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IROQUOIS VALLEY'S MODEL OF ORGANIC, REGENERATIVE INVESTMENT EARNS GLOBAL RECOGNITION; WILKEN FAMILY NAMED GROWER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

Chicago, Ill. — December 9, 2025— [Iroquois Valley Farmland REIT](#), PBC, a leading organic-farmland focused impact investment company, has been honored with two major distinctions at the [2025 Environmental Finance IMPACT Awards](#):

- Impact Project/Investment of the Year: Agriculture and Sustainable Land Use
- Impact Project/Investment of the Year: Social Inclusion/Community Development

Environmental Finance's annual IMPACT Investment Awards seek to recognize and reward the work of impact investors around the world, highlighting emerging pockets of best practice across all asset classes and geographies. Iroquois Valley's recognition underscores the company's leadership in deploying patient, mission-aligned capital that advances organic agriculture, soil health and resilient rural economies.

In a year marked by these organizational achievements, Iroquois Valley is also proud to celebrate the national recognition of two of its longest-standing farm partners. Harold and Ross Wilken, the father-son duo behind [Janie's Farm](#) and [Janie's Mill](#) in East Central Illinois, have been named finalists for the [2025 Grower of the Year \(GOTY\) Award](#) at the Organic Grower Summit in Monterey, Calif.

Harold was Iroquois Valley's *first* farmer partner in 2007, forming the foundation for what has grown into a nationwide farmer network supporting independent organic farmers across the U.S. Over the years, Iroquois Valley has reinvested in the Wilkens many times, providing mortgages and operating capital that have enabled the family to expand acreage, build regional grain infrastructure and deepen their impact.

Today, Harold and Ross manage more than 4,000 certified organic acres, including 1,000 acres financed in partnership with Iroquois Valley.

"Iroquois Valley's mission is to empower farmers who are regenerating soil, feeding their communities and building resilient rural economies," said Chris Zuehlsdorff, CEO at Iroquois Valley. "We're honored to receive these global impact awards, and even more honored to see leaders like Harold and Ross recognized nationally for the transformative work they do every day."

The Wilkens are recognized as finalists for the Grower of the Year Award due to their excellence in organic production, contributions to the industry and leadership among their peers. Their mission centers on a simple but powerful goal: to feed people with nutrient-dense, regeneratively grown grains.

“For me, there were many things over the years that inspired me to transition to organic,” Harold reflects. “One was so that my son Ross would never have to handle another pound of herbicide or insecticide, and because I did not like to witness the downward trend our soil was on.”

As demand for high-quality, unique grain varieties grew, Chicago-area artisan bakeries began sourcing flour from the Wilkens. With their support, the family built Janie’s Mill, which opened in 2017 as the region’s only organic flour mill. The mill now serves as essential infrastructure for Midwest organic grain growers and supplies flours to consumers, retailers and bakeries across Illinois and beyond.

More information about Iroquois Valley, including overall impact, farmer stories and how to invest can be found at iroquoisvalley.com.

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ABOUT IROQUOIS VALLEY FARMLAND REIT

Iroquois Valley Farmland REIT, PBC, is a pioneering farmland investment company focused on organic, regenerative agriculture. The company provides long-term, low-interest financing to organic farmers and works to build a more sustainable food system by preserving farmland for organic production. Structured as a real estate investment trust (REIT), a public benefit corp and a B Corp that is regulated by the SEC, they offer impact-driven individuals and institutions the opportunity to invest in transforming our agricultural system in partnership with land stewards.

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