Directory of Urban Agriculture Expertise

Iowa State University

Kathleen Delate and Josiah Pollock
Iowa State University Organic Agriculture Program

Phone: 515-294-7069
Address: 106 Horticulture Hall, ISU, Ames, IA 50011
Email: kdelate@iastate.edu
URL: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/organicag/

Area of Focus:
- Organic farming and gardening; organic soil health; organic pest management; organic research and Extension (Iowa Organic Conference)

Resources Available:
- Publications on organic practices: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/organicag/publications
- Directory of Suppliers and Buyers of organic products (e.g., organic fertilizers): https://www.extension.iastate.edu/organicag/suppliers
- Field Days; webinars; podcasts (see example on Organic Weed Management): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QTqwOR0gWPA

Christa Hartsook and Courtney Long
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Farm, Food and Enterprise Development (FFED)

Phone: 515-294-3086
Address: 2625 N Loop Dr. Ste. 2430 Ames, IA 50010
Email: contactffed@iastate.edu
URL: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/ffed/

Area of Focus:
- ISU Extension and Outreach Farm, Food and Enterprise Development’s mission is to support value-added agriculture enterprises, small farms, and regional food systems through research, education, and community engagement. The team provides technical assistance, educational programs, consulting, and community-wide processes for determining and implementing overarching goals.

Resources Available:
- Farm Food and Enterprise Development: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/ffed/
- Small Farms Sustainability: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/smallfarms/
- Food Systems: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/ffed/food-systems
- Enterprise Development: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/ffed/enterprise-development
- FFED Resources (publications, tools, local food directories): https://www.extension.iastate.edu/ffed/resources
- FFED Networks: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/ffed/networks
- FFED Events & Conferences: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/ffed/annual-events-0
- Iowa Farm to School and Early Care Network: https://www.iowafarmtoschoolearlycare.org/

Dan Fillius
Iowa State University Commercial Vegetable and Specialty Crops Production Field Specialist

Phone: 319-551-7200
Address: 1625 Adventureland Drive, Suite A Altona, IA 50009
Email: fillius@iastate.edu
URL: http://hort.iastate.edu/extension-and-outreach/

Area of Focus:
- Commercial vegetable production; commercial cut flower production; organic vegetable production

Resources Available:
- Instagram account @iowa.veg.pro.support
- High Tunnel Short Course (with Dr. Ajay Nair)
- Organic Vegetable Production Conference (in partnership with UW Madison, and FairShare CSA coalition)
Ajay Nair
Iowa State University Sustainable Vegetable Production Program

Phone: 515-294-7080
Address: 145 Horticulture Hall, ISU, Ames, IA 50011
Email: nairajay@iastate.edu
URL: https://www.extension.iastate.edu/vegetablelab

Area of Focus:
• Vegetable production, high tunnels, integrated pest management, soil amendments, cultivar evaluation, soil fertility and management, and agrivoltaics (vegetable production within solar farms)

Resources Available:
• Publications on backyard vegetable production. https://www.extension.iastate.edu/vegetablelab/extension-publications
• Publications on commercial vegetable production:
  o Example: Asparagus https://store.extension.iastate.edu/product/14745

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Andrew Thomason
USDA NRCS

Phone: 515-248-4769
Address: 210 Walnut St, Room 693, Des Moines, IA 50309
Email: andrew.thomason@usda.gov
URL: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/iowa/iowa-urban-agriculture

Area of Focus:
• Provide technical and financial assistance to conserve natural resources through conservation planning and implementing conservation practices (high tunnels, cover crops, irrigation, etc.).

Resources Available:
• USDA Service Center Locator: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/find-a-service-center?state=19&county=
• Conservation planning: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/resources/guides-and-instructions/conservation-planning
• Technical information on planning and designing conservation practices: https://efotq.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/IA/documents/section=4&folder=3
USDA Risk Management Agency (RMA)

Anna Borom and Heidi Kirkland
USDA RMA

Phone: (651) 290-330
Address: 3440 Federal Drive Suite 200 Eagan, MN 55122
Email: anna.borom@usda.gov
URL: https://rma.usda.gov/

Areas of Focus:
- Risk management tools
- Agricultural education

Resources Available:
- Controlled Environment (CE) crop insurance: https://www.rma.usda.gov/en/Topics/Controlled-Environment

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Amanda Hartman
USDA – Iowa Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Phone: 515-254-1540
Address: 10500 Buena Vista Court Urbandale, IA 50322
Email: amanda.j.hartman@usda.gov
URL: www.fsa.usda.gov/ia

Area of Focus:
- FAS plays a crucial role in supporting farmers, ranchers, and landowners through:
  - Farm loans
  - Disaster Assistance
  - Conservation Programs
  - Commodity Price Guarantee Programs

Resources Available:
- Publications on various USDA programs
- Speakers – agency can assist with lining up technical expertise. Including assistance with navigating farm loans and various USDA programs

USDA Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS)

Sarah Elliot
URL: https://www.ams.usda.gov/services/local-regional/food-sector/urban-agriculture

Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Paul Miller
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Urban Conservation Program

Phone: 515-281-5833
Address: Wallace State Office Building, 502 E. 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319
Email: paul.miller@iowaagriculture.gov
URL: https://iowaagriculture.gov

Area of Focus:
- Technical assistance on stormwater management practice design and implementation, information and education materials on stormwater management.
Resources Available:
- Brochures, design and maintenance guidance on stormwater management practices - Clean Water Iowa (https://www.cleanwateriowa.org/urban)
- Iowa Stormwater Education Partnership – stormwater information and training (https://iowastormwater.org/)

Beth Romer
Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Choose Iowa Program

Phone: 515-725-1061
Address: Wallace State Office Building, 502 E 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319
Email: beth.romer@iowaagriculture.gov
URL: https://www.chooseiowa.com/

Area of Focus:
- Choose Iowa is a state brand which promotes food and beverages made from agricultural products grown, raised or made within Iowa.

Resources Available:
- Find Local – directory of Iowa farms and businesses which raise, grow and make foods and beverages using Iowa ingredients: https://www.chooseiowa.com/find-local
- Grants – Choose Iowa offers grants for value-added agriculture and dairy innovation: https://www.chooseiowa.com/grants
- What’s in Season – seasonal availability for foods and beverages grown, raised and made in Iowa: https://www.chooseiowa.com/whats-in-season

Municipal Governments

City of Des Moines
Jeremy Caron
City of Des Moines, Sustainability Office

Phone: 515-248-6348

Address: 1551 E. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Des Moines, IA 50317
Email: sustainability@dmgov.org
URL: https://www.dsm.city/departments/city_manager_s_office/sustainability/index.php

Area of Focus:
- Managing the integration of sustainability, energy, and climate action work across the city organization and community. The City of Des Moines manages several programs, projects, and initiatives that contribute to creating a more vibrant, prosperous, resilient, just, and equitable future for Des Moines.

Resources Available:
- Des Moines Food Security Task Force: The Food Security Task Force works to increase food security by identifying opportunities and reducing barriers to local food access, production and distribution. https://www.dsm.city/boards_inner_T56_R54.php
- FEED DSM: FEED DSM is a growing online resource to connect community members to resources to increase food security. https://www.dsm.city/initiatives/food/index.php
Soil and Water Conservation

Black Hawk County

Phone: 319-296-3262
Address: 2950 Southland Drive, Waterloo, IA 50701
Email: jenna.curran@ia.nacdnet.net
URL: https://www.blackhawkswcd.org/

Polk County

Phone: 515-694-1883 ext. 3
Address: 1513 N Ankeny Blvd Ste 3
Email: Polkswcdiowa@gmail.com
URL: https://polkswcdiowa.gov/?page_id=18018

Non-Governmental Organizations

Field to Family

Phone: 319-855-2649
Address:
Email: foodhub@fieldtofamily.org
URL: https://fieldtofamily.org/food-hub/

Global Greens

Zachary Couture

Phone: 515-271-7479
Address: 3116 University Ave., Des Moines, IA 50311
Email: globalgreens@lsiowa.org
URL: https://lsiowa.org/ircs/global-greens/

Area of Focus:

- Reconnecting former refugee farmers with the land as they build their new life in the U.S.

Resources Available:

- Land access, business development assistance, education, and technical support at Global Greens Farm.
- Continued support for program graduates in the Des Moines Metro.
- Small Urban Garden plots in the City of Des Moines.
- Community Supported Agriculture (CSA): https://lsiowa.org/ircs/csa/

Iowa Valley RC&D

Jason Grimm

Phone: (319) 622-3264
Farm Address: Johnson County Historic Poor Farm, 4811 Melrose Avenue, Iowa City, IA 52246
Office Address: 920 48th Ave, Amana, IA 52203
Email: info@ivrcd.org
URL: http://www.iowavalleyrcd.org/

Area of Focus:

- Farmer Development and Value Chain Development Initiatives
- Hands-on education.

Resources Available:

- Programs-
  - Seasonal organic vegetable apprenticeship.
  - Grow Johnson County’s Can You Dig It? Farm and garden experience for youth and teens interested in food and community.
Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation  
Andrea Boulton

Phone: 515-288-1846  
Address: 505 5th Ave, Suite 444, Des Moines, IA 50309  
Email: aboulton@inhf.org  
URL: www.inhf.org

Area of Focus:  
- Providing opportunities for land access and protection; soil health; regenerative agriculture and climate research.

Resources Available:  
- Long-term options for land protection: https://www.iowalandoptions.org/

Matthew 25- Cultivate Hope Urban Farm  
Matthew Arndt

Phone: (319) 362-2214  
Address: 201 3rd Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
Email: matta@hub25.org  
URL: https://www.matthew-25.org/

Area of Focus:  
- Community building through housing, food and education

Resources Available:  
- 2-acre urban farm offering affordable CSA shares, Farmers markets, Community Garden rentals, and Gardening workshops.
- A free tool library

Peoples Community Garden  
Kamyar Enshayan

Phone: 319-278-9020  
Address: 905 Franklin St, Waterloo, IA 50703  
Email: kamyar.enshayan@uni.edu  
URL: https://www.peoples-clinic.com/our-garden/

Practical Farmers of Iowa  
Rachel Burke

Phone: 612-741-2492  
Address:  
Email: Rachel.Burke@practicalfarmers.org  
URL: www.practicalfarmers.org

Area of Focus:  
- Farmer led education, Farmer led research, Farm viability, Habitat

Resources Available:  
- Farmer Led Education: Field Days, Annual Conference, Webinars, Blogs, Beginning Farmer Retreat, Midwest Covers and Grains Conference  
- Cost Shares: Cover crop, small grain, habitat, produce safety, grazing infrastructure, and beneficial insect
- Other Resources: Grazing Consultations, Farm Transfer support  
- Beginning Farmer Programs: Savings Incentive Program, Labor4Learning Program  
- Spanish Events and Technical Support: Agricultores Latinos

Sustainable Iowa Land Trust (SILT)  
Zach Cassidy

Phone: 8593518388  
Address: 3420 SW 8th St. Des Moines, AT  
Email: zach@silt.org  
URL: silt.org

Area of Focus:  
- Land Access, Sustainable Ag.

Resources Available:  
- Land Access, farmers, landowners, technical expertise regarding farming practices
Sweet Tooth Farm
Monika Owczarski

Phone: Des Moines IA 50314
Email: Sweettoothfarm.dsm@gmail.com
URL: www.sweettoothfarm.net

Area of Focus:
• Have gone back and forth between a market farm and a donation farm – main focus is on getting food to areas with little to no access. Mainly work now to fill community fridges around the DSM metro with fresh produce. We also have a big land access focus and work to acquire lots in the city to grow food on. Constant advocate for policy change to make urban Ag more accessible and sustainable.

Resources Available:
• Consulting – tool sharing – infrastructure support – mentorship – fiduciary sponsorship – urban pollinator habitat installation

Table to Table
Nicki Ross

Phone: 319-337-3400
Address: 1049 US-6 E, Iowa City, IA 52240
Email: info@table2table.com
URL: https://table2table.org/#testimonials

Feed Iowa First
Emmaly Renshaw

Phone: 319-431-0103
Address: 1506 10th St. SE Cedar Rapids, IA 52401
Email: Emmaly@feediowa1st.com
URL: www.feediowafirst.com
www.equitablelandaccess.com

Area of Focus:
• Land access, business establishment, culturally appropriate food production, food security and access

Resources Available:
• Connecting emerging farmers with land, water access, business support, farming, and food certifications.
• Feed Iowa First Community Ag Program: connects smaller plots of land with emerging farmers on a year-to-year basis.
• Feed Iowa First Economic Development Program: a 3-year intensive competitive program that encompasses farming, business development, markets, and record-keeping to prepare farmers to farm on Iowa soil, while increasing food access to culturally absent food in Iowa in underserved communities

Iowa Food System Coalition
Jan Libbey

Phone: 515-851-1690
Address: 829 Hughes St. Coralville, IA 52241
Email: iowafoodsystemcoalition@gmail.com
URL: https://www.iowafoodsystemcoalition.org

Catherine McAuley Center
Paula Land

Phone: 319-363-4993
Address: 1220 Fifth Avenue SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
URL: https://cmc-cr.org/education-services/

Potential Funding Sources for Urban Farming and Food Security Programs

Beginning Farmers/Ranchers Grant
Catholic Charities
https://www.catholiccharitiesdm.org/2024-rice-bowl-grant-application/

Growing Together Iowa
https://www.extension.iastate.edu/mastergardener/growing-together-iowa

Iowa Partners for Conservation

NRSC Cost Share Programs
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives

- High Tunnels:
  https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/equip-high-tunnel-initiative
- Low Tunnels:
  https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/44229/821_IA_ICPS_Low_Tunnel_Systems_2023
- Compost:
- Mulching:
  https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/40188/484_IA_CPS_Mulching_2022
- Irrigation:
  https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/40578/441_IA_CPS_Irrigation_System%2c_Microirrigation_2023
- Raised Beds:
  https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/api/CPSFile/44199/812_IA_ICPS_Raised_Beds_2023
- Organic Initiative:
  https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/equip-organic-initiative
- Pest Management:

Urban Agriculture in Other States

Cultivate K.C.
Nonprofit

Phone: 913-831-2444
Address: 300 E. 39th Street. Kansas City, MO 64111
Email: info@cultivatekc.org
URL: https://www.cultivatekc.org/
Area of Focus:
- Working to grow food, farms, and community in support of an equitable, sustainable, and healthy local food system.

Resources Available:
- Workshops and classes for farmers and growers to obtain resources, education and information:
  https://www.cultivatekc.org/farmers/workshops-classes/
- Farm & Food System Funding Opportunities:
  https://www.cultivatekc.org/farmers/funding-opportunities/
- Tool library, cooperative orders, and farm land linking.

United Way
https://www.unitedwaydm.org/funding-application
Keep Detroit Growing

Phone: 313-656-4769
Address: 1445 Adelaide, Detroit, MI 48207
Email: info@keepgrowingdetroit.org
URL: https://www.detroitagriculture.net/

Area of Focus:
- Working to cultivate a food sovereign city where residents within the city’s limits grow the majority of fruits and vegetables consumed by Detroiter.

Resources Available:
- Garden Resource Program:
  https://www.detroitagriculture.net/grp
- Classes and workshops:
  https://www.detroitagriculture.net/classes
- Online Farm Store:
  https://keep-growing-detroit.square.site/
- Garden Guides and Curriculum:
  https://www.detroitagriculture.net/gardenguides

GrowBoston
City of Boston

Phone: 617-635-388
Address: 12 Channel Street 9th Floor, Boston, MA 02210
Email: growboston@boston.gov
URL: https://www.boston.gov/departments/growboston

Area of Focus:
- Supporting an increase in community gardens, urban farms, and other food-growing spaces throughout Boston.

Resources Available:
- Funding Opportunities
  https://www.boston.gov/departments/growboston/growboston-funding-opportunities
- Boston Urban Agriculture Strategy
  https://www.boston.gov/departments/growboston/boston-urban-agriculture-strategy
- Additional Resources
  https://www.boston.gov/departments/growboston#resources