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Central Iowa Sustainable Agriculture Tour

Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture

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Central Iowa Sustainable Agriculture Tour

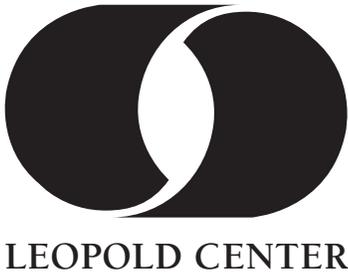
Abstract

This guide developed by the Leopold Center provides information about places to visit on or near the Iowa State University campus in Ames that are related to sustainable agriculture. Contact information is provided for each entry for users to arrange their own visit.

Disciplines

Agriculture

Central Iowa Sustainable Agriculture Tour



Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture

One mission of the Leopold Center is to assist in developing alternative practices. With this sustainable agriculture tour, we hope to give you insight into some of the programs that the Leopold Center has been proud to be a part of. As a funder of research, education and demonstration projects, the Leopold Center does not operate a farm or have a demonstration site to visit, however, we can point you to our partners and units at Iowa State University whom you might like to contact.



ISU Research Farms

Iowa has the perfect balance of soil, geographic region, weather and rainfall to make it a great place for farming. Iowa State University Research Farms have a rich history dating back to the 1860s. More than 130 faculty members use the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences' farms for teaching, research and extension, and more than 2,000 students get a hands-on education at the ISU farms each year. Research trials supported by the Leopold Center also are conducted on these farms each year.

Contact: Mark Honeyman, 515-294-4621, honeyman@iastate.edu



Bear Creek National Restoration Demonstration Watershed

Bear Creek might be one of the Leopold Center's most prized projects. The program was started 20 years ago with cooperation between private landowners in the Bear Creek Watershed in Story County and Iowa State University researchers. On the edge of crop fields along Bear Creek you will find riparian buffers, which are rows of trees, prairie grasses, and shrubs planted along the streambank to prevent nutrients and sediment from entering the water. There are now nearly 10 miles of buffer associated with the project. Since all work has been done on private property, you must make prior arrangements to visit these sites and be accompanied by ISU personnel.

Contact: Tom Isenhardt, 515-294-8056, isenhardt@iastate.edu
www.buffer.forestry.iastate.edu



Iowa Learning Farms

Initiated in 2005, the Iowa Learning Farms are building a Culture of Conservation. They promote ways to get lowans involved in keeping our natural resources healthy. Part of educating the public is the Conservation Station, a mobile learning center that educates audiences of all ages on different conservation aspects. The Conservation Station has a rainfall simulator and learning modules that cover topics such as soil, water and wetlands. The Conservation Station travels the state during the spring, summer and fall. Group visits can be arranged to see the Conservation Station on campus when it is available. Numerous resources, including videos and thought pieces, are available on the ILF website.

Contact: Carol Brown, 515-294-8912, cbrown1@iastate.edu
www.extension.iastate.edu/ilf



Student Organic Farm

The Student Organic Farm is a club comprised of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and Ames community members interested in growing organic vegetables, fruits and flowers. The farm is located at the ISU Horticulture Research Station and includes plots where people can tend their own gardens. The farm also sells produce through a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) and to ISU for the Farm-to-ISU program.

Check website for current student officers:
<http://isustudentorganicfarm.weebly.com/index.html>



Hoop Barns

Iowa State University has been a leader in studying the use of hoop barns for agriculture. Hoop barns are in use at the ISU Dairy Farm to house heifers and dry cows, hay and equipment; at the Compost Facility to keep compost windrows dry; and at the ISU Lauren Christian Swine Breeding Farm near Madrid to house gestating sows.

Contact: Tim Goode, 641-751-0280, trgoode@iastate.edu



ISU Dining

Iowa State University has a program called Farm-to-ISU that provides marketing opportunities for local Iowa farmers. It also provides students, staff and faculty members of Iowa State University with farm-fresh food. The main goal is to connect Iowa State University to Iowa communities through food.

Contact: Courtney Long, 515-294-2892, farm2isu@iastate.edu
www.dining.iastate.edu/farm/



Horticulture Research Station

The Horticulture Research Station is 235 acres of vegetable, fruit, orchards, aquaculture ponds, vineyards, turfgrass and ornamentals, and is located just 4 miles north of Ames. Faculty members conduct unique research with horticulture crops as well as fish, reptiles and birds on site. The wide variety of research includes fruit and vegetable studies, sustainable ornamental plant trials, fish growth studies, turtle reproduction, and prairie restoration practices.*

Contact: Nick Howell, 515-232-4786, nhowell@iastate.edu

*The Horticulture Research Station charges \$250 for charter bus tours and it's important for groups to call at least 2 weeks in advance. If someone wants to visit on their own, it is important to also call in advance to discuss where it is safe and appropriate for them to go when they are here.



BioCentury Research Farm/Bioprocessing Facility

Completed in late 2009, the BioCentury Research Farm (BCRF) is the first integrated research and demonstration farm in the United States dedicated to biomass production and processing. It is located 5 miles west of Ames near the Iowa State Ag Engineering/Agronomy Research Farm. The BCRF offers opportunities for medium pilot-scale research in biomass feedstock production, harvest, transport, storage, preparation, biorefinery processing, and laboratory testing. Capabilities of note include: feedstock demonstration plots, biomass harvesting and transportation equipment, dry biomass feedstock storage, biomass chemical pretreatment, fast pyrolysis, thermal gasification and fermentation and distillation (75 to 1,000 liters).

Contact: Larry Johnson, 515-294-4365, ljohnson@iastate.edu



Dairy Farm/Compost Facility

The Dairy Farm opened south of campus in 2007. The farm is used for dairy breeding research and nutritional and physiological aspects of dairy cattle. Many of the dairy cattle at the farm are used in classes for dairy science, animal science and veterinary students. The ISU Compost Facility is next to the dairy farm. The facility is designed to handle more than 10,000 tons of organic waste annually. Most of the organic waste comes directly from the dairy farm and some comes from campus, including dining services.

Dairy contact: Mary Healey, 515-296-4219, mhhealey@iastate.edu
Compost contact: Steve Jonas 515-450-0581,
sjonas23@iastate.edu



Historic Horse Barns

Iowa State's horse barns, built in the 1920s, are located on campus and house registered Paints, Thoroughbred and Quarter Horses. The herd consists of 40 horses including several stallions and a band of mares.

Contact: Codi Burris, 515-294-5372, cburris@iastate.edu



Animal Science Teaching Farm

The Animal Science teaching farms are used primarily for learning. The farms are for students to get hands-on experience with livestock including beef cattle, sheep and swine.

Contact: Marshall Ruble, 515-460-2384, mruble@iastate.edu



Center for Crops Utilization

Located in the Food Science building, the Center's goal is to add value to Midwest crops, develop biorenewables, apply biotechnology to increase value and transfer technology to the private sector.

Contact: Andy Suby, manager, 515-296-6300, asuby@iastate.edu



ISU Live Green Initiative

Live Green! is a campus-wide initiative that encourages all faculty, students and staff to individually and collectively assist in Iowa State University's journey toward being a leader in sustainability. The initiative was started in 2008 by President Geoffroy and includes large-scale projects such as green building, composting food waste and green custodial practices, as well as smaller-scale projects such as residence hall recycling and individual "greening" efforts such as waste and energy demand reduction.

Contact: Merry Rankin, 515-294-5052, mrankin@iastate.edu,
www.livegreen.iastate.edu

Other Ames area possibilities

Practical Farmers of Iowa

PFI has been around since 1985 and specializes in farmer-to-farmer networking. They do that through various events such as field days, farminars and an annual conference. Their mission is to research, develop and promote profitable, ecologically sound and community-enhancing approaches to agriculture.

Contact: Tamsyn Jones, tamsyn@practicalfarmers.org,
www.practicalfarmers.org

