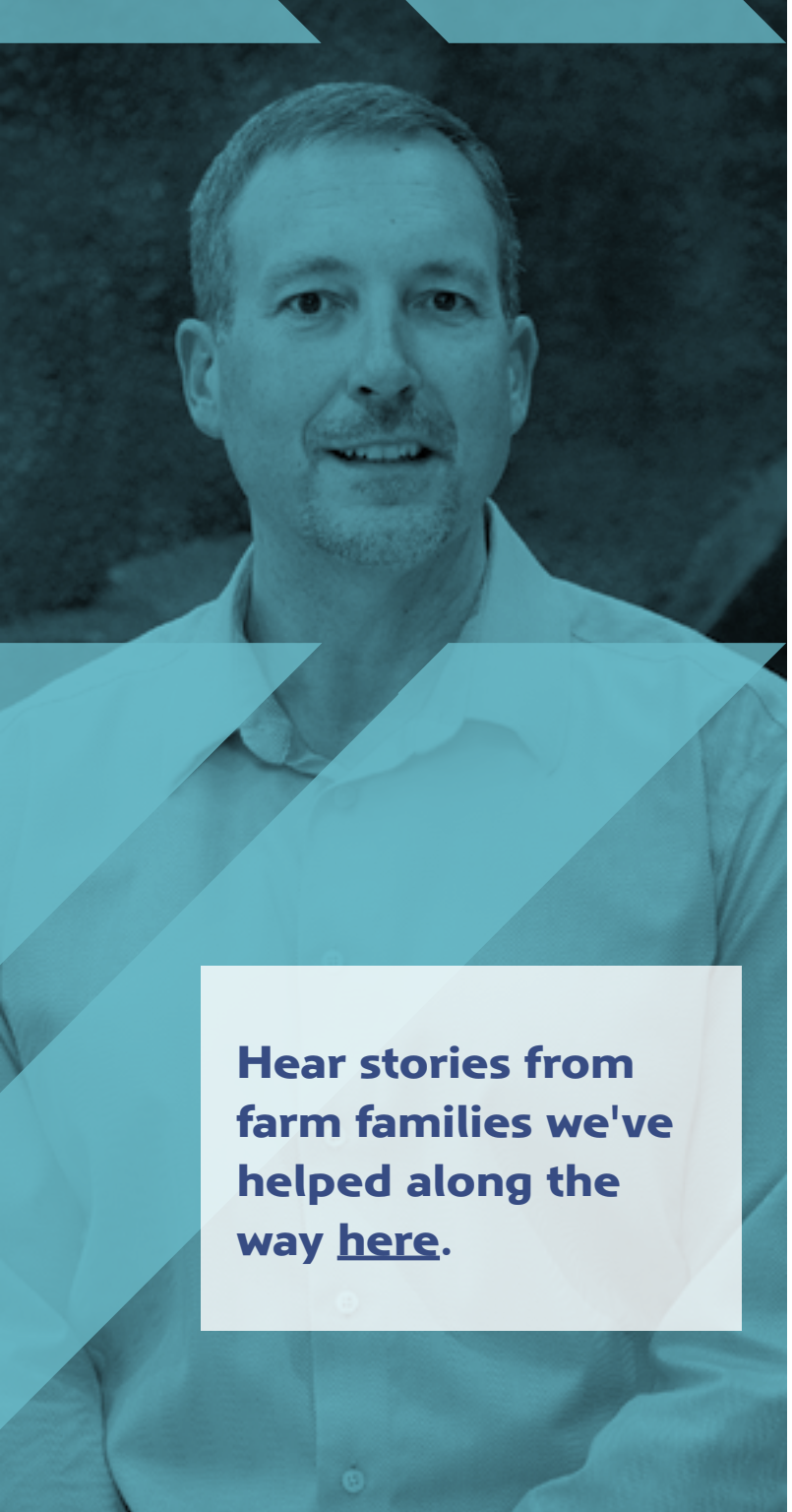
2019 ANNUAL REPORT

YOUR FARM • YOUR FAMILY • OUR FOCUS

COALITION
•TO SUPPORT IOWA'S FARMERS•



Hear stories from farm families we've helped along the way here.

Despite the ongoing challenges with markets and the weather in 2019, the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers (CSIF) celebrated their 15th anniversary helping livestock farmers grow successfully and responsibly. CSIF staff continued to see steady interest from farmers wanting to add livestock to help diversify their operations as well as increased interest in planting windbreaks on their farms through the Green Farmstead Partner Program.

The long-awaited 2019 Iowa Agricultural Economic Contribution Study, which is sponsored by the Coalition, was released highlighting that once again **livestock farming is the heartbeat of Iowa.** Livestock farming has continued to provide important support to Iowa's economy. For example, livestock farming and processing alone account for $48.5 billion in economic contribution for the state, up more than $17 billion from 2012.

The CSIF team responded to nearly **700 calls** and made more than **120 free and confidential farm visits** during the year to assist Iowa's farm families. The calls came from a variety of sources, from new and beginning farmers to existing and well-established farmers, all interested in adding livestock to the farm. Since 2004, **we have helped 4,550 livestock and poultry farm families** successfully and responsibly grow their farms.

We saw continued, but cautious, growth on livestock and poultry farms throughout the year as farmers looked for new opportunities to grow or maintain their family farm or to bring family members into the business. Many farmers also wanted CSIF staff to visit their farm and confirm they were in compliance with local, state and federal rules and regulations

Our mission of **helping Iowa's farm families grow successfully and responsibly** is still as important to the state today as it was 15 years ago. Our pre-emptive approach of helping farmers start raising livestock or grow their existing farms has proven to be successful — and in many cases — essential to reaching the farm family's goals.

We are grateful for the support of our founding organizations and partners and look forward to a successful 2020.

Sincerely,

Brian Waddingham

Brian Waddingham
Executive Director

15TH ANNIVERSARY

2019 was a milestone for CSIF, marking 15 years of helping more than 4,550 Iowa livestock farm families successfully and responsibly grow their farms — and their communities. Over the years, the Coalition has assisted an array of livestock farmers ranging from cattle, dairy and hogs to turkey and even fish and shrimp.

Livestock farming and processing account for $48.5 billion in economic contribution for the state, up from $31.6 billion in 2012 — that's an increase of $17 billion in just five years. In order to continue this trend, **livestock farmers need an opportunity to prosper.** CSIF believes our pre-emptive approach of helping farmers well in advance of breaking ground on a new livestock barn or feedlot is important to help Iowa's overall economy grow.

See a video highlighting the accomplishments of the last decade and a half here.

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IOWA AGRICULTURE **ECONOMIC IMPACT**

According to a new study commissioned by CSIF, Iowa's 86,104 family farms continue to be a driver of Iowa's economy, contributing 10% more in total sales to the state economy than in 2012, the last time the Census of Agriculture was completed. Livestock farming and related industries account for $15.8 billion in value-added contributions for the state. They also account for nearly 186,000 jobs across Iowa, up from 123,000 jobs in 2012.

Agriculture has an overwhelming, positive impact on the state of Iowa. See the 2019 Agriculture Economic Impact Study here to learn more about the power of agriculture in Iowa.

IOWA AG INTEL

2012	2019
$31.6 BILLION	$48.5 BILLION
123K JOBS	186K JOBS

GREEN FARMSTEAD PARTNER PROGRAM CELEBRATES 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

More than **70,000 trees** have been planted under CSIF's Green Farmstead Partner Program since 2009, when the Coalition joined forces with **Trees Forever** and the **Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association** to encourage farmers to plant windbreaks near their livestock facilities.

From refurbishing an old grove to planting a new windbreak, the program enlists the aid of 26 nursery professionals across the state trained to work with livestock facilities. We also launched an interactive map to make it easier than ever to connect with the nursery professionals who work in your county.

See the benefits of planting trees on livestock farms here.

LIVESTOCK OPEN HOUSES

CSIF-sponsored open houses held in 2019 at new livestock and poultry farms provided more than 750 people with a chance to see the benefits of modern livestock buildings.

Open houses are a fantastic way to showcase the positive impact livestock makes on a community while helping to put a face on farming. They also highlight how modern livestock buildings enhance animal care and safeguard the environment.

Farm families offer tours of the new facility, explain how livestock is raised and demonstrate the latest technology used in livestock production to area farmers, neighbors and friends. **It's a great opportunity for community members to learn more about the benefits of livestock and get their questions answered right from the farmer.**

THE WERGIN GOOD FARM NEIGHBOR AWARD

The Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award, made possible through the financial support of CSIF, recognizes Iowa livestock farmers who take pride in doing things right. This includes caring for the environment and their livestock and being good neighbors. It is named in memory of Gary Wergin, a long-time WHO Radio farm broadcaster who helped create the award. To date, 147 farm families have been presented with the prestigious Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award.

Click here for more information or to nominate your neighbor.

2019 WINNERS

Rick and Beth Oshel, *Clarke County*
Colleen Anderson, *Clay County*
Kelly and Christy Cunningham, *Cass County*
Robb and Jennifer Ewoldt, *Scott County*
Ferguson Cattle Company, *Pocahontas County*
Darryl and Alyda Haack, *O'Brien County*

Pictured: Ewoldt family, *Scott County*
Photo credit: Joseph L. Murphy/Iowa Soybean Association

FARMING FOR THE FUTURE CONFERENCE

CSIF's popular **Farming for the Future Conference: Calving Under Roof Opportunities** was held the end of January and was attended by a **record 275 farmers.**

The Conference featured a dynamic line-up of speakers who provided new and beginning livestock farmers an opportunity to hear about the economics of calving under roof, outline strategies to reduce feed costs, discuss cattle health considerations and receive a rules and regulations update. Livestock farmers who missed the conference can view the segments via video. Each segment includes experts who can help Iowa's livestock and poultry farmers manage changes to their farms.

View the presentations here.

AQUACULTURE CONFERENCE

CSIF hosted its fourth **Iowa Aquaculture Conference** in Ames in March to provide information about Iowa's newest livestock industry. The event attracted **more than 150 people** who were interested in raising fish and shrimp. Topics included opportunities in aquaculture, rules and regulations for fish farms, marketing, best management practices and an in-depth discussion about the opportunities and challenges farmers face when entering into fish and shrimp farming.

View presentations from the conference here.

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

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