

Practical Farmers of Iowa

PFI's YouTube channel shares farmer knowledge and other content to equip farmers to build resilient farms and communities. The videos highlighted below include past webinars and conference sessions that may be relevant for beginning farmers.

Land Access: 127 Easy Steps to Finding Farmland

Discover creative and community-oriented solutions to land access. Whether you've identified the land you want to farm on or are just starting your search, this webinar shares tools and best practices. The video features Kate Edwards, who grows food for 200 families at Wild Woods Farm near Iowa City, Iowa. You'll also hear from Brett Olson, co-founder and creative director of Renewing the Countryside, a Minnesota nonprofit that seeks to strengthen rural communities. Kate and Brett cover how to assess the farmability of land, whether buying or leasing is the best option for you, resources for finding land and what to know about financing.

Building Relationships to Access Land

In this conference session recording from PFI's 2017 annual conference in Ames, Iowa, three farmers -- Aaron White of Carlisle, Iowa, Jim Petersen of Knoxville, Iowa, and Kate Edwards of Iowa City, Iowa -- share how they formed relationships and made local connections to access land.

Tools for Accessing Land

This session from PFI's 2021 virtual annual conference highlights three tools beginning farmers can use in their land search: the Finding Farmland Calculator and Finding Farmland course offered by National Young Farmers Coalition, and Practical Farmers of Iowa's Find A Farmer website.

Land Access: Leases to Support Conservation and Beginning Farmers

In this video, explore legal issues pertinent to beginning farmers, including farm succession, transitioning land and assets to the next generation, custom grazing legal questions and writing farm leases.

Trusts: Keep the Family a Family and the Farm the Farm

Traditional estate planning offers simple outright distribution patterns or purchase options, but it typically fails to meet the realities of modern-day farming. An alternative approach is the use of trusts. In this webinar, Doug Thesenvitz of Thompson Law and Amy Williams of Cornerstone Private Asset Trust Company explain what a trust is, how trusts work and how they can be used to create a legacy plan that transitions assets to the next generation in a smart and protective manner.