



# 2019 Impact Report



We really liked what [SILT was] doing with helping young farmers get started. We decided that's what we want to do — to help someone get started, and sustainably — that would be a heck of a thing to do. I hope they can make a living off of it, and they're going to enjoy the outdoors. The opportunity for someone is really pretty darned nice. And we can enjoy watching them I guess, while we're here, watching them and seeing what they're going to do with it.

**FARMER AND BUSINESSMAN RON HUMPAL,  
WHO WITH HIS WIFE KARLENE, DONATED  
164 ACRES IN 2019**



# SILT'S Mission

**To permanently  
protect Iowa land  
to grow healthy  
table food.**

# SILT'S Vision

**An Iowa sustained  
by wholesome food  
grown on community-  
based farms.**







**SILT farms are  
statewide!**

# Making it Happen

## **PUBLIC OUTREACH**

Iowa's soils never forgot how to grow food, but Iowa's people did. We remind people of Iowa's true agricultural history, when farms averaged 34 crops and the first thing a farmer planted was an orchard. We inspire them to help diversify our economy and our environment once again with nature-friendly market farms. We take land that's been treated like a commodity to make a few wealthy and turn it into a common good that can make us all healthy.

## **LANDOWNER OUTREACH**

Iowa landowners live all over the world. We find them through word-of-mouth, farm conferences and social media. We consult with them about what table food their land wants to grow. We educate them about SILT and how we can be an important tool in their estate planning toolbox. But our window of opportunity is closing. We're in the midst of a massive inter-generational transfer of land and we must reach these landowners, wherever they are, before it's too late.

## **FARM PROTECTION**

Once landowners contact us, we work with them to make sure SILT is a good fit. Do they want to protect their farm as working land for good? Do they welcome a vision of a diversified ecosystem of vegetables, fruits, nuts and pastured livestock? Do they want to leave a legacy of affordable land and healthy soil?

Then we discuss the many ways to protect their land and what works best for them.

We encourage this back-and-forth for as long as it takes, because we want everyone happy with the final decision.



# 2019 | by the numbers

187,000

People Fed on SILT  
Acres if They Were  
Farmed at Full Capacity

935

Acres Permanently  
Protected on 9 Farms  
in 5 Years

845

Guests Attended SILT  
Events in 2019

290%

Increase of SILT's  
Facebook Reach

27

Land Walks with  
Farm Specialist Joe  
Klingelhutz

25%

Increase in Donations

24

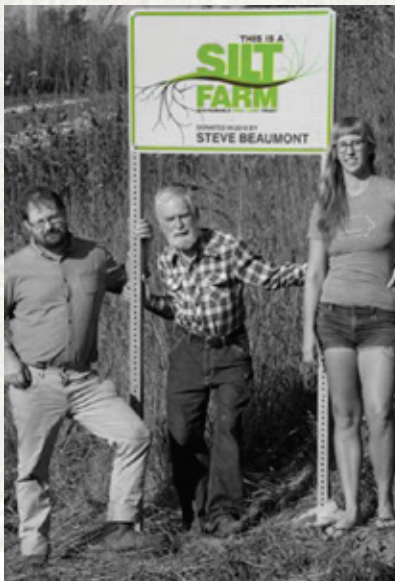
Presentations  
and Exhibits at  
Conferences

5

Conversations with  
Presidential Candidates  
(3 on SILT Farms)  
About our Broken Food  
system

We were able to hit the  
ground running with little or no  
debt. We would not be able to  
do any of this without SILT.

**WILL LORENTZEN**

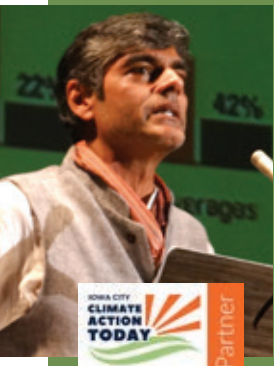


This kind of opportunity for the  
average young farmer who's starting  
out, doesn't have wealth, doesn't  
have a nest egg, this is an ideal  
opportunity.

**ADRIAN WHITE**

**FARMERS, JUPITER RIDGE FARM  
LOCATED ON LAND DONATED TO SILT  
BY STEVE BEAUMONT, GARBER IOWA**

## SILT FIRSTS!



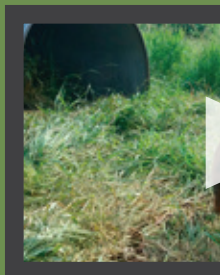
### SPONSORED SPEAKER

SILT hosted international  
activist and author Raj  
Patel to show rough cuts  
of his film, produced in  
part in Iowa, who spoke  
on the issues of hunger,  
inequality and climate to  
a full house at The Englert  
Theatre in Iowa City.



### GROWING GOOD AWARD

SILT presented to its  
closest partner, Practical  
Farmers of Iowa, at SILT's  
5th Anniversary Dinner  
attended by a record 150  
guests. We also shared  
ticket proceeds with  
partners who promoted  
the dinner, a first in Iowa  
as far as we know.



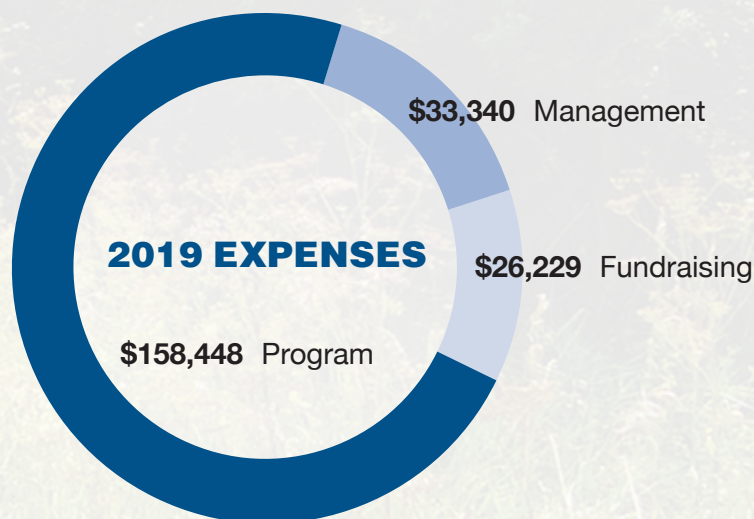
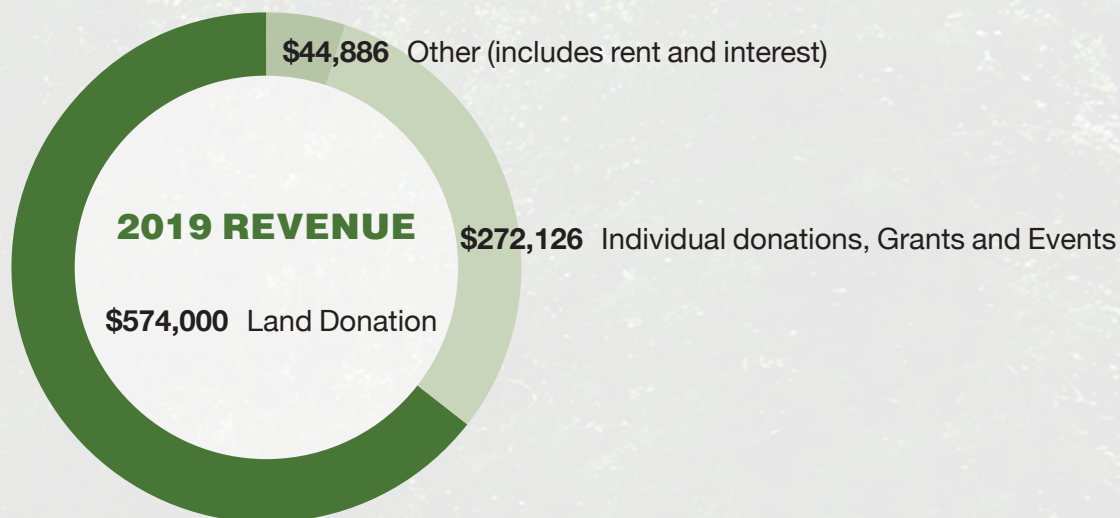


164

Acres Donated in 2019

129%

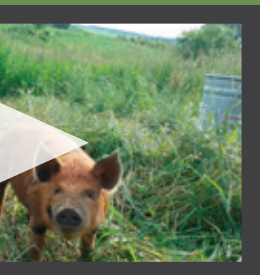
Increase of Visitors to  
**silt.org** – Check it Out!



### Help decide SILT's priorities!

With few staff and a big state, we have to make tough choices about how to expand SILT's support. Should we keep investing in a Summer of Veggies drawing? Host national food and farm speakers around the state? Organize a statewide gala every few years but focus on local SILTFests in between?

**Let us know what you think! [info@silt.org](mailto:info@silt.org)  
319.480.4241.**



### GREAT VIDEOS

SILT debuted its first series of videos highlighting SILT farmers and landowners who are making a permanent difference on Iowa's landscape. Type in Sustainable Iowa on YouTube to view uplifting stories from farmers, landowners and leaders!



### SUMMER OF VEGGIES DRAWING

Marlee Rutledge, left, won SILT's Summer of Fresh Veggies drawing. The contest connected 200 new people to SILT and enlisted more than a dozen farmers and other volunteers to spread the word. Thank you, Clif Bar Family Foundation for helping with this outreach effort!

# 2019 SILT Supporters



(Members have included SILT in their estate planning.)

Katharine Butler, Trustee,  
Donald C. Brace  
Foundation  
Suzan Erem and  
Paul Durrenberger  
Mark Goldschmidt and  
Michele Zack  
Elizabeth Kirchner  
Karen Kubby  
Muriel Strand

Please notify us if you've  
planned a legacy gift to SILT.

## \$25,000 Plus

Donald C. Brace Foundation  
Henning Sisters Ltd.  
Partnership  
Natural Resources  
Conservation Service  
(NRCS)

## \$10,000 – \$24,999

Impact Assets  
Christian Mach  
Mikol Sesker  
Sustainable Agriculture  
Research and Education  
(SARE)

## \$5,000 – \$9,999

Elizabeth Kirchner  
The Concept Works

## \$2,500 – \$4,999

Clif Bar Family Foundation  
Suzan Erem and  
Paul Durrenberger  
Theo Ferguson  
Judd and Ericka Lawler  
Jean Lloyd Jones  
Pugh Hagan Prahm  
Cynthia Reed and Steve Lamer  
Stuart Valentine

## \$1,000 – \$2,499

Benson and Hepker Design  
Kathy Dice and Tom Wahl  
Robert Ferguson  
Cornelia and Jan Flora  
Blair Frank and Mary Kirkpatrick  
Jean Greco  
Monica Hadley  
HBK Engineering, LLC  
Lyle and Sue Luzum  
The Maurice Foundation  
Margaret and Andrew Nelson  
New Pioneer Co-op  
Sheila and Kenneth Ross  
United Natural Foods, Inc. (UNFI)  
Michele Zach and Mark  
Goldschmidt in memory of  
Walter Goldschmidt

## \$500 – \$999

Arllys and Lorado Adelman  
Daryl and Norma Bosma  
Lorna and Doug Caulkins  
Vernon Delpesce  
Pete Espinosa  
Robert and Julie Fischer  
Lora Fraracci  
Liz Garst  
Grinnell College  
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Dawn and Paul Harbor  
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Brenda Harrigan and Eric Johnson  
Michael Klimesh  
Lucie Laurian  
MacArthur Foundation  
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Eddie and Sharilyn Mauro  
MidWestOne Bank  
James and Gitam Ryan  
Leslie and Kevin Sand  
John Steinberg  
Dave Swenson  
Joanne and Tom Terrien  
Carolyn Van Meter

## \$100 – \$499

Sean Adams-Hiett  
Bill Ahren  
Jon Andelson and Karin Stein  
Jim and Sara Anderson  
Sandy Andrews  
Margaret Bailey and Dan Miller  
David Bangert and Esther Tweedy

Angela Barnett  
Renate and Neil Bernstein  
Lynn Bielby and Alan Olson  
Mark Bimson  
Deborah Blaedel  
Jordan Bles,  
Iowa Environmental Council  
Debora Blume and Eric Woolson  
Nancy and Rob Bolson  
Chris and Alan Boone  
Clare Boulanger  
Wendy Brown  
Brian and Lisa Bullerman  
Christopher Carman  
Tom Carsner  
Burt Chojnowski  
Michael Christi  
Maeve Clark  
Community Foundation of  
Greater Des Moines  
John and Teresa Condon  
Janis Corderman  
Stephen and Brigitte Cornelius  
Alan Costell  
Chris and Eryn Cronbaugh  
Craig and Ellen Cutting  
Decorah Bank and Trust  
Vedco, Inc.  
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Susan Frye  
John Gardner  
Marlis Gilbert  
Kate Gleeson  
Global Reach Internet Productions  
Linda and David Gobberdiel  
Susan and Dale Goodman  
Kimberly Graham  
Greg Greiner and Barbara Lacina  
Jeff Hall  
Lou Ann and John Hall  
Stephen Harper  
MJ Hatfield  
Patricia Hayek  
Jan Hise  
Erin Holland  
Deb and Darrell Hughes  
Stephanie Hughes  
John and Ellen Ikerd  
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Kitty and Jerold Jacobson

Paul and Pat Johnson  
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Jack Knight  
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Diane Krell  
Tim Kruse and  
Carol Spaulding Kruse  
Tyler and Jen Kruse  
Rob Krysh  
Thomas and Diana Krystofiak  
Latrice Lacey  
Char Lange  
Mark Langgin  
Reginald and Jerilyn Laursen  
Aaron and Nicole Lehman  
Matt Liebman and Laura Merrick  
Danielle Lin  
Gina McAndrews  
Casey McBride and Marcia Cook  
Julia McGuire  
Steve and Michaela McLain  
Stephen McLaughlin  
Duncan and Karen McLean  
Margaret McQuown  
Mary Ellen Miller  
Steffen Mirsky  
Roxane Mitten  
Pattie and George Naylor  
Christopher Neubert  
Niman Ranch  
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Denise O'Brien and Larry Harris  
Kelli O'Brien  
Melissa O'Rourke  
George and Sharon Oamek  
Julie and Bill Ohde  
Dave Osterberg  
Mary Palmberg  
Mick and Melissa Payne  
Toba Pearl  
Deborah and Brian Petersen  
Carl Peterson  
Alex Porteshawver  
Linda Powell  
Chrystal Prather-Wedderburn  
Guowei Qi  
Mark Rasmussen  
RAYGUN



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 Carol Rogers  
 Ken and Susan Roseboro  
 Diane Rosenberg  
 Uwe Rudolf  
 Eric and Denyce Rusch  
 Will Schmitt  
 Deb Schoelerman and  
 Paul Pomrehn  
 Barbara and Doug Schroeder  
 Jane Shey  
 Jillian Shoemaker  
 Blake Shultice  
 Brenden Sison  
 Harn Soper  
 David Stern  
 Wendy and Jim Steven  
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 Katherine Stuelke  
 Marlene Sullivan  
 Mary Swander  
 James Torner  
 Judith Trepka  
 Laura Twing  
 Andrea Vaage  
 Alaka Wali  
 Lori and Glen Waters  
 Stephanie Weisenbach  
 Paul Willis  
 Tom and Sue Wind  
 John Wittrig  
 Jim Wolfe and Janis Rockabrand  
 Laurel Womeldorf  
 Angela and Joe Woodhouse  
 Merlin Yockstick  
 Christian Ziolniski  
 Lee Zook and Jan Heikes

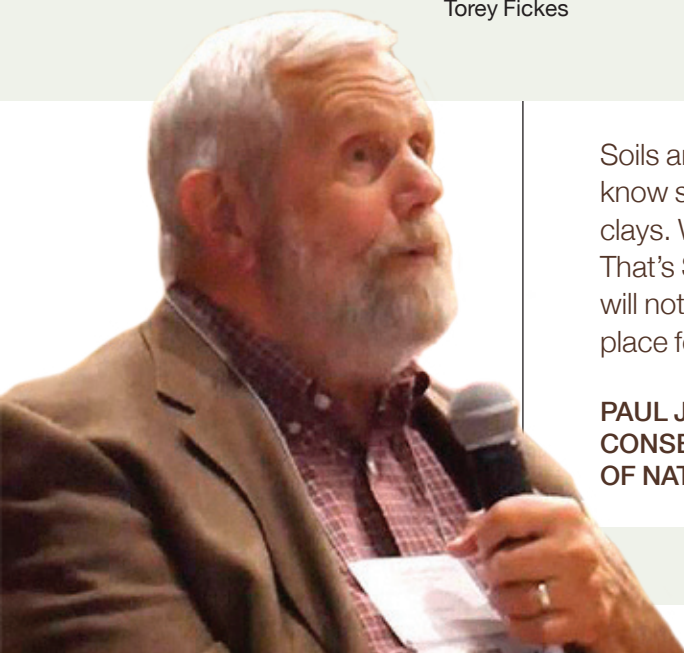
#### Under \$100

Ian Abrams  
 Kim and Steve Andersen  
 Bruce Bachmann and  
 Nancy Sauerman  
 Barbara Bailey  
 Joel Barnum  
 Emma Barnum  
 Cassidy Bell  
 Paula Black  
 Richard Blazek  
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 Kahle Boutte  
 Valerie Bowman  
 Emily and Dan Bowser  
 Carolyn Buckingham  
 Nancy and Robert Cadmus  
 Toby Cain  
 Jan Campbell  
 Mike Carberry  
 Teresa Carbrey  
 Sean Carter  
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 Cathy Cole  
 Chuck Connerly  
 Jeanette Corley  
 Julie Cornelisse  
 Christine Curry  
 Mary Damm  
 Roger Davidson  
 Wendi Dixon  
 Brian Dougherty  
 Margaret Dwyer and Willy Koppel  
 Lori Enloe  
 Jennie Erwin  
 Bruce Espe  
 Ed Fallon  
 Anya Fetcher  
 Torey Fickes

Michael Flaum  
 Carl Frederick  
 Sadie Gannett  
 Alison Gaynor  
 Lynette Gibson  
 Terri Glassett  
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 Alexandra Gruskos  
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 Jack Hatch  
 Mike Henning  
 Suzanne Herzog  
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 Nicholas Hobbs  
 Kay Irelan and Bob Hardy  
 Bill Jahnke  
 Patti and Jerry Johnson  
 Becky Johnson  
 Katherine Kaldenberg  
 Michelle Kenyon Brown  
 Gabrielle Kouri  
 Jon Krieg  
 Mary Larew  
 Joanna Lawson  
 David Leshtz  
 Carolyn Levine  
 Linda Long  
 Deseyre Magee  
 Michael Maher  
 CJ Matthews  
 George McCrory  
 Graham McGaffin  
 Teresa McMahon  
 Kate Mendenhall  
 Fred Meyer  
 Hellen Miller and Brooke Axiotix  
 Craig Mosher  
 Claire Muerdter  
 Dale and Sonya Nimrod

John Norwood  
 Bernard Ofstehage  
 Greg Padget  
 Kendrew Panyanouvong  
 Penny Perkins  
 Melissa Perrill  
 Sarah Peters  
 Paul Rasch  
 Jim and Barbara Redmond  
 Rosemary and Mike Roelf  
 Becky Ross  
 John and Beth Rott  
 Alice Runde  
 Elizabeth Ryan  
 Britta Sandberg  
 Sheila Schofer  
 Steve and Belinda Siglin  
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 Heather Simmons  
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 Valerie Vetter  
 Laura Wald-Semken  
 Kenneth Walton  
 Julia Wasson  
 Chris Weckmann  
 Wetherill Winder  
 Steve Wittrig  
 Daryl Woodson  
 Sally and Chris Worley  
 Susan Young  
 Christi and Brad Young

**Any inaccuracies? We're new  
 at this, so please let us know!  
 Write to [info@silt.org](mailto:info@silt.org) or call  
 Suzan at (319) 480-4241.**



Soils are made up of three different parts. Sands, silts and clays. We all know sands can't do much on their own. If you garden, you don't want just clays. What you want is that thing in the middle that binds us all together. That's SILT. SILT will be the bridge that keeps us going. Without SILT we will not have healthy agriculture. We will not be able to grow our food and a place for wild things.

**PAUL JOHNSON, RETIRED, FORMER CHIEF OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES  
 CONSERVATION SERVICE, USDA, FORMER CHIEF OF IOWA DEPARTMENT  
 OF NATURAL RESOURCES, FORMER LEGISLATOR**

## SILT PARTNERS



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

DONALD C. BRACE  
FOUNDATION

RAYGUN

Driftless Hills Farm

Grinnell College



## THANK YOU TO THESE PARTNERS FOR PROMOTING SILT EVENTS!

Alexander Farm  
Campbell's Nutrition  
City of Iowa City Sustainability Office  
Centered Wealth Financial Services  
CLAS Office of Sustainability and the Environment  
Decorah Bank and Trust  
Dogpatch Urban Garden  
Driftless Hills Farm  
Eat Greater Des Moines  
Echollective CSA  
Grinnell Heritage Farm  
Humble Hands Harvest  
Iowa Alliance for Responsible Agriculture  
Iowa City Book Festival  
Iowa Environmental Council  
Iowa Farmers Union  
Joia Food Farm  
Jupiter Ridge Farm  
Kate Mendenhall  
Lutheran Services of Iowa  
Luna Valley Farm  
Oneota Food Co-op  
Practical Farmers of Iowa  
Prairie Lights Bookstore  
Red Fern Farm  
Trowel and Error Farm  
Turkey River Farm  
University of Iowa Environmental Council  
University of Iowa Sustainable Water Development  
Vedco  
Veggie Thumper  
Wheatsfield Co-op

**We didn't mean to miss anyone! Let us know if your Co-op, farm or company belongs on this list and we'll credit you in our next annual report. [info@silt.org](mailto:info@silt.org)**

## SILT 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stuart Valentine, President, Fairfield  
Kathy Dice, Treasurer, Wapello  
Cindy Reed, Secretary, Solon  
Ian Abrams, Iowa City  
Paul Durrenberger, West Branch  
Lora Fraracci, Des Moines  
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Gina McAndrews, Ames  
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## 2019 COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Emilie Walsh  
Cheryl Fraracci  
Sandy Andrews  
Lucie Laurian  
Jeff Hall  
Kitty Jacobson

## YOUR SILT STAFF\*

Suzan Erem, Executive Director  
Keri Jacobson, Executive Assistant  
Joe Klingelutz, Farm Specialist  
Genie Maybanks, Corporate Partner Specialist  
The Concept Works Marketing Team  
Global Reach Social Media Team  
\*Vedco was our Development Team in 2019. Genie Maybanks joined SILT on staff in February 2020.



**SILT**  
PO Box 306  
101 Main St.  
West Branch, IA 52358  
319.800.8108  
[info@silt.org](mailto:info@silt.org)  
[silt.org](http://silt.org)  
[@sustainableiowa](mailto:@sustainableiowa)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**SILT Fest**

Due to the coronavirus, SILT has suspended all in-person gatherings through April. **Check [silt.org](http://silt.org) for more updates on these events.**

Fairfield – June Ames – July Decorah – August

SILT has moved online with live chats on Facebook (recordings posted on [silt.org](http://silt.org)). **Check out the new website and be sure you're on our email list to get the latest information!**

**Showcase Days** – Farm tours, tax, legal and appraisal info for landowners considering protecting their land for sustainable food farming for generations to come.

- Host Susan Frye, Maysville – June 26
- Host Carmen Black, Solon – September 2

**DETAILS AT SILT.ORG**

**SILT Work Continues!**  
Farm Specialist Joe Klingelutz is available to walk rural properties with landowners and provide a written report on what your land wants to grow. This service free with support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Contact him at [joe@silt.org](mailto:joe@silt.org).