



2017 ANNUAL REPORT

YOUR FARM. YOUR FAMILY. OUR FOCUS.





2017

Dear Friends,

I am encouraged by the livestock industry in Iowa. Despite the ongoing challenges with markets in 2017, the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers (CSIF) continued to see steady interest from farmers wanting to add livestock to help diversify their operations.

So far this year, we received 372 new requests for assistance, facilitated 418 requests for continued support and provided confidential on-farm consultations to 189 farm families at no charge. A busy, but productive year helping Iowa's rural communities grow through an important industry.

I am also excited about Iowa's emerging aquaculture industry. While the majority of the help we provided in 2017 focused on traditional livestock, we received a record number of calls from farmers interested in raising fish and shrimp. Farmers tapped the Coalition for help on converting existing livestock barns, building brand new state-of-the-art facilities and sorting through rules.

Since our inception, CSIF has assisted more than 4,100 livestock and poultry farm families successfully and responsibly grow their farms. Our pre-emptive approach has proven to be successful - and in many cases - essential to helping farm families reach their goals. To hear from some of those farmers, please visit bit.ly/2nkkmJp

We are grateful for the support of our founding organizations and partners and look forward to a successful 2018.

Sincerely,

Brian Waddingham | Executive Director



Calving Under Roof

In March, CSIF hosted a "Calving Under Roof Symposium" in Omaha. The event attracted more than 300 participants to learn about the economics of calving under roof, outline strategies to reduce feed costs, discuss cattle health considerations, take virtual tours of calving barns and hear from a panel of farmers that have been successfully calving under roof.

Livestock farmers that could not attend the event can view the presentations and watch the virtual tours at www.supportfarmers.com/programs/calving-under-roof/Midwest-cow-calf-symposium. The presentations address some of the most frequently asked questions about calving under roof and feature farm families who shared strategies they've used to successfully grow their farms with the addition of a calving barn. The insight offered provides unique perspectives to help farmers determine if this type of production system is a feasible option for their farm.





Farming for the Future Conference

CSIF hosted its twelfth annual Farming for the Future Conference: Managing Risk on Your Farm at the end of January. More than 150 farmers attended the event. Mike Pearson, host of Market to Market, kicked off the event by providing an outlook for farm markets and the global trends impacting these markets, and offered strategies for long-term success on the farm.

The conference speakers focused on trending topics for new and beginning farmers such as insight into managing risk through communication, a better understanding of risk management strategies on the farm, the importance of setting up your farm business and tax planning considerations, insight on how to develop a business plan, and the basics of farm record keeping.

To see the presentations from the Conference, visit <http://www.supportfarmers.com/programs/farming-for-the-future-conference-1>



The Good Farm Neighbor Award

To better highlight the positive impact farm families have in their communities, the Wergin Good Farm Neighbor award program was revised to better recognize Iowa livestock farmers who take pride in doing things right. This includes caring for the environment and their livestock and being good neighbors. A record eleven livestock farm families were recognized with the award after being nominated by their neighbors. The award is named in memory of Gary Wergin, a long-time WHO Radio farm broadcaster and avid agriculture supporter. For more information, or to nominate your neighbor, visit www.supportfarmers.com/goodfarmneighbor. The award is made possible through the financial support of CSIF.



Green Farmstead Partner Program

In June, CSIF hosted a Green Farmstead Partner Program workshop at Frazier Nursery near Vinton. Speakers at the event discussed windbreak design, species selection and cost-share programs available to farmers. Information about modern livestock facilities and considerations important to windbreak design for farms was also covered.

The event wrapped-up with a farmer panel discussion featuring two Iowa farmers who planted trees on their cattle farms. The other panelist, John Frazier, co-owner of Frazier Nursery, addressed how a properly designed windbreak can dissipate odors, enhance farm aesthetics, control snow deposition and improve neighbor relations.

To help farmers with their own farmstead windbreaks, the Coalition has launched an interactive blog. Farm families can access the Green Farmstead Partner program blog at <http://greenfarmstead.blogspot.com>.





Aquaculture Conference

The Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers hosted its second Iowa Aquaculture Conference in Ames during the month of November to provide information about Iowa's newest livestock industry. The event attracted more than 250 people who were interested in raising fish and shrimp. Topics included opportunities in aquaculture, the role of cooperatives, rules and regulations for fish farms, marketing, fish health and a farmer panel shared the opportunities and challenges they faced when entering into fish and shrimp farming.

To view the presentations from the conference, visit www.supportfarmers.com/programs/aquaculture-conference-2016



Manure: Your Fertilizer Source Workshop

The Coalition hosted a second workshop in November to help livestock farmers unlock the potential nutrient value of their manure. Prior to the event, the CSIF staff recognized more and more farmers looking at ways to utilize their manure as a valuable organic nutrient. This observation, paired with today's tight commodity market, was the catalyst for the "Manure: Your Fertilizer Source Workshop."

Throughout the day-long event, a dynamic group of speakers carried the theme of utilizing manure more efficiently and sustainably. Local farmers, extension specialists and members of the CSIF team contributed their insights on topics ranging from water quality, manure management plans, calculating manure value and improving neighbor relations. To learn more, visit www.supportfarmers.com/news-articles/five-tips-for-understanding-manure-management



WHO WE ARE:

The Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers (CSIF) was established in 2004 by farmers for farmers to help those that raise livestock successfully and responsibly manage changes to their livestock farms.

WHAT WE DO:

The Coalition helps farmers navigate the maze of state and federal regulations, provides a building site analysis, consults on safeguarding the environment and enhancing neighbor relations. The confidential service is free to Iowa livestock farmers.

OUR MISSION:

To advocate and help implement on-farm best management practices that assist Iowa's farm families in raising livestock responsibly and successfully.

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The Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers is funded by Iowa's farm and commodity groups including the soybean and corn checkoffs.

