

OUR MISSION

To permanently protect Iowa land to grow healthy table food.

OUR VISION

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

2020

Impact Report

SUSTAINABLE IOWA LAND TRUST

SILT

PROTECTING LAND TO GROW HEALTHY FOOD



**TOM WAHL AND KATHY DICE,
OWNERS OF RED FERN FARM,
PROTECTED IN 2020**



Making the Best of the Worst Situation

Fear. Strife. Pain. Loss. It's all there in 2020.

But so is compassion, decency and courage. From healthcare workers to farmers, voters to marchers, invisible workers in warehouses to invisible elderly in nursing homes.

The lucky ones stayed home "Zooming" and shopping online. I was one of them. But then I'm white, college-educated, middleclass and able-bodied. I was born lucky. I was also taught that with that gift comes a responsibility to build a better world for everyone.

In the next 10 years, 400 million acres will change hands in America. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a democratic landscape that welcomes all who wish to grow food.

Iowa landowners who share their land wealth — like the ones you'll read about here — leave a legacy of diverse farms that feed our communities. They offer farming opportunities to people who otherwise could never afford it - young people, White and Black working people, immigrants. Helping the next generation get on SILT land means food security for our hungry, cleaner water and air for our state and people more connected with each other and their food for generations to come.

You came through for SILT in 2020! If you know people who belong on our list at the back of this report, please share your love for SILT with them. We're still not at full capacity, but thanks to you we weathered the pandemic. With so many demands on your dollars last year, it meant everything to us that you could donate to the long-term health of Iowa and SILT. Thank you.

It's there if you look for it. It's ours to remember. Compassion. Understanding. Generosity. At SILT, we're fortunate to have witnessed it throughout 2020. Read these stories and smile.

Suzan Erem
Executive Director

2020 BY THE NUMBERS

30,200

People Fed
(New SILT Farms at Full Capacity)

3

Farms Protected

151

Acres Protected

18

Livestream Events

30

Media Stories

3,351,000

People Reached

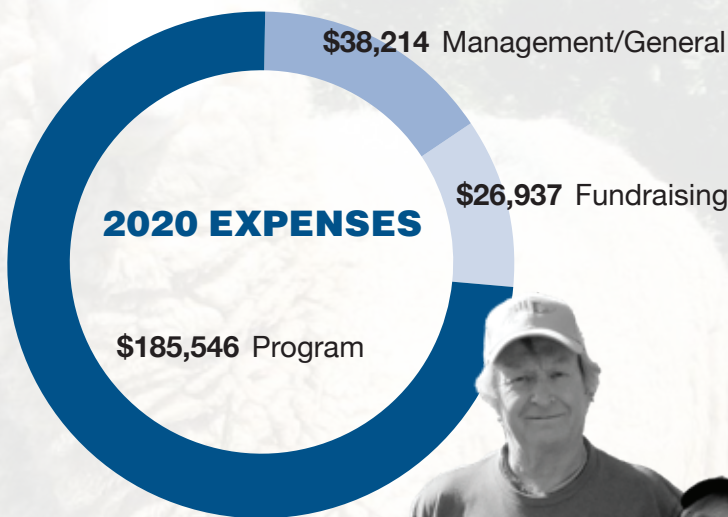
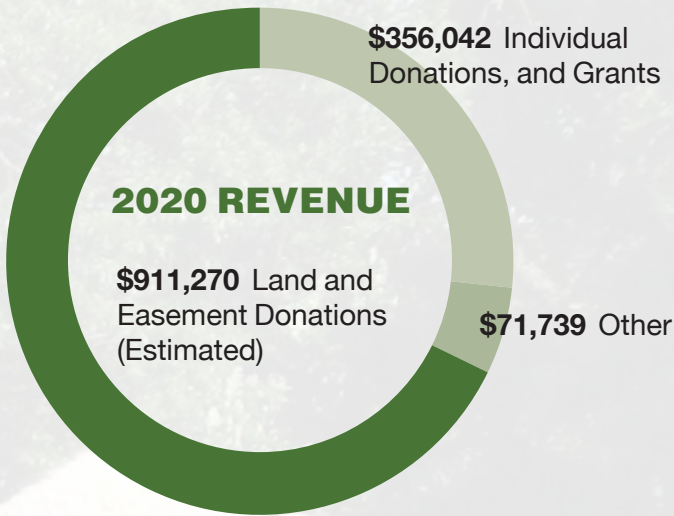
SOCIAL MEDIA GROWTH

62

Users Multiplied from Previous Year
— Facebook

85

Reactions Multiplied from Previous Year
— Facebook



SILT ESTABLISHES FARMER RELIEF FUND

In the midst of the pandemic, some SILT livestock farmers struggled to reserve space in the few and far between local meat lockers. That meant even more strain on their finances. When SILT learned of this, the board voted to forgive their rent for a year so they could get some breathing space to diversify their operation.

And so was born the Farmer Relief Fund, seeded with \$10,000 from an anonymous donor and recently augmented with \$1,400 from someone who donated their pandemic relief check to it! These funds will be used to cover a SILT farmer's rent, taxes and/or insurance as necessary when they need the time to recover from a significant event beyond their control. You can donate directly to this fund by indicating your wishes on your check or in an email to info@silt.org when you donate online.

IOWA'S FIRST PERMANENT PERENNIAL CROP FARM

SILT founders Tom Wahl and Kathy Dice donated a unique conservation easement, permanently protecting their 86-acre Red Fern Farm in Southeast Iowa as a perennial-only farm for generations to come. Their easement includes the home they built themselves, outbuildings and space for a second farmstead.

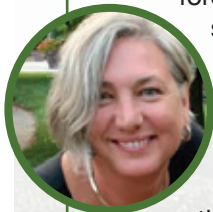
Tom and Kathy were two of the 25 people who assembled in Perry, IA in late 2014 to discuss and then vote to found SILT. Kathy served on the board until 2020 while Tom serves on the SILT Advisory Council. They have hosted SILT Showcase Days for landowners, consulted on SILT's Landowners Guide to Sustainable Food Crops, helped keep SILT's financial records in the best order a biologist knows how (as Kathy often reminded us) and brought good humor, wisdom, bags of chestnuts and the occasional bottle of wine to SILT gatherings.

We're honored to hold the easement on Red Fern Farm.

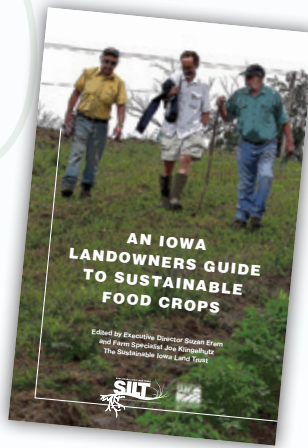
JANUARY/ FEBRUARY

Executive Director Suzan Erem addresses the Farmers, Soil and Climate Summit in Des Moines, sharing the program with sustainable food and farm rock stars like Frances Moore Lappe, Francis Thicke, Patti Naylor, Aaron Lehman and Diane Rosenberg.

Genie Maybanks hired weeks before Covid-19 strikes, quickly starts calling SILT friends to see how they're faring. She works throughout the year to line up Iowa's local food retailers and SILT farmers to support them with SILT's Free Food Drawings.



SILT publishes public notice of Land Trust Alliance Accreditation application



APRIL

SILT publishes **Iowa Landowners Guide to Sustainable Food Crops** – In print and available as an interactive site online and as a PDF for download at silt.org/cropbook.

SILT guest editorial "COVID-19 shows value of Iowa-grown food" appears in *Waterloo Courier* and *Carroll Times-Herald*.

SILT interviewed on WOI-TV Des Moines and KCRG-TV Cedar Rapids

JUNE

SILT organizes virtual landowner event at **small frye farm**, hosted by Susan Frye, partnered with Women Land and Legacy.



AUGUST

SILT launches Adopt-an-Acre, a campaign developed by MBA student volunteers from University of California, Berkeley. The campaign invites supporters to "adopt" an acre of a SILT farm heading for protection, helping cover the transaction costs for these generous donations of land and easements. The Haas Helping Hands program supported the work. UNFI matched adopted acres for each farm.

SILT signs its first farm management agreement at Iowa's first land trust agrihood – Dows Farm.

MARCH

SILT implements Covid 19 safety protocols. Launches livestreams on foraging, beekeeping, mushroom production and more.

Author and activist **Frances Moore Lappe** discusses her latest thoughts on our food farming future in a Q and A with Iowans.

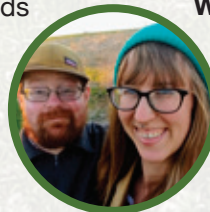


MAY

SILT runs a month of Iowa Public Radio ads applauding Iowa's food farmers for feeding us during the pandemic. Special thanks to Cornelia and Jan Flora.

JULY

Will Lorentzen and Adrian White of Jupiter Ridge Farm become SILT's first permanent farmers when they sign an innovative 20-year land lease with ownership of the house and outbuilding.



Deborah Jacobi of Dorchester wins a \$500 box of pastured meat from Driftless Hills Farm. She donates it to the Domestic Abuse Resource Center in Postville. Prize donated by members of the SILT Board of Directors.

SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER

Andrea Springmeier of Decorah wins the second drawing for \$500 and spends it at Oneota Food Co-op in Decorah. Prize donated by members of the SILT Board of Directors.



Food Tank recognizes SILT as one of 20 organizations worldwide preserving farmland for food production.

SILT Policy Committee meets for 2 hours with Land Trust Accreditation officials to complete the final round of the 2-year accreditation process.

Chipotle Foundation selects SILT for its "Aluminaries" accelerator program. Training and mentoring begins.



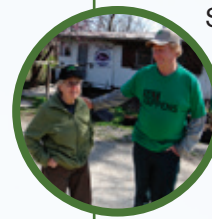
BRIAN AND SABRA FLECK PROTECT BEE HAVEN FARM

Brian and Sabra will still enjoy their 40 acres in Solon, but they've given the deed to SILT. Brian has most of the land in pollinator habitat for now to heal the soil and had already built an equipment shed and a beautiful pond with a dock. This year, Brian's adding electric, septic and well for a commercial kitchen and bathroom he's installing. His investment in infrastructure is paying off in the beginning farmers SILT referred to him — a Rwandan refugee who settled his family in Iowa City and grows vegetables from his native land and a service veteran from the Cedar Rapids area who keeps bees. With Brian's recent interest in beekeeping and good food, it's a great match!



DECEMBER

SILT Founders **Kathy Dice and Tom Wahl** donate a unique conservation easement, permanently protecting their 86-acre farm in Wapello as a perennial farm for generations to come.

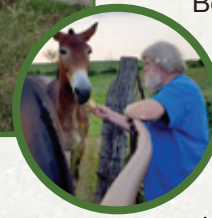


SILT's new Circle Our Cities campaign is announced in a front page Sunday feature naming SILT Executive Director Suzan Erem one of 15 People to Watch in 2021 by the *Des Moines Register*.

BOB WINCHELL, EXECUTOR, PROTECTS TC WINCHELL'S LAND IN EARLHAM

Bob honors his late wife's wishes to maintain serenity near their Quaker Meeting while providing an affordable opportunity for future farmers.

Bob stood firm in the belief that his late wife would have agreed. As SILT launched its Adopt-an-Acre campaign for the closing, young farmer Jordan Clasen reached out about purchasing the farm. When he learned we still had funds to raise for the closing, he and his wife Whitney contributed to complete the campaign.



As the ink dried on the easement, the Clasen family purchased their permanent home for Grade A Gardens, the farm they've been nurturing for 8 years, now permanently located just a 30-minute drive from Des Moines.

NOVEMBER

Danielle Nierenberg of Food Tank interviews Executive Director Suzan Erem for her podcast.



Sundog Farm in Solon illustrates how a variety of crops and livestock work in a whole farm system to help promote the *Iowa Landowners Guide to Sustainable Food Crops*.

NOVEMBER

SILT hires **Jonathan Hendricks** of Shelby to incorporate the tax benefits of permanent protection into a calculator landowners and farmers can use when considering agroforestry on their land. Supported by NRCS and Savanna Institute.



Jonathan interviewed on KXEL and KNIA radio stations.

Farm Specialist **Joe Klingelhutz** completes Land Consultations on 32 properties totaling 2,636 acres in 21 counties across Iowa.

2020 SILT SUPPORTERS



(Members have included SILT in their estate planning.)

Katharine Butler
John and Teresa Condon
Suzan Erem and Paul Durrenberger
Julie and Robert Fischer
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

Elizabeth Kirchner
Donald C. Brace Foundation

\$10,000 – \$24,999

Anonymous
Anonymous
Mikol Sesker
Rudolf Oliver Bock
UNFI Foundation

\$5,000 – \$9,999

Chipotle Foundation
John Steinberg
Suzan Erem & Paul Durrenberger

\$2,500 – \$4,999

Anonymous
Cynthia Reed and Steve Lamer
Jean Lloyd Jones
Melba White (In honor of Saren Johnson)
Stuart Valentine

\$1,000 – \$2,499

Anonymous
Arlyls and Lorado Adelman
Carol Sherman
*Cornelia and Jan Flora
Danielle Lin
Daryl and Norma Bosma
Eldon and Denise McAfee
Feldstein Family Fund
***Gina McAndrews**
HBK Engineering Impact Program
Kathy Dice and Tom Wahl
Lyle and Sue Luzum
Marilyn Van Roekel
Mark Core
Mark Goldschmidt and Michelle Zack
Monica Hadley
Robert Ferguson
The Maurice Foundation
UNFI Helping Hands Committee

\$500 – \$999

Anonymous
Bill & Julie Ohde
Brenda Horrigan & Eric Johnson
Carolyn Van Meter
Decorah Bank & Trust
Jimmy and Gitam Ryan
Joe Henry
Liz Garst
Lorna Caulkins
*Mary Kirkpatrick and Blair Frank
Meagen Kelly
New Pioneer Cooperative Society
Oneota Community Co-op
Pete Espinosa
***Smaranda Andrews**
Vernon Delpesce

\$100 – \$499

Al Klingelhutz & Francoise Gourronc
Alan Costell
Alex Porteshawver
Amy Erica Smith
*Andrea Rissing (In honor of Sal Hertz)
Andrew Noto
Ben Zachrich
Beth Hoffman
Bill Menner
*Billy Herren (In memory of Albert and Lorene Standing, Al Beck, and Ervin and Eloise Herren)
*Brianna Farber In honor of Sherry Johnson
Bruce Wittrig
C.R. Boardman

Donated in memory of my Dad, Glenn Scott, who delivered milk for Dows Dairy as a young man in the 1930's.

- LINDA LONG IN ADOPTING DOWS FARM

Carol Spaulding Kruse & Tim Kruse
*Cathline Holub
Andrews Financial Group
Charles Isenhardt
Chris and Alan Boone
Christian Zolniski
Claudia Melrose
Craig and Ellen Cutting
Daniel and Ann Mansfield
Darrow Center
Dave Osterberg
David and Linda Gobberdiel
David Kimball & Anne Taylor
David Stern
Deb Schoelerman & Paul Pomrehn
Deborah Jacobi
Deborah Petersen
*Diane Horn
Elizabeth Blessington
Emily and Jason Corder
Emily Peck
Emily Steinwehe
Eric and Denyce Rusch
Erin Holland
George and Sharon Oamek
*George McClain
Gloria Peck
James Torner
James and Laurel Womeldorf
Janis Corderman
Jay Williams
Jeff Hall
Jeff Shipley
*Jill Mortenson
Jim Anderson
John and Ellen Ikerd
John Condon
John Hogeland
Iowa City UNESCO City of Literature
John and Jackie Norris
Jon and Mary Hart
*Jordan and Whitney Clasen
***Judith Clinton**
Judy and Jim Cottingham
Karen Kubby
Kate Mendenhall
*Katharine Butler (In honor of my granddaughter, our future, and the planet)
Kathy Mellen
Kathyn Jacobson
Ken Fawcett
Kristin Wildensee
Kristine Jubeck
Laura Krouse
Lee Zook & Jan Heikes
*Les and Evelyn Beck (In memory of Alvin and Jua Beck)
Leslie Sand
*Linda Long (In memory of Glenn Scott)
Lou Ann Hall
Loyce Dunbar
Margaret Bailey and Dan Miller
Margaret Dwyer and Willy Koppel
***Margaret McQuown** (In memory Gretchen and Earl McQuown Jr.)
Margaret Nelson
*Mary Coy
*Mary Ellen Miller
*Mary Palmberg
Mary Swander
Matt Liebman & Laura Merrick
Michael Christl
Michael and Barbara Henning (In honor of Bri Farber)
Mike and Nancy Forrest
MJ Hatfield
Molly Buhrow
Morgan Rivers
Muriel Pemble
Muriel Strand
Paul Readhead
*Peggy Garrigues
Raj Patel
Renate and Neil Bernstein
Robert and Julie Fischer
Robert Mulqueen
Robert Myers
Ron Berns
Roxane Mitten
Sandra Baringer
Sarah King
Sean Adams-Hiett
Sharon Steckman
Sheryl Johnson
***Steffen Mirsky**
Steph Hughes
Stephen Cornelius
Stephen McLaughlin
Susan and Dale Goodman
Susan Frye
The Wellmark Foundation
Thomas Hertz
Toba Pearl
Valerie Vetter
Wendy Brown
Wendy Stevens

IN MEMORIAM

Under \$100

*Ada Johnson (In honor of Sonya Johnson)

Alan McGaffin

Alex Turner

Alice Runde

Alice Spitzner Claussen

Andy Douglas

Ann and John Skopin

Annie Luke Perkins

Barbara Dale

*Barbara Eckstein and Jim Throgmorton

Beth Wilson

Breanne Seidle

Brian Dougherty

Bruce Bachmann & Nancy Sauerman

*Budd Thompson

Burt Chojnowski

Carol A Gosselink

Carol Rogers

Carol Silverman

Charlene Lange

Charles Connerly

Chris Lilly

Christian Andrews

Christian Bertelson

Christine Curry

Clarissa Dietz

*Connor Dunn

*Corbin Scholz

Craig R Mosher

Daniel & Ellen Rosmann

Danielle and Don Wirth

David Leshtz

Deborah Scott

Denise O'Brien & Larry Harris

Diane Rosenberg

Donald Morgan

Douglas Hertzler

Elizabeth Hill

Emily, Nate and David Orem Johnson

Emma Shah

Fred Meyer

Garry Chick

George McCrory

J Mackey & C Steffen

James Nave

Jane Shey

Janice Hill

Jeanne and Toby Thomas

Jim Eliason

John Carver

John Engelbrecht

Jon and Beth Rotto

*Joyce Miller

Judith Hainaut

Julia McGuire

June Keibler

Kahle Boutte

Kara Gravert

Katharine Manders

Kay Irelan & Bob Hardy

Kim and Steve Andersen

*Kyle Sieck (In honor of the Sieck family)

Laura Twing

*Leah Kolar

Leland Freie

Linnea Crowther

*Lisa Schulte-Moore

Lora Fraracci

Lori Yates

*Lucy Hansen

Marie DeVries

Marie Geisel

Mark Bimson

*Mark Smith

*Martha Norbeck (In honor of Mary Crooks Kirkpatrick)

Mary Parrish

Matt Ceaser

Nick Gerwe

Nicole Knebel

*Patrick and Ann Bosold (In honor of Tom Wahl & Kathy Dice and Aldo Leopold)

*Paul Duncan

Philip Obley

Robert Swern

Ruth Rabinowitz

Sally Troxell

*Sharon and Jerome Donovan (In honor of Clayton Bennett)

Shirley Evenrud

Sonja Sponheim

Steven Earl

Susan Feathers

Susan Futrell

Susan Stroope

Susanne Ward

Theresa & Mark Westbrook

Torey Fickes

*Wendy Durant

Bold names are sustaining members

* Adopt an Acre donors

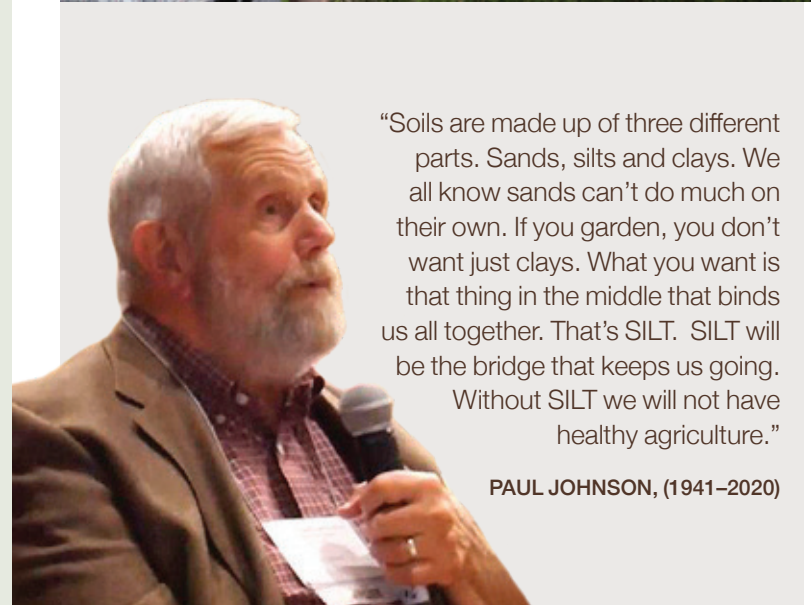
Any inaccuracies? We're new at this, so please let us know!

Write to info@silt.org or call Suzan at (319) 480-4241.



"[I estimate our farm saw] 70,000 tons of Iowa topsoil lost from 1852-1992. This is just one farm. Can we stop this loss? Yes, there are viable economic models for what is in effect sustainable productive world-feeding systems. Just ask Tom Wahl. Growing tree crops for food means no annual plowing. You can find more examples, such as soil- and farm-saving's third option – SILT."

JOHN WITTRIG, (1930–2020)



"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."

PAUL JOHNSON, (1941–2020)



Many Ways to Give

SILT offers many opportunities for supporters to make a difference on Iowa's landscape. SILT can receive gifts of appreciated stock, gifts from donor advised funds, bequests (please let us know your intentions) and more.

Contact Executive Director Suzan Erem if you've included SILT in your estate plans or would like to direct a major gift to one of our programs.

THANK YOU TO THESE PARTNERS WHO PROMOTED SILT FREE FOOD DRAWINGS THIS YEAR!

712 Eat and Drink
 1910 Grill
 Baroncini
 Campbell's Nutrition
 Cobble Hill
 Convivium
 Dogpatch Urban Garden
 Downtown Short's
 Driftless Hills Farm
 Eastside Short's
 Freight House Farmers Market
 Hansen Dairy
 Harbinger's Des Moines
 HoQ Restaurant
 Jupiter Ridge Farm
 La Quercia
 La Rana Bistro
 Lincoln Wine Bar
 Milk and Honey Cafe
 New Pioneer Co-op
 Oneota Food Co-op
 Pepper Sprout
 Prairie Canary
 Proof Restaurant
 Prudent Produce
 Rapid Creek Winery
 Relish Restaurant
 Rodina
 Rubaiyat Restaurant
 Rudy's Tacos
 Rustic Cuts Butcher Shop
 Seed Savers Exchange
 Short's Marion
 Table 128
 The Landing Market
 Tin Roost
 Trumpet Blossom Cafe
 Wheatsfield Co-op
 Wild Culture Kombucha
 Wilson's Orchard

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS



UNFI Helping Hands Committee
 The Maurice Foundation
 Oneota Food Coop
 New Pioneer Coop
 Decorah Bank and Trust
 Impact Assets
 Network for Good

SILT 2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stuart Valentine, President, Fairfield
 Mary Ellen Miller, Vice President, Corydon
 Carolyn Van Meter, Treasurer, Panora
 Kathy Dice, Secretary, Solon
 Ian Abrams, Iowa City
 Sandy Andrews, Ames
 Paul Durrenberger, West Branch
 Lora Fraracci, Des Moines
 Joe Henry, Des Moines
 Lyle Luzum, Decorah
 Gina McAndrews, Ames
 John Norris, Des Moines
 George Oamek, Honey Creek
 Cindy Reed, North Liberty
 Corbin Scholz, Iowa City

2020 COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

Hannah Breckbill
 Dayna Burtness
 Cheryl Fraracci
 Jeff Hall
 Lucie Laurian
 Will Lorentzen
 Emilie Walsh
 Adrian White

YOUR SILT TEAM

Suzan Erem
 Executive Director
Jonathan Hendricks
 Agroforestry Specialist
Keri Jacobson
 Executive Assistant
Joseph Klingelhutz
 Farm Specialist
Christi Nickey
 Farm and Food Coordinator, Fairfield
The Concept Works
 Media Consultants
Global Reach
 Social Media Consultants
Julia Radhakrishnan
 Research Assistant



PLEASE HOST A LAUNCH PARTY THIS YEAR!

Invite your friends, family, neighbors and colleagues to join you to hear about SILT's ambitious 10-year Circle Our Cities Campaign, launching throughout 2021.

Catch up with friends, see an inspiring, thought-provoking presentation and engage in a lively conversation about this new vision for Iowa.

Be a part of transforming Iowa's landscape!
Contact Lora Fraracci at 515.710.6416 to schedule.

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