

Beginning Farmer News - Accepting applications to Savings Incentive Program through Nov. 20

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November 2023

Equipping farmers to build resilient farms and communities.

Meet Emma Barber of Rhubarb Botanicals and SIP graduate



Emma Barber is a community herbalist and farmer. She owns and runs **Rhubarb Botanicals** in Mount Vernon, Iowa, where she grows 150 varieties of medicinal and culinary herbs, flowers and perennial shrubs.

Emma enrolled in the **Savings Incentive Program** in 2021 and graduated from the program this year.

We asked Emma: What were your takeaways from participating in SIP?

Emma: "I benefited from sitting down and making a plan. I had so many ideas but didn't plan out actionable steps for years in advance. SIP required me to write things down and create my own metric of success. The SIP farm visits connected me to broader communities and helped me grow meaningful relationships with my mentor and other farmers."

SIP offers targeted learning, mentorship from experienced farmers, goal-setting support and the opportunity to save up to \$2,400 matched by PFI. Ready to join the program?

Apply by Nov. 20

PROGRAM UPDATES

Apply for the Choose Iowa Value-Added Grant program



Fund the infrastructure and equipment you need to add value to agricultural products with a Choose Iowa Grant.

These grants from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship were created to assist Iowa farmers, businesses and non-profits with their efforts to increase or diversify their agricultural product offerings, expand markets and shorten the supply chain.

[Apply by Dec. 15 at noon.](#)

Thinking about raising pigs? Consider Niman Ranch's Gilt Grant



Niman Ranch's Next Generation Foundation now offers a Gilt Grant program for young and beginning farmers getting started raising pigs farrow to finish.

The program pays for half the cost of breeding stock—gilts and boars—for farmers joining Niman Ranch.

Participants will be provided with business planning support, regular education and a farmer mentor.

[Email Ron Mardesen](#) or call 712-789-0712 for more information and to access the grant application.

DNR's Lease to Beginning Farmers Program is now open



The [Iowa Department of Natural Resources' \(DNR\) Lease to Beginning Farmers Program](#) provides opportunities for beginning farmers to lease agricultural land that the DNR holds and manages for wildlife habitat.

[Browse available leases](#) in Iowa for the 2024 season and apply by Dec. 1.

Learn about how PFI farmers have partnered with public lands to graze.

[Email Nathan Schmitz](#), DNR land management specialist, with questions.

North Central SARE's Farmer Rancher Grant closes Dec. 7



North Central SARE's Farmer Rancher Grant Program can help you explore sustainable solutions to problems through on-farm research, demonstration, and educational projects.

[View projects funded in the last grant cycle.](#)

The deadline for applications is 4 p.m. Dec. 7. [Apply online.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Registration is now open for the 2024 Annual Conference



Jan. 19-20 | Des Moines, IA

Registration just opened for PFI's 2024 Annual Conference. **Please note that this year, for the first time, we will be hosting the conference in Des Moines!**

When you register by Dec. 8, you'll be entered to win two free nights at the Hilton during the conference.

We hope to see you there.

[Register online](#)

Upcoming PFI events

All events listed in Central Time.

Nov. 18: Field Day – [Milling and Marketing Small Grains Through Multiple Channels](#)

Hosted by: Jeff & Earl Haffner
2-4 p.m. | Panora, IA

Friends of PFI events

Nov. 10: Conference – 2023 Fibershed Symposium: Relationships of change

Hosted by: Fibershed
11 a.m-3 p.m. | Point Reyes Station, CA | [Online option](#)

Nov. 14: Summit – Upper Midwest Farmland Summit

Hosted by: Renewing the Countryside
Chaska, MN

Dec. 1-2: Conference – Embracing our Progressive Heritage

Hosted by: Iowa Farmers Union
Storm Lake, IA

Nov 13-14: Conference – Food, Entrepreneurship, Ecosystem, Development Conference

Hosted by: UWM Extension
Green Bay, WI

Nov 17-18: Conference – South Dakota Local Foods Conference

Hosted by: South Dakota Local Foods
Sioux Falls, SD

[View our events calendar](#)

Contact our team

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