

Wildlife & Habitat at Bobolink Prairie Farms



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Why Bobolink Prairie Farms?



Disclaimer:



Key Takeaways

Our management changes have resulted in more habitat, of greater diversity

Habitat is a side effect and not a primary driver of our decision making

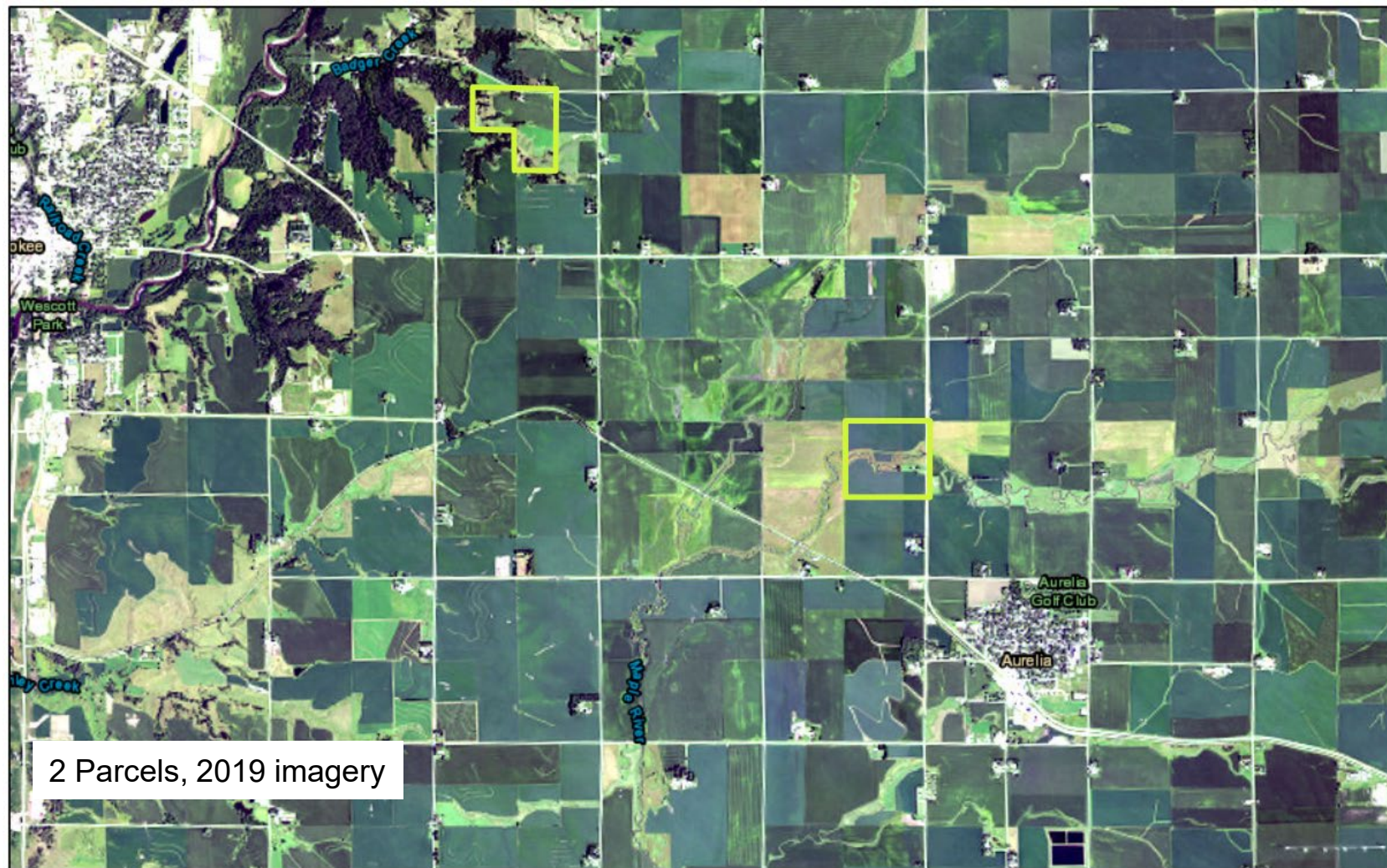
More habitat and greater diversity in plant communities support more birds and other wildlife

What we're going to cover:

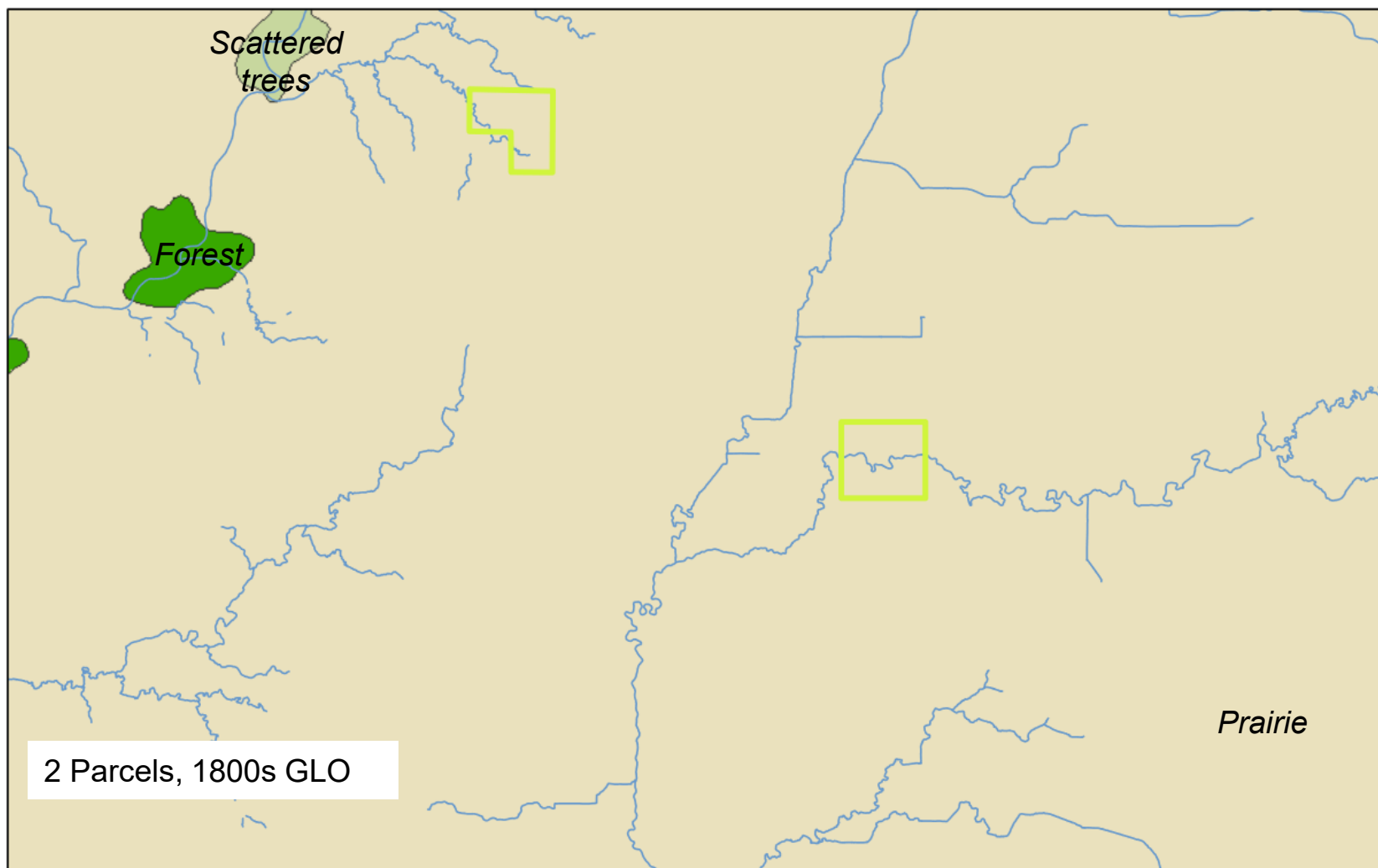
Two Farms-Historic imagery, land use, and historical habitat & wildlife

Management changes, why we changed, and habitat & wildlife implications











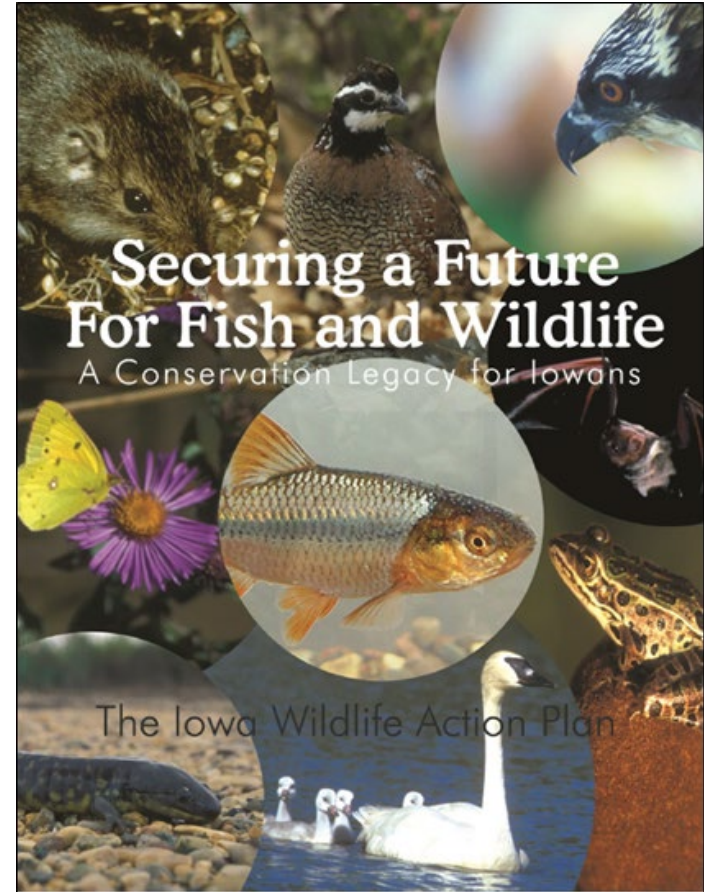


2 Parcels, 2019 imagery



Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Amphibians		22	73%
Reptiles		46	87%
Breeding birds		201	41%
Non-breeding birds		204	30%
Mammals		83	39%
Fish		155	54%
Butterflies		123	47%
Odonates		114	28%



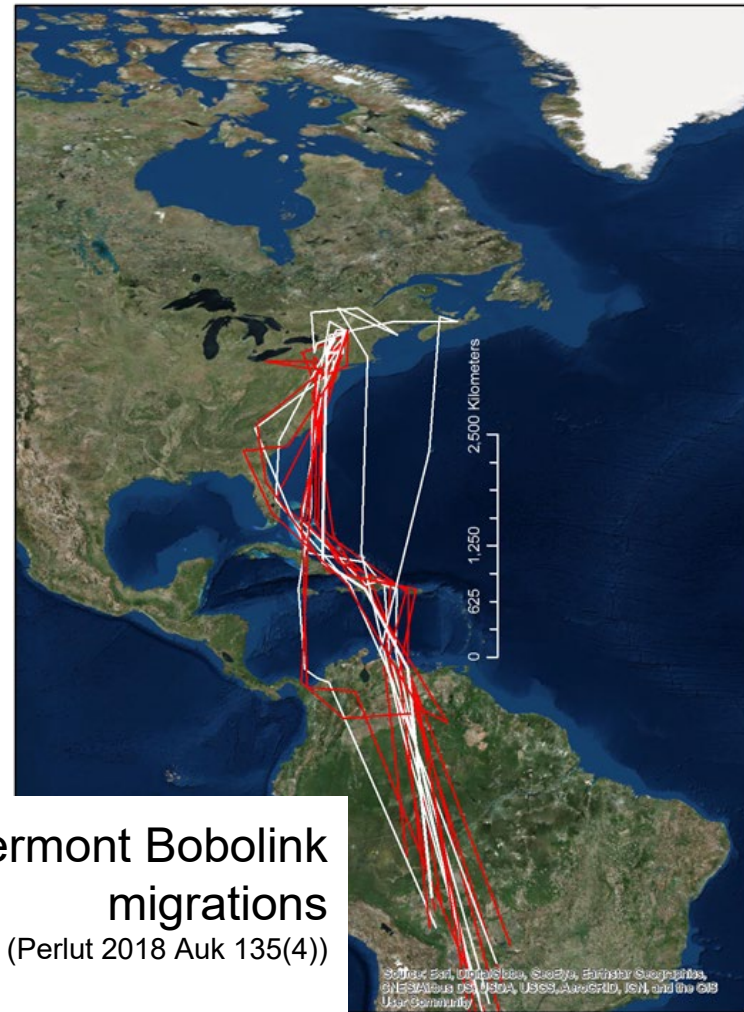


Bobolink

Iowa Species of Greatest Conservation Need

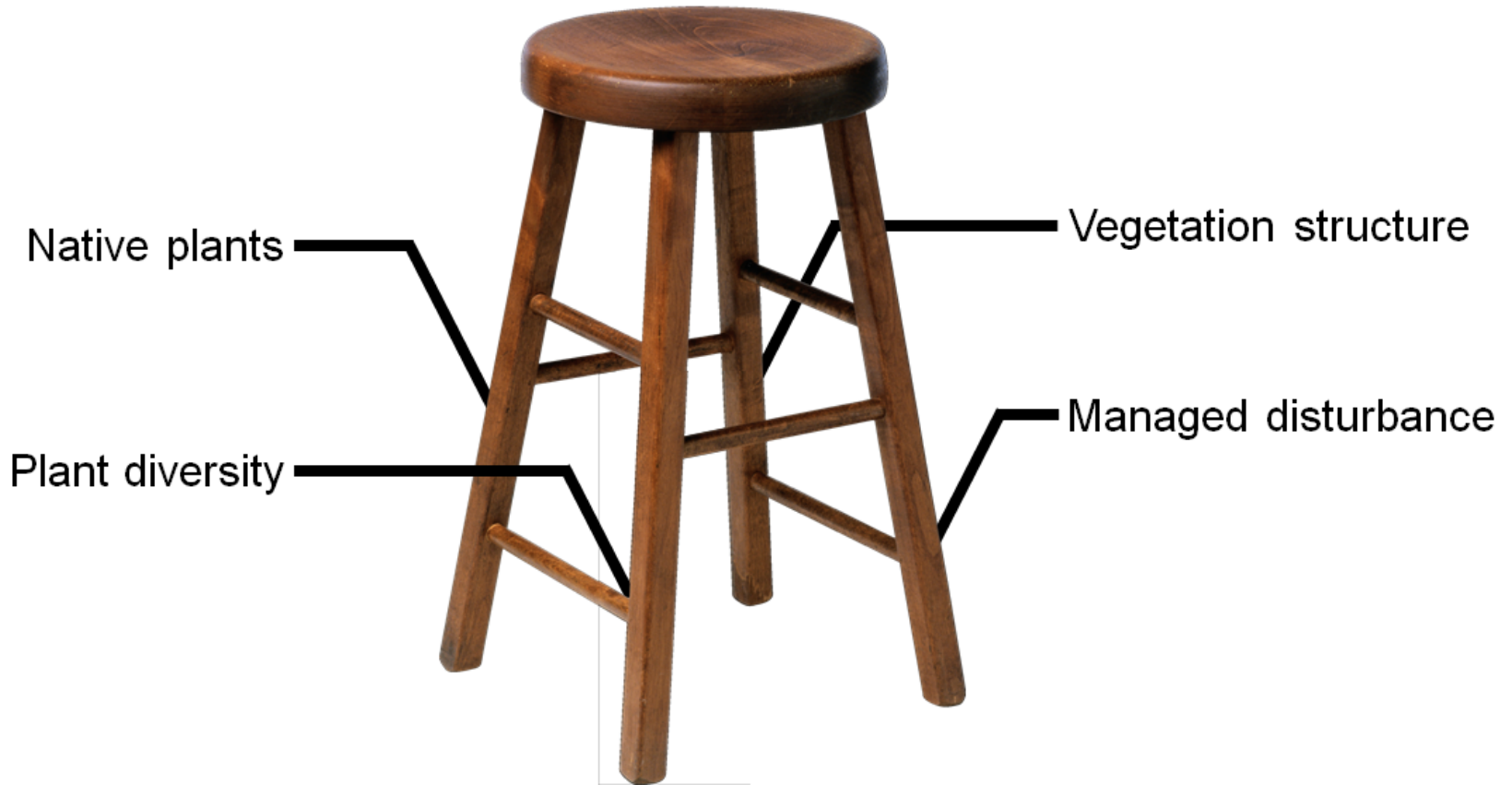
Vermont Bobolink migrations

(Perlut 2018 Auk 135(4))





Legs of the wildlife habitat stool





Four ways to create wildlife habitat on every farm

1) Improve existing natural areas



2) Reimagine uses of profit loss areas



3) Layer soil, water, & wildlife conservation



4) Repurpose existing idle areas





What we're going to cover:

Two Farms-Historic imagery, land use, and historical habitat & wildlife

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1930



2019



2013





2013



2019





2019



2013



1930



1970



2019





1930



2019



Table 5**Calf weaning weight and average daily gain (ADG)
relative to acres grazed in 2010 and 2013**

Year	Total pasture size (ac)	Number of calves weaned	Average calf weaning weight (lb)	Average calf ADG (lb/d)	Total pounds weaned (lb)	Pounds weaned per grazed acre (lb/ac)
2010	30.6	12	567	2.26	6802	222
2013	34.1	24	549	1.96	13173	386
Average	32.4	18	558	2.11	9988	304

<http://www.practicalfarmers.org/farmer-knowledge/research-reports/2014/pasture-monitoring-anderson-farm/>

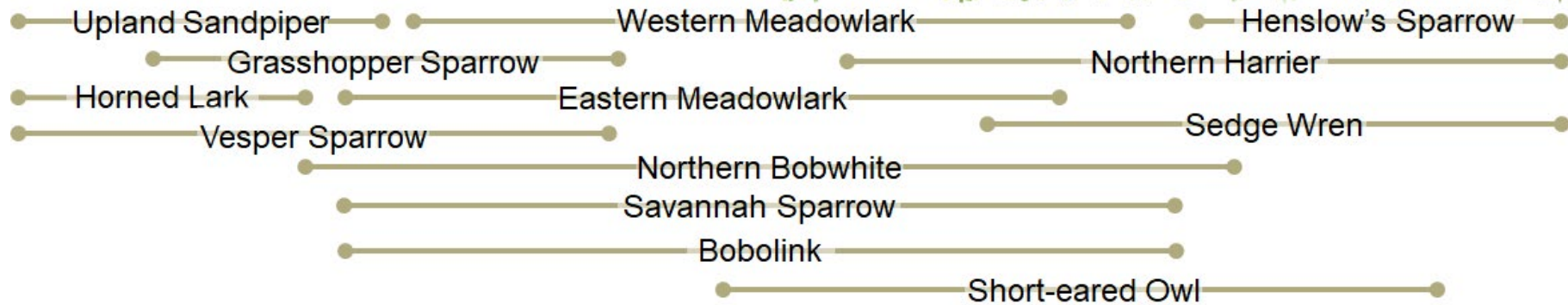














Feed Costs	Tons	Cost/ton	Total	\$/hd	\$/hd/day
Hay	11.34	135	\$1530.9	\$43.74	\$1.41
Cornstalks	7.81	70	\$546.70	\$15.62	\$.50
		Totals	\$2,077.6	\$59.36	\$1.91





Four ways to create wildlife habitat on every farm

1) Improve existing natural areas

- Pasture restoration project
- Cedar management

2) Reimagine uses of profit loss areas

- Flood prone areas along stream to CRP

3) Layer soil, water, & wildlife conservation

- Cover crops
- Strategic CRP along streams
- Grazing management

4) Repurpose existing idle areas

Partners who've helped us

USDA-NRCS, Mike Henderson, Nick Livermore

Iowa DNR-Kathy Koskovich

Prudenterra-Luke Gran et. al.

Cherokee SWCD

Iowa Learning Farms

Practical Farmers of Iowa-staff & members

Family & Friends

