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Beginning Farmers Invited to Networking Event on Central Iowa Farm

ADEL, Iowa — Agriculture can be an isolating occupation, so Practical Farmers of Iowa strives to create opportunities for beginning farmers to take a break from the field, share a meal and meet others who are in a similar situation. On Saturday, July 15 from 5:30 to 8 p.m., Practical Farmers and Jack Davis are hosting a beginning farmer social on Jack's farm near Adel. Beginning and aspiring farmers of all ages, farm enterprises and farm sizes are welcome to attend.

Building a network of peers for sharing knowledge and experiences – good or bad – can be an important step in creating a successful farm business. "It's good to have a farming network in place so you don't have to reinvent the wheel," Jack says. "Chances are, others have faced similar problems and questions and can help you come up with solutions."

As a beginning farmer, Jack grows fruits and vegetables on his family's 70-acre farm, All Trades Farm, in central Iowa. In addition to a tour of the farm, prairie and orchard, Jack will share his plans to add agritourism to the operation. "I've been so thankful to PFI for the networks I've established, whether it is hammering out logistics for farming operations, to setting prices for produce."

Practical Farmers of Iowa will provide a main dish for the meal, as well as water, iced tea and coffee. Attendees are encouraged to bring a side dish or dessert to share, as well as a preferred beverage, if desired.

Where: All Trades Farm
32847 Pondside Lane
Adel, IA 50003
(1.5 miles north of I-80, Exit 110)

When: Saturday, July 15; 5:30 – 8 p.m.

Cost: Free

To RSVP, contact Greg Van Den Berghe at Practical Farmers of Iowa, (515) 232-5661 or greg@practicalfarmers.org.

Support for beginning farmers is a top priority for Practical Farmers of Iowa members. Practical Farmers' programming provides resources and opportunities to help beginning and aspiring farmers establish support networks and create viable farm businesses. Other beginning farmer opportunities offered by Practical Farmers include: the Savings Incentive Program; Labor4Learning Program; Find-A-Farmer; beginning farmer-focused field days and farminars; farm transition work; and more.

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Practical Farmers of Iowa strengthens farms and communities through farmer-led investigation and information-sharing. Our values include: welcoming everyone; creativity, collaboration and community; viable farms now and for future generations; and stewardship and ecology. Founded in 1985, farmers in our network raise corn, soybeans, livestock, hay, fruits and vegetables, and more. To learn more, visit <http://practicalfarmers.org>.