



The Petersens are a fifth generation Iowa farm family. Fair Acres Farm, a purchase financed by Iroquois Valley in December 2016, allowed the Petersens to buy land they have been working and leasing from their second cousins, the Shivvers sisters. This 320 acre financing will allow the Petersens to grow organic grains, and raise cattle and sheep on pasture. The farm is protected by conservation easement through the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, which specifies that the land be kept as perennial pasture. This financing represents a successful land family transfer that prioritizes sustainable food production and preservation.



The Shivvers Family had owned Fair Acres Farm since 1903, with the sisters inheriting the land in the 1990s. They began working with the Petersens in 2003, when they decided to transition to organic. Jim Petersen (pictured below with the Shivvers sisters) took on the project and the Shivvers sisters felt confident they had found a farming family who would help them implement their conservation goals for the farm. This led to a series of partial farm sales to the Petersens; the financing of the purchase of the final 320 acres successfully completes this farmland transfer.



FAIR ACRES FARM MARION COUNTY, IA



Sheep graze on pasture at Fair Acres Farm. The Petersens raise sheep and cattle and supplement their grass-fed livestock operation by growing organic grains for feed.

Iroquois Valley first began working with the Petersen Family after a recommendation from Board member, Teresa Opheim. Teresa joined Iroquois Valley's Board after serving as Executive Director for Practical Farmers of Iowa, where she stayed on as Director of Farm Transfer. Both the Shivvers and Petersen families were involved with PFI, where the Shivvers won the Farmland Owner award.

"Partnerships like this one need to happen thousands of times over in the coming years if we are to restore soil, sequester carbon and provide habitat on America's farmland." -- Teresa Opheim



Iroquois Valley Farmland REIT is a restorative farmland finance company providing land access to organic family farmers, with a focus on the next generation. Private investment capital, currently from 300+ investors, supports organic farm purchases and financings from Maine to Montana.

For more information, visit iroquoisvalleyfarms.com or contact us at invest@iroquoisvalleyfarms.com