

FAIR ACRES FARM

Marion County, IA

SIZE

320 acres of certified organic farmland

FARMERS

The Petersen Family



FARM VISION

To raise food responsibly and provide land security to the next generation of Petersen Family farmers.

ABOUT THE FARM

The Petersens are a fifth generation Iowa farm family. They grow organic grains and raise cattle and sheep on pasture. This farm parcel is protected by conservation easement through the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, which specifies that the land be kept as perennial pasture. This farm was financed to transfer farmland ownership from one generation to the next.

FARM STORY

The Petersen family was approached to farm this land organically in 2003 by the Shivvers sisters, who had inherited the land in the 1990s. The Shivvers family had owned Fair Acres Farm since 1903. The Shivvers sisters wanted the farm to be farmed organically and remain a working farm. The Petersens are second cousins of the Shivvers, and were willing to take on the organic transition. The Shivvers sisters began transferring the farmland ownership to the Petersen family with a series of partial farm sales. Financing the purchase of the final 320 acres successfully completes this farmland transfer from the Shivvers family to the Petersens. The Petersens have been able to expand their grain, hay, and pastured livestock operation by acquiring this land.

HOW WE HELPED

Iroquois Valley first began working with the Petersen Family after a recommendation from Board member, Teresa Opheim. Iroquois Valley provided mortgage financing to the Petersens to purchase the remaining acreage of Fair Acres Farm to secure their farmland tenure there.

