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.
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.

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.

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.
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 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 VEGETABLES 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!

164
Acres Donated in 2019

129%
Increase of Visitors to silt.org – Check it Out!

2019 REVENUE
$574,000 Land Donation
$272,126 Individual donations, Grants and Events
$44,886 Other (includes rent and interest)

2019 EXPENSES
$158,448 Program
$33,340 Management
$26,229 Fundraising
$44,886 Other (includes rent and interest)
**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**

Cliff 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

Angela Barnett

Renate and Neil Bernstein

Lynn Bleiby and Alan Olson

Mark Bimson

Deborah Blaedel

Jordan Bles, Iowa Environmental Council

Debora Blume and Eric Woolson

Nancy and Rob Bolson

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Burt Chojnowski

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Global Reach Internet Productions

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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

Deborah Jacobi

Kitty and Jerold Jacobson

Paul and Pat Johnson

Sheryl and Pete Johnson

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David Kimball and Anne Taylor

Sarah King

Fred Kirschenmann and Carolyn Raffensberger

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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

Chyrstal Prather-Wedderburn

Guowei Qi

Mark Rasmussen

RAYGUN

**$500 – $999**

Arllys and Lorado Adelmann

Daryl and Norma Bosma

Lorna and Doug Caulkins

Vernon Delpesce

Pete Espinosa

Robert and Julie Fischer

Lora Fraracci

Liz Garst

Grinnell College

Ross Hadley

Dawn and Paul Harbor

Karlene and Ron Humpal

Brenda Harrigan and Eric Johnson

Michael Klimesh

Lucie Laurian

MacArthur Foundation

Daniel and Ann Mansfield

Eddie and Sharilinya Mauro

MidWestOne Bank

James and Gitam Ryan

Leslie and Kevin Sand

John Steinberg

Dave Swenson

Joanne and Tom Terrien

Carolyn Van Meter

**$25,000**

(Members have included SILT in their estate planning.)

Pugh Hagan Prahm

Cynthia Reed and Steve Lamer

Stuart Valentine

**$100 – $249**

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

Jay Ferguson

Cornelia and Jan Flora

Blair Frank and Mary Kirkpatrick

Jean Greco

Monica Hadley

HBK Engineering, LLC

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Niman Ranch

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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

Chyrstal Prather-Wedderburn

Guowei Qi

Mark Rasmussen

RAYGUN
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**
UPCOMING EVENTS

**SILT Fest**
Due to the coronavirus, SILT has suspended all in-person gatherings through April. **Check 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). **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

**SILT Work Continues!**
Farm Specialist Joe Klingelhoft 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.

**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  
Jola 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  
Wheatfield 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

**SILT 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
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Cheryl Fraracci  
Sandy Andrews  
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Jeff Hall  
Kitty Jacobson

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Suzan Erem, Executive Director  
Keri Jacobson, Executive Assistant  
Joe Klingelhoft, 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  
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101 Main St.  
West Branch, IA 52358  
319.800.8108  
info@silt.org  
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