn and hay operation, along with grazing lands for grass-fed cattle.



DIRECTIONS:

The ranch is located 2 miles north of Blair on U.S. 75 across the road from the golf course.

Please note: Google Maps is often incorrect when directing to the address. The ranch is north of Blair, not south.

Organic Eggs With Farmers Hen House

Join Farmers Hen House and the Iowa Organic Association for an afternoon workshop in Kalona. Learn about the history of Farmers Hen House, best practices for organic egg production and how the packing facility works. We will also visit a poultry farm that supplies eggs to the family business.

SATURDAY, JUNE 2 • 1 – 4 p.m.

RSVPs requested. Space is limited. Please RSVP at iowaorganic.org/farmers_hen_house.

HOSTS:

Ryan Miller

Farmers Hen House

1956 520th St. SW • Kalona • 52247

farmershenhouse.com

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Toby Cain – education@iowaorganic.org

TOPICS:

- Organic egg production
- Farmer networks
- Distribution
- Packaging

SPEAKER:

Eldon Miller (tentative) – farmer, Farmers Hen House founder

THE FARM:

Farmers Hen House began in 1997 with an Amish man's idea that producing organic eggs could be a way to keep small farms in the Kalona area sustainable. The business began with just a few farms, but soon began to grow. Today, Farmers Hen House operates an egg grading and distribution facility in Kalona. It's where eggs from a network of family farms are cleaned, graded and



packaged. The network includes mostly local farms, as well as farms in Bloomfield, Iowa, and northern Missouri. Farmers Hen House's facility is 100 percent solar-powered.

DIRECTIONS:

Farmers Hen House is southwest of Iowa City and north of Kalona, just west of IA Hwy 1. The facility is on 520th Street just south of Williamstown at the intersection of 520th Street and Cosgrove Road SW.

SILT Showcase – Phoenix Farm

Designed for landowners, SILT Showcase Days include a farm tour, refreshments and a presentation on the legal, tax and land value aspects of permanently protecting land to grow healthy food. Handouts provided. This is one of only two SILT showcases this summer.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8 • 1 – 4 p.m.

Light refreshments served



RSVPs requested. Please RSVP to info@silt.org or (319) 800-8108 by June 6.

HOSTS:

Suzan Erem and Paul Durrenberger
Phoenix Farm

5133 Strawbridge Road • Iowa City • 52240
(319) 480-4241 • suzan@lastdraft.com
dracohill.org

TOPICS:

- Managing a large food farm
- Impacts from a failed option to purchase by a former tenant
- Innovative ways to protect land including using a combination of selling and donating
- Available tax incentives
- How to donate while retaining control of your property
- Ideas for working with county elected officials and planners

THE FARM:

Phoenix Farm, formerly known as "Versaland," was the land that inspired the creation of the Sustainable Iowa Land Trust when, immediately upon purchase, Suzan and Paul approached existing land trusts and discovered the need for a land trust dedicated to



nature-friendly food farms. Located 10 miles north of the robust Iowa City market, the farm has potential for significant perennial and annual food production. Suzan and Paul still hope to make at least some of it a permanent and affordable farm for future generations.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-80: Take Exit 246 for IA-1 / Dodge St. and turn left (north). In about 4 miles, turn right on Morse Road (across from the round barns). Go 2.2 miles to Putnam Street NE and turn right. At the T intersection, turn right onto Strawbridge Road NE; the farm is on the left.

Note: Please park on the property, not the road.

Overcoming Obstacles – The First 5 Years

Hilda and her family will share the obstacles they have faced and overcome as small farmers in Fremont, Nebraska. They will speak about the resources they used to persevere and to grow their business. Discussion will be in both Spanish and English.

SATURDAY, JUNE 9 • 1 – 3 p.m.

HOSTS:

Center for Rural Affairs and Hilda Moreno

cfra.org • Twitter: @cfra

LOCATION:

Los Dos Potrillos

4601 County Road T • Fremont, Nebraska • 68025

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Kirstin Bailey – kirstinb@cfra.org or (402) 367 8989

TOPICS:

- Obstacles facing small farmers
- Resources available
- Small-scale production
- USDA programs

THE FARM:

Los Dos Potrillos is a small-scale operation specializing in poultry, goats and exotic birds. Hilda and her family started the farm in 2015.



DIRECTIONS:

From U.S. 30 (Lincoln Highway), turn north on County Road 19 and travel 1 mile to Co Rd T. Turn east and go about 0.25 mile; the farm is on your right.

Start to Farm – Field Day and Discussion

This field day is for those who want to start farming but are not sure how and don't know what resources are available to help them. We will discuss issues an aspiring farmer may need to consider, and tour an incubator farm. We will also discuss the benefits of starting at an incubator. Questions are encouraged throughout the day.

SATURDAY, JUNE 23 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

A catered lunch and beverages provided. Please specify any dietary considerations when registering.



RSVPs requested. Please contact Kirstin Bailey at (402) 367 8989 or kirstinb@cfra.org by June 15.

HOSTS:

Center for Rural Affairs

Prairie Pines

prairiepines.org

cfra.org • Twitter: @cfra

LOCATION:

Community Crops at Prairie Pines Incubator Farm

3100 N. 112th St. • Lincoln, Nebraska • 68505

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Kirstin Bailey – kirstinb@cfra.org or (402) 367 8989

TOPICS:

- USDA programs for beginner farmers
- Resources available in the state of Nebraska
- Tour of Prairie Pines Incubator Farm
- Meeting farmers at Prairie Pines and asking them questions

SPEAKER:

Prairie Pines farmer – a beginning farmer in the first five years



THE FARM:

Prairie Pines is a 145-acre tract of land with 35 acres of trees and shrubs consisting of over 200 woody plant species, and over 55 acres of native grasses and forbs, including 10 acres of virgin prairie. The arboretum specimens are located by GPS. The property is owned by the University of Nebraska Foundation and managed by the Nebraska Forest Service.

DIRECTIONS:

Prairie Pines is at 112th Street and Adams Street in Lincoln, Nebraska. From Adams Street, head north on 112th Street; the incubator farm is the first driveway on the right.

Iowa Farmers Union Produce Safety (FMSA) Field Day

To ensure a safer food supply, the federal government passed and is enacting the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The Act shifts the focus from responding to food-borne illness to preventing it. Growers of fresh fruits and vegetables are especially at risk for growing, handling and selling products that may contain pathogens. The Iowa Farmers Union (IFU) is sponsoring field days to help growers with their compliance efforts. IFU is working in collaboration with Iowa State University Extension and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Each session includes plenty of hands-on experiences. This field day will also include organic production topics.

★**DATE CHANGED**★ • 4 – 8 p.m.

Note: The date for this event was changed from June to Thursday, July 12.



Dinner provided

RSVPs requested. To RSVP, or for special needs, please contact Ronald Tigner at rtigner@iowafarmersunion.org or (515) 357-0503 by July 2.

More Details: For further information and directions see iowafarmersunion.org/blog.

HOSTS:

**Iowa Farmers Union
Sinsinawa Mound Center**

585 County Road Z • Sinsinawa, Wisconsin • 53824
(608) 748-4411, ext. 882 • sinsinawa.org/moundcenter

TOPICS:

- Produce safety
- Worker health, hygiene and training
- Soil amendments and land use
- Agricultural water
- Wildlife and domesticated animals
- Harvesting, post-harvest handling and sanitation
- Farm food safety planning
- Organic production practices



SPEAKERS:

- Iowa State University Extension produce safety staff

THE FARM:

Sinsinawa Mound's farm is a collaborative farming operation which provides educational opportunities for growers. The farmland is certified organic, and parcels are rented to various producers.

DIRECTIONS:

For directions, visit iowafarmersunion.org/blog.

Boone River Watershed Field Day

Join us for this free public event to learn how to manage your land for conservation benefits and about services available to assist you with conservation on your land.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27 • 4 – 6 p.m.

Dinner provided



HOST:

The Nature Conservancy

102 Oak Ave. • Webster City • 50595

(480) 678-2352 • kwilke@tnc.org

booneriver.org

TOPICS:

- Benefits of oxbow wetland restorations
- River bank stabilization
- Forest stand improvement
- Impact of farming prairie potholes

SPEAKERS:

- **Glenn Harman** – Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- **Joe Herring** – Iowa Department of Natural Resources
- **Amy Kaleita** – Department of Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering, Iowa State University
- **Karen Wilke** – The Nature Conservancy

THE FARM:

This farm sits within the city limits of Webster City along the Boone River and White Fox Creek. We will showcase the farm's recently restored oxbow, river bank stabilization project along the Boone River and beautiful forest stand improvement project.



Photo of the Boone River by Kirsten Blann of The Nature Conservancy

DIRECTIONS:

From U.S. 20 in Webster City: Head north on Superior Street and turn right (east) onto 2nd Street. Turn left (north) onto Oak Avenue, then right (east) onto Willow Street and left (north) onto Maple Ave. The farm will be on the left (west) side; look for field day signs.

Land Options for Farming

During this field day participants will learn about land options for starting to farm. Both alternative land options and traditional options will be discussed, along with resources.

SATURDAY, JUNE 30 • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

A catered lunch and beverages provided. Please specify any dietary considerations when registering.



RSVPs requested. Please contact Kirstin Bailey at (402) 367-8989 or kirstinb@cfra.org by June 21.

HOSTS:

Center for Rural Affairs

Prairie Pines

prairiepines.org

cfra.org • Twitter: @cfra

LOCATION:

Community Crops at Prairie Pines Incubator Farm

3100 N. 112th St. • Lincoln, Nebraska • 68505

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Kirstin Bailey – kirstinb@cfra.org or (402) 367 8989

TOPICS:

- Leasing
- Incubator farms
- Purchasing
- USDA resources

THE FARM:

Prairie Pines is a 145-acre tract of land with 35 acres of trees and shrubs consisting of over 200 woody plant species, and over 55 acres of native grasses and forbs, including 10 acres of virgin prairie. The arboretum specimens are located by GPS. The property is owned by the University of Nebraska Foundation and managed by the Nebraska Forest Service.



DIRECTIONS:

Prairie Pines is at 112th Street and Adams Street in Lincoln, Nebraska. From Adams Street, head north on 112th Street; the incubator farm is the first driveway on the right.

Transitioning to Organic With a Cover Crop Champion

Join Tom Cotter and the Iowa Organic Association for this field day focused on roller-crimping and crumbling rye, cover crops and organic transition. A decades-long interest in cover crops has helped Tom care for his family farm. The Cotter farm is diverse, with fields of sweet corn; conventional crops; grazing acres; and experimental projects like interseeded corn, roller-crimped rye and warm-season cover crops. This event will showcase the innovative work Tom and his family have undertaken to protect soil and water quality on their farm. You'll also hear speakers from Iowa Organic Association and Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District.

TUESDAY, JULY 10 • 1 – 4 p.m.

A small grilled meal will be available at the end of the event.



RSVPs requested. Please RSVP at iowaorganic.org/cover_crop_champion

HOST:

Tom Cotter • Cotter Farm
50203 205th St. • Austin, Minnesota • 55912

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Toby Cain – education@iowaorganic.org

TOPICS:

- Cover crops
- Organic transition
- Roller-crimping
- Interseeding
- Warm-season cover crops
- Grazing

THE FARM:

Tom's family has been farming in Mower County, Minnesota, for 140 years. In 2016, Tom and his late father, Michael, were given the Outstanding Conservationists Award by the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District. Tom has been working with cover crops on his family's 1,100-acre farm for 19 years.



DIRECTIONS:

The farm is on 205th Street, just west of Austin, Minnesota, and south of I-90.

Dual Cropping Systems: An Introduction

Spend a summer morning at Lehman Family Farm in Polk City. Aaron and Nicole Lehman have a 400-acre farm where they raise conventional and organic corn, soybeans and hay. The Lehmans will talk about the challenges and opportunities of these dual farming systems. Curious about organic transition, organic record keeping and conservation? We hope to see you there!

TUESDAY, JULY 24 • 9 a.m. – Noon

Lunch provided; RSVPs are appreciated, but not required.



RSVPs requested. To RSVP, please visit iowaorganic.org/dual_cropping_systems, or email education@iowaorganic.org.

HOSTS:

**Iowa Organic Association
Iowa Farmers Union
Aaron and Nicole Lehman**

LOCATION:

Lehman Farms Ltd.
3190 NW 142nd St. • Polk City • 50226
(563) 419-8003

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Toby Cain – education@iowaorganic.org

TOPICS:

- Dual cropping systems
- Organic corn and soy
- Record keeping

THE FARM:

Aaron and Nicole and their family raise corn, soybeans, oats and hay in both organic and conventional rotations on their family farm. Aaron, president of the Iowa



Farmers Union, is also a member of the advisory board of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University. Aaron and Nicole are both graduates of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Nicole has a Master of Science degree in microbiology and immunology from Duke University School of Medicine. Until 2016, she was a senior research associate at DuPont Pioneer.

DIRECTIONS:

The farm is on 142nd Street directly west of Alleman, northeast of Polk City and north of Ankeny. The farm is several miles west of both I-35 and U.S. 69.

In Her Boots: Farm Machinery

Come for a tour at Humble Hands Harvest and learn about the machinery used to get the job done. Hannah will show the inner and outer workings of her small tractor, and we'll look at some other small engines and human-powered tools for farm work. Discussion will focus on ergonomics and how to use our bodies hard without breaking them!

THURSDAY, JULY 26 • 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Lunch provided; bring snacks if you'd like



RSVPs requested. Please RSVP by visiting mosesorganic.org/events/organic-field-days/july-26 or by contacting Lisa Kivist at lisa@mosesorganic.org.

HOSTS:

Iowa Organic Association, In Her Boots MOSES

Hannah Breckbill and Emily Fagan

LOCATION:

Humble Hands Harvest

2742 Hidden Falls Road • Decorah • 52101
humblehandsharvest.com

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Contact Lisa Kivist, lisa@mosesorganic.org, or Toby Cain, education@iowaorganic.org

TOPICS:

- Tractor maintenance
- Small-engine maintenance
- Farm tools
- Ergonomics
- Body care

THE FARM:

Humble Hands Harvest is a 2-acre organic vegetable farm operated by Hannah Breckbill and Emily Fagan. The farm sells to local restaurants, at farmers markets and through a CSA program. Hannah has been farming since



2009 and started Humble Hands Harvest in 2013. Emily joined the farm in 2017, when Hannah bought bare land to develop into a diversified farm. They're developing a perennial polyculture system, integrating nut and fruit crops, and livestock, as well as maintaining their cornerstone of organic vegetables.

DIRECTIONS:

From Decorah: Go north on County Road W38 / Locust Road for 4 miles. Turn right (east) on Canoe Ridge Road. In 4 miles, turn right (south) on Hidden Falls Road. Go to the end of Hidden Falls Road; enter the farm by the greenhouse on the right.

Iowa Farmers Union Produce Safety (FMSA) Field Day

To ensure a safer food supply, the federal government passed and is enacting the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The Act shifts the focus from responding to food-borne illness to preventing it. Growers of fresh fruits and vegetables are especially at risk for growing, handling and selling products that may contain pathogens. The Iowa Farmers Union (IFU) is sponsoring field days to help growers with their compliance efforts. IFU is working in collaboration with Iowa State University Extension and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Each session includes plenty of hands-on experience.

TUESDAY, JULY 31 • 2 – 6 p.m.

Dinner provided



RSVPs requested. To RSVP, or for special needs, please contact Ronald Tigner at rtigner@iowafarmersunion.org or (515) 357-0503 by July 29.

More Details: For further information and directions see iowafarmersunion.org/blog.

HOSTS:

Iowa Farmers Union

Dave Rowen

3893 115th Lane • Norwalk • 50211
(515) 250-9322 • kxdaver@yahoo.com

TOPICS:

- Produce safety
- Worker health, hygiene and training
- Soil amendments and land use
- Agricultural water
- Wildlife and domesticated animals
- Harvesting, post-harvest handling and sanitation
- Farm food safety planning
- Drip irrigation with fertigation

SPEAKERS:

- Iowa State University Extension produce safety staff



THE FARM:

The Dave Rowen farm features high tunnel production with peppers and tomatoes, and also includes new fruit trees.

DIRECTIONS:

From the junction of IA Hwy 5 and U.S. 69 south of Des Moines: Go south 3 miles to Dakota Street, then west 1.5 miles to 115th Lane and turn north for 0.3 mile to the farm.

(Directions are also available at iowafarmersunion.org/blog.)

Intro to Risk Management for Women Landowners Farm Tour

This farm tour is part of a series introducing women non-operator landowners or managers to risk management practices, creating plans and connecting that information to their operators. Attendees will learn more about how to practically apply areas of risk to their operation. They will also learn to discuss issues with their operators and ask questions, and we will view a recently transitioned operation.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3 • 9 – 11:30 a.m.

Refreshments provided

RSVPs requested. To RSVP, or for additional information, please contact Sandra Renner at sandrar@cfra.org or (402) 320-3444, by August 1.

HOSTS:

Center for Rural Affairs and Deb and Dave Welsch
cfra.org • Twitter: @cfra

LOCATION:

West Blue Farm

146 County Road 1900 • Milford, Nebraska • 68405
westbluefarm.com

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Sandra Renner – sandrar@cfra.org or (402) 320-3444

TOPICS:

- Land transition
- Financial risk management
- Grazing
- Conservation practices
- Farm diversification

THE FARM:

West Blue Farm has been direct-marketing farm-fresh meat since 1990. The farm was founded by Dave and Deb Welsch, and is operated by Joe and Shanae Yeackley.



Chickens, cows and hogs are raised on the farm. The cattle are raised from birth, and chickens are brought in as one-day-old chicks. The pigs are purchased as 60-pound piglets and finished on the farm. Corn and soybean meal are non-GMO.

DIRECTIONS:

Take U.S 34 West from Lincoln, Nebraska, to 238th Road and turn left; continue on to U.S. 6. Take 238th Road to County Road 1900.

2018 Fruit and Vegetable Field Day

This field day will feature research-based information on tools, techniques and practices employed in commercial fruit and vegetable production. Although geared toward commercial growers, the event would be helpful to master gardeners and homeowners who are interested in enhancing their production skills and diversifying their gardens and acreages.

MONDAY, AUGUST 6 • 2 – 6:30 p.m.

Dinner provided



This event is **free**, but **RSVPs are required** by Tuesday, July 31. Please register at extension.iastate.edu/vegetablelab.

HOSTS:

Ajay Nair and Diana Cochran • Department of Horticulture, Iowa State University

AJAY NAIR: (515) 294-7080 • nairajay@iastate.edu

DIANA COCHRAN: (515) 294-0035

LOCATION:

ISU Horticulture Research Station

55519 170th St. • Ames • 50010

TOPICS:

- Interact with ISU researchers and evaluate research projects focusing on commercial production of apples, hops, potatoes, sweet potatoes and asparagus
- Integrated pest management
- High tunnel production of tomatoes, peppers and peaches
- View equipment and tools needed in small-scale fruit and vegetable production systems



THE RESEARCH STATION:

Iowa State University Horticulture Research Station is located on 230 acres of land that includes topography of flat areas, rolling hills and waterways, with a 12-acre lake. Research projects range from work on fruits, vegetables and herbaceous ornamentals, to work with trees, shrubs and turfgrass.

DIRECTIONS:

From Ames: Drive north on U.S. 69 and take a right on 170th Street. The research station is in 2 miles, on the left side of the road.

Young and Beginning Farmer Summer Social and Potluck

This a gathering for young and beginning Iowa farmers to meet, connect and discuss shared experiences and challenges.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 • 4 – 9 p.m.

Potluck; please bring a dish to share and your own table service



HOST:

Iowa Chapter of the National Young Farmers Coalition

LOCATION:

Sundog Farm

5025 120th St. NE • Solon • 52333

(319) 331-3957 • localharvestcsa@gmail.com

THE FARM:

Sundog Farm is a diversified vegetable farm operated since 2016 by Carmen Black, and located on the rolling hills between Solon and Mt. Vernon. The farm is the principal vegetable grower for Local Harvest CSA. To learn more about the history of the farm, visit solonsundogfarm.com/about.

THE ORGANIZATION:

The Iowa Young Farmers Coalition is a group of farmers and consumers who are championing the collective interests of young and beginning farmers throughout the state of Iowa.



DIRECTIONS:

From Solon: Travel 3 miles north on IA Hwy 1 and turn right (east) onto 120th Street. The farm is on the right side of the road; look for a large white house and barn.

Cover Crop Field Day

The purpose of this field day is to share information and education about incorporating cover crops into a sustainable farming system. Discussion will include the benefits of cover crops and soil health. There will also be a Q&A session.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14 • 4 – 8 p.m.

Dinner provided



RSVPs requested. This event is free, but RSVPs are requested to Woodbury County Soil Water Conservation District at (712) 943-6727, ext. 3 by August 1.

HOSTS:

John and Roger Wilcox

Shane Susie

Bruce Willems

Woodbury County Soil & Water Conservation District

LOCATION:

Wilcox Farms Inc.

3550 170th St. • Correctionville • 51016

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Christine Evans – christine.evans@ia.usda.gov or (712) 943-6727, ext. 3

TOPICS:

- Managing for soil health
- How to determine if your soils are healthy
- Demonstrations including the slake test and rainfall simulator
- Science behind soil health movement
- Cover crop plots available for viewing
- Seeding



THE FARM:

The farm is located in the Loess Hills just south of U.S. 20 between Correctionville and Merville. It is approximately 160 acres of no-till farmland that includes conservation practices such as cover crops, waterways and terraces.

DIRECTIONS:

From Correctionville: Take U.S. 20 west and turn south onto County Road L21. In 1.5 miles, turn east on 170th Street and continue for 0.5 mile. The farm site is on the south side of 170th Street.

Note: Do not enter the event from the east using Lucas Avenue.

Sustainable / Organic Field Day

The Sustainable / Organic Field Day will showcase research at Iowa State University's Neely-Kinyon Farm on cover crops, no-till organic production, comparison of organic and conventional grain production, and the new USDA OREI grant on breeding for organic corn production. Soil and water quality within these projects will also be discussed.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 21 • 4 – 7 p.m.

A light supper including local foods will be served



HOSTS:

ISU Organic Agriculture Program
Adair County Extension and Outreach

LOCATION:

ISU Neely-Kinyon Memorial Research and Demonstration Farm
2557 Norfolk Ave. • Greenfield • 50011

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Contact Kathleen Delate at kdelate@iastate.edu or (515) 294-7059

TOPICS:

- Organic production
- Organic no-till
- Organic corn breeding
- Soil and water quality

SPEAKERS:

- **Cynthia Cambardella** – soil scientist, ISU
- **Paul Scott** – corn breeder, USDA Agricultural Research Service



THE FARM:

ISU's Neely-Kinyon Farm is a 160-acre farm in Adair County. Research and demonstration projects focus on alternative agricultural approaches that are environmentally sound and have a positive impact on the community.

DIRECTIONS:

From the intersection of IA Hwy 92 and IA Hwy 25 in Greenfield, go 1 mile east and 0.5 mile north.

Iowa Farmers Union Produce Safety (FMSA) Field Day

To ensure a safer food supply, the federal government passed and is enacting the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The Act shifts the focus from responding to food-borne illness to preventing it. Growers of fresh fruits and vegetables are especially at risk for growing, handling and selling products that may contain pathogens. The Iowa Farmers Union (IFU) is sponsoring field days to help growers with their compliance efforts. IFU is working in collaboration with Iowa State University Extension and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Each session includes plenty of hands-on experience. This field day will also include organic production topics.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 • 2 – 6 p.m.

Dinner provided



RSVPs requested. To RSVP, or for special needs, please contact Ronald Tigner at rtigner@iowafarmersunion.org or (515) 357-0503 by September 5.

More Details: For further information and directions see iowafarmersunion.org/blog.

HOSTS:

Iowa Farmers Union

Denise O'Brien and Larry Harris • Rolling Acres Farm

59624 Chicago Road • Atlantic • 50022

(712) 249-3197 • rollingacres76@gmail.com

rollingacres76.com

TOPICS:

- Produce safety
- Worker health, hygiene and training
- Soil amendments and land use
- Agricultural water
- Wildlife and domesticated animals
- Harvesting, post-harvest handling and sanitation
- Farm food safety planning
- Organic production

SPEAKERS:

- Iowa State University Extension produce safety staff



THE FARM:

Rolling Acres Farm has been in organic production since 1976; the farm is organically certified through the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Denise and Larry have a moveable high tunnel that was constructed through an NRCS program; they raise vegetables and fruit for two CSAs in Omaha, including one that offers payroll deduction for employees. They also sell through Farm Table Delivery, Lone Tree Foods LLC and the Atlantic Hy-Vee.

DIRECTIONS:

From I-80: Take Exit 54 south and follow 590th Street / IA Hwy 173 for 1 mile. Turn left (east) on Chicago Road and go 0.5 mile; the farm is the first place on the left.

Central Iowa Fall Farm Cruise

Please join us for an open house featuring two farms where you will learn more about fruit and vegetable production and pasture-raised pork and poultry. Hayride tours will be offered at both farms to see orchards and high tunnel production systems. Make sure to save some time for apple picking at Berry Patch Farm. Guest vendors at Berry Patch Farm include: Tom Wilson of Remnant Hills Farm (pork, chicken and eggs for sale) and Marilyn Andersen of Two Cedars Weaving (demonstrations of wool spinning and weaving, and handmade items for sale).

Farm Cruise is a collaboration between several producers to open their farms to the public for education about food systems.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 • 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Food will be available for purchase at both farms.

This is a no-pets event.



LOCATIONS AND HOSTS:

Berry Patch Farm

Dean, Judy and Mike Henry

62785 280th St. • Nevada • 50201

Seven Pines Farm

Dan and Julie Beougher

15201 NE 80th St. • Maxwell • 50161

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Contact Marilyn Andersen at marilyn@farmtofolk.com or (515) 460-7273. For more information, visit Facebook and search for "central iowa farm cruise."

TOPICS:

- Orchard and fruit production
- High tunnel vegetable production
- Pasture-raised meats and eggs



DIRECTIONS:

Both farms can be reached from County Road S14 in Story County. Going south from U.S. 30 on Co Rd S14, turn left (east) at 280th Street and follow the signs to Berry Patch Farm.

Farther south on Co Rd S14, turn left (east) on NE 150th Ave. Go 1 mile and turn left (north) on NE 80th Street to reach Seven Pines Farm.

Growing Food Sovereignty With Red Earth Gardens

Come visit Red Earth Gardens in Tama for this field day. Red Earth Gardens is a tribally supported agriculture initiative at the Meskwaki Settlement. Learn from local leaders about the innovative work that is being done. We will tour the gardens, talk about organic transition, visit a food forest, learn about the role of the gardens in the larger Meskwaki Food Sovereignty Initiative and share an evening meal together.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 • 4:30 – 7 p.m.

Evening meal served, with a main dish provided; guests are encouraged to bring side dishes or desserts to share



Please RSVP at iowaorganic.org/red_earth_gardens

HOSTS:

**Iowa Organic Association
Red Earth Gardens**

LOCATION:

Red Earth Gardens • Meskwaki Settlement

1506 305th St. • Tama • 52239

(641) 484-9501 • fsc.econdev@meskwaki-nsn.gov
redearthgardens.com • meskwaki.org/community-services/mfsi

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Toby Cain – education@iowaorganic.org

TOPICS:

- Organic vegetable gardening
- Organic transition
- Crop diversity
- Food sovereignty
- Community gardens
- Small-business development
- Tribally supported agriculture

THE FARM:

Red Earth Gardens is an organic farm committed to growing food in a way that was taught by our ancestors.



Nourishing Mother Earth while supporting the community through environmentally sustainable practices, we grow vegetables, herbs, flowers and fruit. As a business program of the Meskwaki Food Sovereignty Initiative, we offer our products for sale to the public through our Tribally Supported Agriculture (TSA) program as well as through local farmers markets and at events throughout the summer on or near the Meskwaki Settlement.

DIRECTIONS:

Red Earth Gardens is located on the south side of the Meskwaki Casino and RV Park. The best route to the garden is to take the west-side loop around the casino to the RV park. Head south and you will see the sign for Red Earth Gardens.

SILT Showcase – Honey Creek Creamery

Designed for landowners, SILT Showcase Days include a farm tour, refreshments and a presentation on the legal, tax and land value aspects of permanently protecting land to grow healthy food. This is the last of only two showcases this summer! Handouts provided.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 • 1 – 4 p.m.

Light refreshments provided

RSVPs requested. Please RSVP to info@silt.org or (319) 800-8108 by September 12.

HOSTS:

Sharon and George Oamek • Honey Creek Creamery
25593 Old Lincoln Hwy • Honey Creek • 51542
(402) 690-9252 • sharon@honeycreekcreamery.com
honeycreekcreamery.com

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Contact Suzan Erem at suzan@silt.org.

TOPICS:

- Promoting and protecting a diverse food farm
- Innovative ways to protect land
- Available tax incentives
- Maintaining control of your property
- Ideas for agritourism to generate additional income

SPEAKER:

- **Suzan Erem** – executive director, SILT

THE FARM:

Honey Creek Creamery is an Iowa Century Farm that is currently a goat dairy and a cow-calf operation. Dairy products include fresh chevre and goat-milk gelato, primarily marketed at various Hy-Vee supermarkets, local



food outlets and restaurants in the Omaha metropolitan area. (Hear about the Oameks' first attempt at hosting goat yoga!)

DIRECTIONS:

Honey Creek Creamery is located 8 miles north of Council Bluffs / Omaha, on Old Lincoln Highway (U.S. 6), 2 miles north of Crescent and across the creek from Crescent Ski Area and Hitchcock County Park.

Iowa Farmers Union Produce Safety (FMSA) Field Day

To ensure a safer food supply, the federal government passed and is enacting the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). The Act shifts the focus from responding to food-borne illness to preventing it. Growers of fresh fruits and vegetables are especially at risk for growing, handling and selling products that may contain pathogens. The Iowa Farmers Union (IFU) is sponsoring field days to help growers with their compliance efforts. IFU is working in collaboration with Iowa State University Extension and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. Each session includes plenty of hands-on experience.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 • 2 – 6 p.m.

Dinner provided

RSVPs requested. To RSVP, or for special needs, please contact Ronald Tigner at rtigner@iowafarmersunion.org or (515) 357-0503 by September 15.

More Details: For further information and directions see iowafarmersunion.org/blog.

HOSTS:

Iowa Farmers Union

Jason Grimm

Grow Johnson County • Johnson County Farm

4811 Melrose Road • Iowa City • 52246

(319) 622-3264 • jason@ivrcd.org

growjohnsoncounty.org

TOPICS:

- Produce safety use
- Wildlife and domesticated animals
- Agricultural water
- Worker health, hygiene and training
- Harvesting, post-harvest handling and sanitation
- Farm food safety planning
- Soil amendments and land

SPEAKERS:

- Iowa State University Extension produce safety staff



THE FARM:

Grow Johnson County has two missions: to reduce food insecurity in Johnson County and to serve as an educational farm for new growers. Produce from the farm's 4 acres is distributed to food pantries, food banks and meal sites in the greater Johnson County area.

DIRECTIONS:

The farm is on the western edge of Iowa City. From U.S. 218, take Exit 93 and go west on Melrose Avenue. The farm is on the south side of the road after 0.3 mile.

Harvest Spoon Tour

Visit locally grown businesses and organizations that promote, enhance and increase the awareness of and passion for local food and its culture in Harrison and Pottawattamie counties. In each tour, the featured businesses will offer unique events or activities created with attendees in mind. The event includes tours, samples and local food and products to purchase and experience.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6 • 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

FARM HOSTS:

- Doe's and Diva's Dairy
- Harrison County Welcome Center
- Hitchcock Nature Center
- Hodges Greenhouse
- Loess Hills Lavender Farm
- Van Sickle Bees



EVENT QUESTIONS:

Contact Doe's and Diva's Dairy, Inc. at (402) 594-5111 or doesanddivas@gmail.com.

THE FARMS:

For more information on the host farms, visit sites.google.com/site/harvestspoon tour.

DIRECTIONS:

Consult the map on the Harvest Spoon website at sites.google.com/site/harvestspoon tour.



Farm Crawl

This is an opportunity to learn how local producers in Black Hawk and surrounding counties in Iowa grow their food and manage their farms. Attendees can visit the farms and locations at their own pace and stop at all or some of them. Family-friendly activities for all ages will be available.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7 • Noon – 5 p.m.



FARM HOSTS:

Participating farms to be determined. Please check the website, ceee.uni.edu/localfood, after July 1 for a listing of farms.

EVENT QUESTIONS:

Contact Jodie Huegerich at jodie.huegerich@uni.edu or (319) 273-7883.

TOPICS:

- Meet local producers
- Purchase local food
- Learn about local producers' agricultural practices

THE FARMS:

A variety of farms will be participating. The farms and locations will be announced on the website by July 1.

DIRECTIONS:

A map listing the farm names, addresses and directions will be available on the event website, ceee.uni.edu/localfood, by July 1.





**1615 Golden Aspen Drive
Suite 101**

Ames, IA 50010

(515) 232-5661

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