

<p>My family has farmed in Iowa since the 1800's. We consider ourselves scientific farmers and we use Leopold Center funded research to make our farms both more environmentally and financially sustainable.</p>
<p>In my community of Dubuque, nearly 1/3 of residents are obese. In some schools, nearly 1/2 of students are considered overweight. The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture has supported research on Food Hubs which has been instrumental in making healthy fresh food grown by local family farm businesses available and accessible to children who most need it.</p>
<p>The LCSA has consistently supported soil and water quality research with an Iowa-focus, enabling practical research that wouldn't be funded by other entities, especially federal agencies. LCSA research underpins and enabled the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Assessment and Strategy, and is the reason we have a path forward to clean water and sustainable agricultural production in the state. There is much research and action left to do, and LCSA knows what it is and how to get it done. LCSA is more critical now than ever!</p>
<p>I'm a Co Soil Commissioner and research Helps us. Farmers need help saving soil. Our county has the most terraces of any county in Ia</p>
<p>I was a student and graduate assistant at Iowa State University between 2009-2012. I worked on a multidisciplinary project "STRIPS at Neal Smith" that was supported by the Leopold Center. Our research found that planting small strips of prairie into rowcrop fields has disproportionately large benefits, such as 90% decreases in soil loss, 85% decreases in nitrogen loss from surface runoff, and huge increases in biodiversity on the landscape (<a href="https://www.nrem.iastate.edu/research/STRIPS/">https://www.nrem.iastate.edu/research/STRIPS/</a>). This practice is now being incorporated on farmer fields across Iowa. This is just one example of the MANY impactful projects that the Leopold Center has supported.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center is important to me in so many ways. The staff and board are a source of inspiration, provide critical feedback on my research, and help promote my research. The Leopold Center has provided critical funding to my lab which has been used to leverage other state, federal, and private dollars. Thus funding has supported research that has gained attention across the Iowa countryside, regionally, and nationally. It has supported the training of dozens of students. It has generally made Iowa a better place to live, work, and play in.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center makes a positive difference to the lives of Iowans as well as to the state's agricultural landscapes. Not only does the state and its residents benefit from the work of the Leopold Center, but states and institutions across the United States look to the Leopold Center for its leadership in sustainable agriculture. When I tell people I was at Iowa State generally the first thing they say to me is, "Oh that's where the Leopold Center is. They do such good work!" Why would we defund something that makes such a positive contribution to our own wellbeing and promotes the state and its opportunities beyond the borders of the state?</p>
<p>"The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University was created to identify and develop new ways to farm profitably while conserving natural resources as well as reducing negative environmental and social impacts. " The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture is an Iowa treasure!</p>
<p>Agriculture and natural resources are an important part of Iowa and its economy.</p>
<p>Aldo Leopold was a visionary of his time and his views still ring very true today. The Leopold Center helps Iowans to conserve and respect the land we call home. Our land and resources have given us so much but will not continue to be able to do so if we fail to take action now. The Leopold Center helps to ensure a healthy future for all Iowans.</p>

As a citizen of Iowa I value the research the Leopold Center has done to protect the waters of Iowa. Safe drinking water is extremely important to me.
As a local foods advocate, educator, and Iowa Food Hub director, I can not imagine living in Iowa without the continuing foundational support from the Leopold Center. It has been one of the leading forces for local food system development work; and critical to advancing sustainable and regenerative agriculture practices. Please continue to support this worthy organization to make Iowa great again!
As farmers, my husband and I value the research at the Leopold Center. We are always looking for ways to improve our farm operation.
As the agricultural landscape and economy of Iowa faces an uncertain and challenging future, the Leopold Center will be crucial in helping Iowans make progress. The work will ensure that we can maintain our strong agricultural heritage, and find success in future farming.
Because Leopold Center is very important for the whole sustainable agriculture community. It provides all kinds of resources to support research and learning activities related to sustainability. We graduate students have benefited from Leopold center for many professional development opportunities and funding our research projects. In addition, Leopold center is an icon organization for Iowa State in the field of organic agriculture, agro-ecology, and sustainable agriculture. In many conferences, I have heard out of state people talked about Leopold center. Leopold center definitely boost Iowa State University's reputation!
Because the Leopold Center is one of very few in Iowa that focuses on sustainable agriculture. Sustainable agriculture is
Clean water for Iowa!
Conservation research is essential to securing Iowa's future in agriculture.
Do we really want to drag down Iowa's legacy of agricultural improvements? We should be promoting the impact of its work rather than limiting its funding. Iowa as a state is a leader for the US in agricultural education. Why would we ever lose sight of the value in that great honor and responsibility? Please consider how this can negatively impact farmers in the great state of Iowa. Now consider the positive effects of deciding to defund a research facility that improves the lives of people across the country and around the world. The negatives out way the positives in every way - even in terms of finances because of what the research provides in financial returns down the line. This idea to lower funding for research is not in the best interests of Iowans or any Americans.
Farmers need to stop tilling in the fall and leaving dirt loose and unprotected from runoff and wind. We need cover crops to protect our water and soil. We need conscientious farming to reduce loss and taxpayer expense. We need less chemicals used on crops and soil to protect people, animals, water, bees.
Funding from the Leopold center is crucial for research at Iowa state to continue.
Help support the local foods movement in Iowa.
I am a local certified organic farmer, and I have benefited from the programing and research of the Leopold Center.
I believe that any organization, facility, or group that wishes to continue work on making our agriculture more sustainable is extremely

important.
I came to Iowa State University, in part, because of the Leopold Center. The Center is one of the excellent and exemplary institutions at Iowa State, and its presence is one of the reasons ISU continues to attract excellent students and faculty.
I currently live in Montana and still utilize resources produced by the Leopold Center. Not only is the Center a leader in Iowa, it is a leader across the country and it is of great value to us all. Please maintain its funding!
I didn't elect my officials for them to raise incentives to destroy public goods like soil and water quality. I love Iowa and Iowa land. The projects funded and the knowledge shared by the Leopold Center are important for Iowa's sustainable agricultural development. (Permission to quote as "Story county resident" or other un-identifying terms, currently an employee of ISU)
I first learned about the Leopold Center while living in Florida. I was able to learn about the issues related to Iowa agriculture and to our food system through its website. When I was able to move back to Iowa, what I had learned from the Leopold Center helped me become a better farmer, a more aware consumer, and a person who was very happy to live in such an exciting state. It gave me hope. I believe the Center must be funded to continue giving hope to Iowans for a future that values its rural communities, its farmers and growers, and its environment.
I know couples graduate students are using this fund for their research.
I value and care about sustainable agriculture in Iowa, my home state. I plan to return to Iowa in future and want it to remain the beautiful place it was during my childhood. I am from a family of farmers, and I value the future of agriculture, therefore I strongly support the Leopold Center's efforts to increase sustainable farming practices and the environment which supports it.
I want publicly funded ag/environment research to continue. I want publicly funded leadership in local food systems to continue. I want good publicly funded research to support the Nutrient Reduction Strategy. I want facts to contribute to policy about ag and the environment. If not Leopold, how does the Legislature intend to use our tax dollars to fund this kind of work?
I'm concerned about water quality, the environment in general
Iowa is in dire need of research for sustainable agriculture and water quality.
Iowa needs to be a leader in Agriculture...with all of us working together no matter what "side" of the equation you are on. We need the Leopold Center to keep us moving forward!
Iowa's farmers need a place other than those that profit from them for important research and learning!
Iowa's future depends on clean water and fertile soil. The Leopold Center is a key component in ensuring our future.
It funds sustainable agriculture research which is necessary for food security
It is doing cutting edge work on agriculture that will save the human race.
It is vital that sustainable ag research be funded for a greener future
Money invested in the Leopold Center produces monetary returns, so even those advocating fiscal responsibility should continue funding the Leopold Center. More important than that, it is an investment in our future.

<p>More so now than ever, Iowans have expressed support for funding Water Quality Improvement efforts, such as through the Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation Trust Fund. Republicans have proposed legislation to finally fund the trust in response to Iowans wishes. However, the current proposed actions will cripple the Leopold Center, which has a long history of supporting practices that improve water quality and soil health, provides guidance in their implementation, and has created an infrastructure for all Iowans to access information about these practices. Removing funding for this nationally renowned Center will hurt Iowas efforts to promote water quality and soil health.</p>
<p>My strong passion for agriculture has led me to pursue higher education and work for a master's degree from ISU. My future research work and assistantship is being funded by the Leopold Center. The Leopold Center has done tremendous things for the sustainability of agriculture and I want to leave agriculture in a better way than I found it.</p>
<p>Research and education on sustainable agriculture is so important for Iowa and the whole world right now. We need this. We need healthy soil, clean water and air to live.</p>
<p>Research funded and supported by the Leopold Center has directly impacted the communities in which I now work. I see it's impact daily via the conservation practices on the land and the economic impact of local foods. The conversations spurred on a local level by research happening through the Leopold Center is keeping rural Iowa communities alive.</p>
<p>See above. Chemically-dependent agriculture creates erosion, depletes soil fertility, contributes to flooding, etc. The Leopold Center offers best sustainable practices now and its continuing research and experts will be increasingly needed as we lose more soil, the climate gets warmer, yields level off and decrease, etc.</p>
<p>Sustainability is critical especially as we face the problems of our future today.</p>
<p>Sustainability is important</p>
<p>Sustainable agriculture is critical to our state's livelihood. We need systems with diversity for maintaining the productivity of our land and maintaining environment quality.</p>
<p>Sustainable agriculture is important to human well-being and the health of our planet.</p>
<p>Sustainable Agriculture is important to Iowa's future as an agricultural state</p>
<p>Sustainable agriculture is soon going to be the only way to farm in not only Iowa, but the world. The Leopold center is taking the first steps in research and education to inform the public about practices that will affect future generations to come. We should not be using this world to sustain ourselves, but to sustain generations to come. Without the Leopold center we will not have the resources needed to continue advancing our sustainable agriculture practices, and will be further set back.</p>
<p>The center help to promote and harbor sustainable agriculture research projects which is necessary for our society.</p>
<p>The center is an Ag leader and a voice that must not be silenced in the name of democracy.</p>
<p>The center provides a critical and transparent research and outreach resource for the state of Iowa in order to build a more ecological and sustainable agricultural system in Iowa!</p>
<p>The center works towards the betterment of the state's environmental quality. It provides invaluable educational and research</p>

opportunities that have a big impact on students and Iowans. The center must go on for moral reasons if anything else.
The founding of the Center was the result of a bipartisan effort because it was evident that the benefits resulting therefrom would inure to the citizens of Iowa and beyond regardless of political affiliation and occupation. During its existence, the Center's leadership, excellent supporting staff and those funded have worked diligently to fulfill the letter and spirit of the law. The loss of the Center would not only be a loss to the citizens of Iowa but to all who seek to address the ever increasing range of environmental challenges that will impact everyone during and beyond our lifetime. Thank you for the opportunity.
The funding that the Leopold Center provides through grants, the information shared with the public, and all the work it does and supports creates ripple effects across Iowa and throughout the Midwest. It's hard to imagine how Iowa would maintain and build momentum toward reaching our water quality goals (just one example, but a critically important one!) without the support of the Leopold Center.
The LCSA has been instrumental in helping to develop and document the effectiveness of the most important soil and water conservation practices for Iowa. The home-grown solutions to difficult agricultural and environmental challenges funded by the LCSA are also used across the country. The Leopold Center is internationally recognized as a trailblazing organization, and the State of Iowa, as its main supporter, has been seen globally as an innovative force in sustainable agriculture.
The Leopold Center addresses key issues of sustainability from the perspective of farmers and others who depend on a healthy environment.
The Leopold Center carries out important research on issues critical to Iowa: conservation, water quality, local food systems, and improving the long term sustainability and profitability of Iowa farms. This research deserves MORE funding; eliminating it would be devastating for our state and our farm economy.
The Leopold Center conducts and funds research that provides invaluable insight into how farmers can better protect water and air quality while maintaining a livable income.
The Leopold Center creates a nexus for agricultural improvements and understanding among Iowa farmers. It helps to make Iowa a leading agricultural center both in the US and globally. Iowa cannot turn its back on its American responsibilities.
The Leopold Center does amazing work that benefits Iowa communities, graduate students, and serves as a model for the rest of the state and the nation. Losing this well respected institution would be a serious loss for the state of Iowa.
The Leopold Center funds research regarding the proper management of nutrient application on Iowa farms. These projects affect crop yields, crop quality, wildlife and the environment at the local level, throughout Iowa, and nationally. Providing Iowa farmers with the resources to make informed decisions is a founding principle of Iowa State University. Stripping the Leopold Center of funding would be a disgrace to ISU and the state of Iowa.
The Leopold Center has been a progressive leader in agricultural sustainability. Striving to leverage sparse funding to fulfill its mission outlined by the Groundwater Protection Act of 1987

The Leopold Center has done tremendous work supporting agriculture, and thus the future of human health and society. Their work and support is essential to smaller groups and those seeking to explore uncommon, unique methods of managing crops, livestock, land, and water.
The Leopold Center has funded and supported so much important work in Iowa that benefits the land, water, people, and future of this state. This work must continue!!
The Leopold Center has no agenda beyond the truth. The Center has provided politically neutral, unbiased, scientific research and education for decades and must continue this mission to enhance the quality of life for all Iowans.
The Leopold Center has offered support and funding to the sustainable agriculture program. Without the center many graduate students will struggle to find funding, which could lead two fewer graduate students enrolling in the program.
The Leopold Center has provided excellent research on critical areas of conservation, water quality, livestock grazing, soil health, local foods systems, and many other areas that are essential to the health and well being of Iowa's natural environment, local economies, and the well being of all its citizens.
The Leopold Center helps empower farmers to improve Iowa into the future.
The Leopold Center is a beacon for groundbreaking research on agroecology, conservation, and community food systems. This research is practice-focused and disseminated widely in user-friendly fashion. Many students benefit from their roles in LCSEA on-farm and local food systems projects. The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture is held in high esteem far beyond the state borders. It is an Iowa treasure that should attract investments, not budget cuts.
The Leopold Center is a nationally recognized model for a University-based center. It supports and generates research that helps maintain healthy soils, clean water, vibrant rural communities and productive profitable farmers. Losing it would be not just a shame because of all the good it does but an embarrassment for the state.
The Leopold Center is an amazing resource and Iowa should be proud to have created such a successful organization. We need to continue to support and fund the Center to help us meet current and future challenges in Iowa.
The Leopold Center is essential to promote sustainable agricultural practices in Iowa. Agriculture is an essential part of Iowa's economy and if we want our agriculture to be productive and profitable into the future, we must be working on conservation now.
The Leopold Center is for Sustainable Agriculture. Big Ag is not sustainable!
The Leopold Center is one of the few organizations in Iowa that is able to effectively research and promote agricultural practices that work within high production systems and encourage resource conservation at the same time. It is one of the only organizations that puts Iowa as a priority and its mission is crucial to ensuring agricultural and economic stability for our state.
The Leopold Center is one of the only research funding agencies to support diversified agriculture in the Midwest. This center is critical to ensuring a healthy sustainable future for the state. Cuts to it are short sighted and detrimental to all Iowans.
The Leopold center is responsible for funding cutting edge research designed to answer consequential and conscientious questions about our agricultural systems. It encourages research that provides farmers and educators tools and knowledge with which to make

<p>informed management decisions, and should continue doing so.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center is the one bastion of agricultural integrity left at Iowa State University. They have worked directly with many Sustainable Agriculture graduate students that I know, most of whom have gone on to do amazing things in their field and for their communities. The Center is a great source of information for many young farmers. Funding should not be cut.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center is the only research center in the state focused on sustainable agriculture and prepared to address the challenges Iowa's soil and water face in the coming years.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center protects the viability and health of Iowa's soil and water. As a result, it protects the family farm - the bedrock of our society.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center provides essential resources to scientists and practitioners working to protect Iowa's important public resources. Their investment in this science is critical to our state's progress and livelihoods. Clean water is an essential part of health communities; the Leopold Center, its staff, and the scientists who have received funding from the Leopold Center have dedicated their professional careers to ensuring Iowans have clean water. Progress has been made, but much remains to be done -- the Leopold Center is a required asset to make that progress.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center provides research and outreach to support Iowa's agricultural economy, communities, and heritage while simultaneously protecting and improving the state's important environmental resources.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center provides small amounts of funding to projects with huge potential to positively impact the state of Iowa. It is the definition of a cost effective granting program that only pursues projects with SMALL COSTS but disproportionately LARGE REWARDS. I have seen this under numerous instances throughout my own time at Iowa State University. If the state of Iowa is reduce research funding dollars, this would be the LAST PLACE to do so.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center supports innovative agriculture research that Iowans depend on for sustaining our landscapes. The funding the Center provides is critical for addressing many challenges we face in managing our lands to provide not only clean water, and fertile soils, but also robust businesses and resilient communities. Cutting funding for the Leopold Center is cutting off investment in our land and our people.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center was set up to address water pollution issues in Iowa. We want to eliminate this office now?</p>
<p>The Leopold Center, among other wonderful contributions, allowed me as a graduate student to obtain experience writing grants for research projects with direct impacts on the communities in which a researcher is living - that experience was invaluable as I continue my academic journey, and would not have been possible without the unique funding structure of the state of Iowa and the Leopold Center.</p>
<p>The research funded by the Leopold Center enables us to both determine and promote best practices for agriculture in so many of its dimensions. And when a project is funded by the Leopold Center, attention is paid by important funders of sustainable agriculture like the Kellogg Foundation and the Wallace Foundation--so much so that those projects receive much more money than would otherwise</p>

<p>be the case. With some 600 projects in 30 years here in Iowa, and all of it nonpartisan and scientifically sound, it seems an absolute boon to the state, all farmers and Iowa's reputation for agricultural excellence. It's a keeper.</p>
<p>The research supported by the Leopold Center is critical to many small-scale producers in Iowa, as well as large-scale producers of common commodity crops seeking to improve the environmental impact of their agricultural practices.</p>
<p>The results of their work provide real solutions to Iowa's complicated agricultural and environmental problems.</p>
<p>The state of Iowa is facing an environmental crisis and needs institutions like the Leopold Center to ensure our farmers have the best information and research to protect and improve our natural and agriculture environments.</p>
<p>The US needs high quality research centers, period. Of huge concern is continuing to feed ourself nutritious, healthy, affordable food while diversifying farmer income and protecting the environment for future generations. The Leopold Center is at the forefront of this and must be preserved by the state of Iowa at all costs.</p>
<p>The work and students that the Leopold Center produces is imperative to the sustainable future of agriculture in Iowa and across the country.</p>
<p>Their research has supported the creation of hundreds of new jobs across Iowa</p>
<p>Their work is much too important to be limited, let alone defunded entirely. Their research is valuable and truly helps American agriculture. It is research that will not be funded, by in large, by for profit companies which fund other research at the University. It helps make ISU and the State of Iowa a leader in the Sustainable Agriculture movement. The state with the World Food Prize headquarters should have more respect for sustainability in agriculture.</p>
<p>There is NO DOUBT that funding for sustainable agriculture research and information sharing that The Leopold Center provides should be of highest priority for the legislature IF concerns of all Iowa constituents is of concern.</p>
<p>There needs to be an alternative voice concerning agriculture and environmental issues.</p>
<p>They have produced the best and most pragmatic food systems research in Iowa. The health of Iowa citizens is an important benefit not to be defunded.</p>
<p>They make sure that research in the state is diversified and are a unique resource in the state.</p>
<p>This attempt to end the thirty years of legacy and vision of such people as Paul Johnson and David Osterberg is frightening and is another stark reminder of the times we live in. The Leopold Center and Practical Farmers of Iowa were both created to help address Iowa's environmental issues of water and soil and air quality as well as the quality of life of all Iowans. I hope all PFI members will voice their concerns to the legislature regarding the possible abandonment of their commitment to Iowa's future.</p>
<p>This is a unique program that offers a new perspective to not only the agricultural programs at ISU but also every other college. Everyone can benefit from the critical thought and methodology that is offered in this program.</p>
<p>This organization contributes knowledge, training, and leadership to Sustainable Agriculture in our state--something we certainly need and will continue to need even more in the future. Please continue to support the Leopold Center!</p>



This work is important to lead the way in agriculture research.
We are at the crux of a better way of producing food in Iowa and the Leopold center provides the opportunity and leadership for us. We desperately need better cleaner agriculture in Iowa.
We are blessed with Iowa's rich natural resources and Leopold Center has contributed greatly to protect Iowa's soil and water. Don't take the bless away.
We are not living or farming sustainably. Our earth is in trouble and we need places like the Leopold Center to do the research that we so desperately need. Defunding this now would be a colossal mistake and end up costing us a lot more in the future.
We can't save our soil in Iowa without this research center.
We need a center for sustainable agriculture research at ISU to ensure that the long term interests of Iowans are represented.
We need scientific and practical results that work for Iowa, the Leopold Center does this. There is no other Center like it. Don't ax it.
With only 478,000 Iowa farmland acres representing less than 2% of Iowa's 30 Million Agricultural Farm land using cover crops as means to regenerate soils, build organic matter, prevent further soil erosion and as a means to reduce nitrate and phosphorous pollution of our vital drinking sources, coupled with reducing the dead zone down stream, how can we in good conscience not fund the Leopold Center? Where else does Iowa farmers and ranchers have a research based "Home Grown" place to turn to that provides unbiased expert advise that allows for methods and applications that will restore Iowa's fertile valleys, soils and water using vital proven regenerative methods? The idea that 98% of Iowa Farm lands are still in the year 2017 using production methods that assure sterility of biological soil activity, erosion of top soil and overall degradation of our most productive farmlands is the greatest crime against humanity imaginable.
With the exception of four years in the U..S. Navy, my life has in some way been connected to agriculture. This includes graduating from Iowa State with a B.S. in Agriculture, working on farms, working in Ag Extension, and working and retiring from FmHA, and in addition living on a small farm for 46 years, where we installed waterways, tile, and terraces. Nothing is more important to Iowa than the conservation of our soil and water resources. The Leopold Center has been a leader in these efforts. At age 86 what happens will have little effect on me personally. However, I am very concerned about the conservation of our soils and natural resources for future generations. I urge you not to cut funding for the Leopold Center.
Work from the Leopold Center and it's funding has been fundamental in understanding issues surrounding and in developing improved practices for improved water quality; diverse cropping systems, including organic agriculture; sustainable grazing systems and modern agroforestry. Hard to imagine Iowa in 2017 without this great work to inform our important agricultural decision so today.
I retired after 30 yrs. working for the IDNR and it was evident across the state that the LC had accomplished more than most people would understand.
The Leopold Center allows for important research to be done that contributes to agricultural programs across our communities in Iowa.
Iowa needs educated and supported to move to a sustainable future

The studies they support lead to new ways we can be better caretakers of the earth,
The entire USA as well as Iowa benefits from Leopold-funded research. It is critical to have non-profit oversight of research in addition to corporate/seed-titan publications.
We need clean water, clean air and arable land for this and future generations. The Leopold Center is dedicated to this goal. I have always been proud that Iowa is home to the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.
Sustainable agriculture is the future and Iowa should be the leader. I've always been proud to be an Iowan, until this year when the laws and customs in this state verge on barbaric.
The Leopold Center provides a much needed perspective. It would be asinine for legislatives to defund something that could be very useful for the future of Iowa. Now is the time to be progressive and creative, especially with the sting of water quality so fresh. Let's make good of the bad, and the Leopold Center is one asset of many that will help in doing so.
I am a graduate of ISU and former resident of Iowa who is proud of the work the Leopold Center has accomplished WITH Iowa Farmers. Reducing topsoil erosion is a major issue that the Leopold Center works on in Iowa, and something that affects all Iowans. Please don't destroy this amazing center by defunding it!
LC supports research projects that otherwise would have little support
The mission of the Leopold Center is vital to the quality of life and the environment of the State of Iowa.
It is funding research that likely would not otherwise be funded.
I work for Practical Farmers of Iowa and the Leopold Center has helped fund our projects and most importantly the on-farm research that our members conduct. I also have co-workers who have been supported by the Leopold Center. It would affect our members and farmers in Iowa.
It is one of the great hopes for the future of sustainable agriculture
Iowa is first and foremost, an agricultural state. Iowans have a deep connection to the land, the air, and the water that not only provides economic support for many, but sustains life in the heartland. The Leopold Center and the important work it does supports the economic development of ag business in Iowa, provides vital research to increase agricultural business opportunities in the Midwest, and works to create new ag business ideas for the future. Iowans value the environment beyond economic and business considerations, however, and we demand legislators properly fund initiatives like the Leopold Center to continue to provide clean air, clean water, and productive agricultural lands. Do the right thing!
Leopold Center is one of the few organizations working with agriculture in Iowa that has IOWANS interests in mind and not big ag. Leopold supports local foods and sustainable practices, which are vitally important to the health and future of Iowa.
The Leopold Center supports innovative development of new sustainable agriculture practices

Research and science matter, especially as we are confronted with changes in weather patterns and recognize the importance of conserving good soil and clean water.

The Leopold center is one of the pillar of sustainable agriculture in Iowa. Its research are critical to solve important issues such as water quality and soil erosion in Iowa.

The center is great for grants and to promote agriculture in our area.

Having had aspirations to join graduate school, my dreams could not come to fruition until I received 1/4 time financial support to enroll for my masters degree in 2013 from the Leopold center. This became a stepping stone for my advanced professional career and today, I am proud to be associated with the center and I am sure there many more that have testimonies to share. Eliminating funding to the center is not only affecting just the great research that the center has continued to conduct and publish over its lifespan, but it also means cutting the professional career paths and dreams for many young people across the world that the Leopold Center has supports over the years. Imagine if it were your child? Imagine it was that one person that society looked up to to inspire the community in valuing education as a key resource for our young generations? As an international funding the Leopold Center is one way that in which America has made the rest of the world a better world by providing education opportunities to people such as me as well as empowering us with the necessary tools that we look forward to using in improving our agricultural systems in the countries where we come from.

Sustainable agriculture is our future. We cannot continue to mine the soil. We can continue to poisons the bees. We cannot continue to poison our people with chemicals that have caused diseases such as autism and gluten sensitivity to sky rocket.

Our current agricultural system is polluting and depleting our natural resources. It is imperative that we maximize funding to explore alternatives that generate profits for our farmers, and regenerate the land and waterways we depend on for the future.

Leopold Center has made positive impacts to our food system in Iowa and Nation.

One of the most forward thinking and far-reaching initiatives coming out of the Iowa Legislature has been the Leopold Center for Sustainability. The Center located at Iowa State University is made-up of non-partisan professional employees who manage and direct the Center's activities. Those activities help Iowa farmers and the larger agricultural community by providing results from research conducted in Iowa on Iowa soils that improve their profitability and help to enhance clean water initiatives. Iowa is a leader in sustainability and I believe that even in the face of budget shortfalls that representatives can look for funding to make up that shortfall in places where the funds are not making a difference to Iowans. The Leopold Center activities are making a difference.

For a fraction of the budget compared to other big ag programs, the Leopold Center offers meets the needs of farmers and extension workers by providing valuable research.

The investment in their research has paid off immensely in the last 20 years with the new Organic program at ISU which has help profitable organic farms to expand in this ever changing market.
The Leopold Center is essential in developing and maintaining sustainable agriculture.
Modern Farming practices have to be constantly examined and improvements made whenever possible. Ensuring clean water and air are vital.
Research is fundamental to protecting our state and its resources, and the Leopold Center's work is fundamental to good research.
The Leopold Center provides a valuable resource by researching more sustainable ways to continue farming, while also studying the impact of current farming practices. Farmers feed the world, and we need places like the Leopold Center to continue to advance farmers into the future and the future needs of society!
Everyone who lives in Iowa (and beyond) has benefitted from the Leopold Center's programs in the form of cleaner air and water, as well as a stronger local economy.
Model of independent thinking about sustainable practices crucial to our future.
Agriculture defines Iowa, if we continue to grow crops by spreading poison, eliminating diversity, and sending our soil down river, Iowa will be a wasteland. The mission of researching and spreading sustainable agriculture practices has certainly not been achieved.
There are many new techniques, and unanswered questions, about how to reduce nitrates and pesticides in agriculture that the Leopold Center can help answer. Researchers funded by the Leopold Center can test new crops and new crop rotations to improve the environmental effects of agriculture and keep Iowa's economy strong.
Leopold Center has been the flagship when it comes to sustainable agriculture in the State of Iowa and the Midwest. Innovative research and practices developed through Leopold Center's programs are critical in supporting our ongoing efforts in making agriculture sustainable (economically, environmentally, and socially).
The center is great for grants and to promote agriculture in our area.
Agriculture defines Iowa, if we continue to grow crops by spreading poison, eliminating diversity, and sending our soil down river, Iowa will be a wasteland. The mission of researching and spreading sustainable agriculture practices has certainly not been achieved.
As I sit here, preparing for a faculty committee meeting regarding sustainability at Naropa University, which my Ph.D in Sustainable Agriculture from Iowa State landed me, I am appalled to learn that the Iowa legislature is poised to defund the Leopold Center. When I talk about the state of Iowa, with regard to sustainability, to my colleagues around the country, the Leopold center inevitably gets brought up, sometimes by the out-of-staters! The Leopold center stands as a testament to the power of compromise and bi-partisanship. It was formed through a bi-partisan bill. Its board is comprised of leaders in *both* industrial and ecological agricultures. The only explanation I can come up with as to why the legislature is attempting to defund the center is an ideological one. In its 30 years of existence, the Leopold Center has always been a beacon of the future, and one that does the empirical research to help farmers

<p>to live into that future. Today, sadly, it appears that the Iowa legislature is acting out of the crippling partisan ideology that is running rampant all over this country right now. For the sake of doing what's right, as well as for the sake of future generations of Iowans-- both farmers and eaters, we must stop the bill that is threatening the future of the Leopold Center.</p>
<p>As our social and environmental climates change, it is necessary to develop alternative forms of agriculture that are sustainable over the long term. The Leopold Center is at the forefront of such crucial research and development. It is an invaluable resource nationally and a point of pride for Iowa.</p>
<p>As someone with an invested interest in food security and agriculture in Iowa, the Leopold Center has been a irreplaceable resource for information concerning everything from available C.S.A. subscriptions to food and vegetable production budgets. Iowa has only ever benefited from investing in such a vital institute, and should continue to invest in it.</p>
<p>As the world population continues to increase, we here in Iowa, at Iowa State University, and in research need to be dedicated to Iowa's future. Soil and water quality issues are growing in concern and will not just go away in the future. We need to address these questions and provide feedback to others pertaining to conversation practices.</p>
<p>Because of The Leopold Center's support for innovative research and demonstration, Iowa is a leader in the Midwest in sustainable agricultural practices and sound natural resources management.</p>
<p>Conservation and sustainable agriculture are vital to sustaining Iowa's rural communities! After living around the country I moved back home to Iowa to pursue a career in farming and raise a family in rural Iowa. The Leopold Center's resources and research will help me and my family succeed!</p>
<p>Conventional corn-soy agriculture is unsustainable, and the Leopold Center plays a key role in helping Iowa farmers, and absentee owners such as myself, prepare for a sustainable, nutritious and prosperous future.</p>
<p>Everyone who lives in Iowa (and beyond) has benefitted from the Leopold Center's programs in the form of cleaner air and water, as well as a stronger local economy.</p>
<p>For a fraction of the budget compared to other big ag programs, the Leopold Center offers meets the needs of farmers and extension workers by providing valuable research.</p>
<p>For safe and sustainable agricultural practices and to keep my state free of pollution and poisoning.</p>
<p>Having had aspirations to join graduate school, my dreams could not come to fruition until I received 1/4 time financial support to enroll for my masters degree in 2013 from the Leopold center. This became a stepping stone for my advanced professional career and today, I am proud to be associated with the center and I am sure there many more that have testimonies to share. Eliminating funding to the center is not only affecting just the great research that the center has continued to conduct and publish over its lifespan, but it also means cutting the professional career paths and dreams for many young people across the world that the Leopold Center has supports over the years. Imagine if it were your child? Imagine it was that one person that society looked up to to inspire the community in valuing education as a key resource for our young generations? As an international funding the Leopold Center is one way that in which America has made the rest of the world a better world by providing education opportunities to people such as me as well as empowering us with the necessary tools that we look forward to using in improving our agricultural systems in the countries</p>

where we come from.
I am a graduate of ISU and former resident of Iowa who is proud of the work the Leopold Center has accomplished WITH Iowa Farmers. Reducing topsoil erosion is a major issue that the Leopold Center works on in Iowa, and something that affects all Iowans. Please don't destroy this amazing center by defunding it!
I am a Iowa farmer. The Leopold Center is essential for improved nutrient loss management to start to rebuild our soil and reduce input cost for the long term.
I believe in sustainable ag and Iowa is moving in the opposite direction. We need more research, not less. Voter ID bills and corporate tax giveaways should be defunded.
I rely on the Center's work for information on soil health and other farming topics. Their use of funding is wise, and their work is appreciated by all who know of it--even out here in rural Minnesota.
I support sustainable agriculture practices and i believe organizations such as this are leading the way in Iowa
I work for Practical Farmers of Iowa and the Leopold Center has helped fund our projects and most importantly the on-farm research that our members conduct. I also have co-workers who have been supported by the Leopold Center. It would affect our members and farmers in Iowa.
I work in conservation and agriculture. The Center is crucial to improving soil and water quality AND productivity on Iowa's landscapes.
In order to achieve a 45% reduction in nutrients in our waterways the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy recommended adopting a suite of conservation practices. While we are about halfway in our no-till goal, we have achieved less than 1% of our goals in cover crops, wetlands and bioreactors. We have not 'achieved' sustainable agriculture in Iowa and we haven't 'fixed' our water quality.
Independent research results, untainted by corporate greed, are essential to solving the water quality problems of this state.
Iowa is first and foremost, an agricultural state. Iowans have a deep connection to the land, the air, and the water that not only provides economic support for many, but sustains life in the heartland. The Leopold Center and the important work it does supports the economic development of ag business in Iowa, provides vital research to increase agricultural business opportunities in the Midwest, and works to create new ag business ideas for the future. Iowans value the environment beyond economic and business considerations, however, and we demand legislators properly fund initiatives like the Leopold Center to continue to provide clean air, clean water, and productive agricultural lands. Do the right thing!
It has had enormous impact in iowa and beyond to protect pollinators, soil, and water. Watchdog also. I'm afraid your corporate sponsors want that to end as it costs them money.
It is a national resource and leader.
It is funding research that likely would not otherwise be funded.
It is important to have a diversity of voices in every discipline. Diversity leads to innovation and creative solutions to life's difficult problems. By defunding, the Leopold Center we are removing a strong and diverse view point from the Iowa agricultural community.

In this time of increasing challenges - environmentally, socially and politically we need need diversity more than ever.
It is one of the great hopes for the future of sustainable agriculture
LC supports research projects that otherwise would have little support
Leopold Center has been the flagship when it comes to sustainable agriculture in the State of Iowa and the Midwest. Innovative research and practices developed through Leopold Center's programs are critical in supporting our ongoing efforts in making agriculture sustainable (economically, environmentally, and socially).
Leopold Center has made positive impacts to our food system in Iowa and Nation.
Leopold Center is one of the few organizations working with agriculture in Iowa that has IOWANS interests in mind and not big ag. Leopold supports local foods and sustainable practices, which are vitally important to the health and future of Iowa.
Leopold center is supporting the future of farming and sustainable development for all Iowans.
Model of independent thinking about sustainable practices crucial to our future.
Modern Farming practices have to be constantly examined and improvements made whenever possible. Ensuring clean water and air are vital.
My family has farmed, in Iowa for 5 generations. Sustainable agriculture is critical for Iowa families to stay on their land and know that the top soil is there for next year and the wells aren't contaminated when I need to provide for the family. The Land and the People are Iowa's legacy, please vote accordingly.
One of the most forward thinking and far-reaching initiatives coming out of the Iowa Legislature has been the Leopold Center for Sustainability. The Center located at Iowa State University is made-up of non-partisan professional employees who manage and direct the Center's activities. Those activities help Iowa farmers and the larger agricultural community by providing results from research conducted in Iowa on Iowa soils that improve their profitability and help to enhance clean water initiatives. Iowa is a leader in sustainability and I believe that even in the face of budget shortfalls that representatives can look for funding to make up that shortfall in places where the funds are not making a difference to Iowans. The Leopold Center activities are making a difference.
Our current agricultural system is polluting and depleting our natural resources. It is imperative that we maximize funding to explore alternatives that generate profits for our farmers, and regenerate the land and waterways we depend on for the future.
Our nation needs groups like the Leopold center to promote a lasting and sustainable food system that nourishes both people and soil.
Research and science matter, especially as we are confronted with changes in weather patterns and recognize the importance of conserving good soil and clean water.
Research is fundamental to protecting our state and its resources, and the Leopold Center's work is fundamental to good research.
So that this center may continue to spread and further our knowledge in the field of agriculture
Some of my graduate school funding was provided through the Leopold Center. With out these monies I could not have afforded to attend school. The GPSA was crucial in my personal development. Through my graduate studies I was prepared for my current career,

<p>but more importantly deepened my understanding of the natural processes and grew my connection to the land and to place. It is the reason I am a concerned, engaged, and active citizen. I credit my graduate studies with my professional and personal development. without the funding I received from the Leopold Center I would not be who I am today.</p>
<p>Sustainability is the future of this state and country! The legislature must think long-term!</p>
<p>Sustainable Agriculture is absolutely necessary in our agriculture system moving forward. Our traditional agriculture system is not serving our farmers or our environment, and we need research to support new and affordable systems. Our farmers nor our environment can continue to survive on traditional farming systems. Cutting the Leopold Center is cutting a valuable resource that will help us build a new future for farming in Iowa.</p>
<p>Sustainable agriculture is essential to the legacy and future of the state of Iowa.</p>
<p>Sustainable Agriculture is incredibly important not only for the environmental health of Iowa, but for the future economic viability of the agriculture industry in Iowa. One of my minor's at Iowa State University is sustainability and the Iowa State Legislator is basically saying that my field of interest is not valued in Iowa. The legislator has been attacking educated workers and students significantly in the last three months and it needs to end. This is a starting point to turn around their attacks on Iowa's workers and students.</p>
<p>Sustainable agriculture is our future. We cannot continue to mine the soil. We can continue to poisons the bees. We cannot continue to poison our people with chemicals that have caused diseases such as autism and gluten sensitivity to sky rocket.</p>
<p>Sustainable agriculture is the future and Iowa should be the leader. I've always been proud to be an Iowan, until this year when the laws and customs in this state verge on barbaric.</p>
<p>The center is a national leader in sustainable agriculture.</p>
<p>The closure of facilities is an envoy of the end.</p>
<p>The funding we received is helping us to pilot new business ideas for local, sustainable food. Small grants such as these are an I'm important resource to small businesses and the Iowa economy.</p>
<p>The future of agriculture depends on it!</p>
<p>The gulf dead zone remains, water quality in Iowa is not substantially improving. Obviously the need for the Leopold Center is greater than ever!</p>
<p>The investment in their research has paid off immensely in the last 20 years with the new Organic program at ISU which has help profitable organic farms to expand in this ever changing market.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center ensures that Iowa State University can fund research into modern agricultural practices and enhance Iowa's agriculture-based economy. The work of the Leopold Center also ensures that the resources necessary for farming and agriculture are available for future generations of farmers and practitioners. Reducing or eliminating funding for this organization is detrimental to our economy by showing that maintaining future agricultural opportunities in the state is no longer important.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture (LCSA) has served as an incredibly important force in Iowa over the last 30 years by supporting and leveraging research and education on sustainable agriculture topics. My former colleagues and I (at Whiterock</p>



<p>Conservancy) received a Leopold Center grant in 2010 to study grazing of restored grasslands and used the findings to enhance our restoration grazing techniques. Staff from LCSA supported Whiterock Conservancy's work while I was there, by: providing oversight on the board of directors, opening the Grass-Based Livestock Working Group to discussion of WRC's work, and hosting field days at Whiterock. I am only one of the over 51,000 people who have taken part in LCSA programming. Iowa needs LCSA.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center is doing vital work to protect Iowa's water quality and soils and to further sustainable agriculture practices in the state.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center is imperative to keeping quality, sustainable agricultural research in Iowa. It's funding is necessary to progress as a state to a better agricultural system and rural livelihood.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center is one of the corner stones for organic and sustainable agriculture in Iowa. Our local food system is dependent on the Leopold Center staying funded.</p>
<p>The Leopold center is one of the pillar of sustainable agriculture in Iowa. Its research are critical to solve important issues such as water quality and soil erosion in Iowa.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center provides a much needed perspective. It would be asinine for legislatives to defund something that could be very useful for the future of Iowa. Now is the time to be progressive and creative, especially with the sting of water quality so fresh. Let's make good of the bad, and the Leopold Center is one asset of many that will help in doing so.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center provides a valuable resource by researching more sustainable ways to continue farming, while also studying the impact of current farming practices. Farmers feed the world, and we need places like the Leopold Center to continue to advance farmers into the future and the future needs of society!</p>
<p>The Leopold Center provides invaluable advancement for sustainable agriculture demonstration programs and irreplaceable resources for Iowa communities. The Leopold Center drives excellence in research, experiential learning, and is a crucial part of what makes ISU and the state a leader in sustainable agriculture.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center provides valuable research used by farmers to grow sustainable crops and remain profitable answer conserve iowa agriculture for the next generation.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center provides vital funding and programs to research sustainable agriculture in Iowa, and has positively impacted thousands of Iowa farmers. Its existence is necessary for the future of sustainable agriculture in Iowa.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center sponsors research and educational programs that better our understanding of how best to proceed forward in sustainable agricultural practices; a research interest that is of particular importance today given the devastating effects of our current practices on water quality, soil stability, and food quality.</p>
<p>The Leopold Center supports innovative development of new sustainable agriculture practices</p>
<p>The Leopold Center is essential in developing and maintaining sustainable agriculture.</p>
<p>The mission of the Leopold Center is vital to the quality of life and the environment of the State of Iowa.</p>
<p>The most progressive and practical organization in the land grant institutions,</p>

It has a long and established history of research and outreach and has credibility.
The research conducted by the Leopold Center is essential to the future of agriculture in Iowa. Conservation practices that are the result of this research help ensure clean water and protect the environment of Iowa as well as the nation.
The sustainability of our lands, from farm fields to prairies, are among the greatest issues facing our state. We cannot allow such a valuable resource and service to fall by the wayside.
There are many new techniques, and unanswered questions, about how to reduce nitrates and pesticides in agriculture that the Leopold Center can help answer. Researchers funded by the Leopold Center can test new crops and new crop rotations to improve the environmental effects of agriculture and keep Iowa's economy strong.
They help a variety of research projects that are beneficial for farmers, students and Iowa.
This research center has focused on advancing sustainable agriculture projects that directly benefit Iowa and its residents. Furthermore, part of their funding goes to directly benefit minorities, which research has shown is necessary if wanting to improve the community as a whole.
Water quality is important in Ames and Iowa
We need clean water, clean air and arable land for this and future generations. The Leopold Center is dedicated to this goal. I have always been proud that Iowa is home to the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture.
We need to keep scientific inquiry behind decisions made concerning soil and water quality, sustainable agriculture, and other ag management in Iowa. I support local food movements in North Iowa that have benefited from a Leopold Center grant and ISU consultation. This program offers the connection between the university and the local citizenry that helps Iowa grow economically and environmentally. Please continue funding this important program!
Why would you want to get rid of the Leopold Center when they are providing research needed to keep our water and soil resources at a high quality.
As someone with an invested interest in food security and agriculture in Iowa, the Leopold Center has been an irreplaceable resource for information concerning everything from available C.S.A. subscriptions to food and vegetable production budgets. Iowa has only ever benefited from investing in such a vital institute, and should continue to invest in it.
The Leopold Center's work making it possible to continue or start farming without being trapped in cycles of debt and soil degradation has been crucial to the region. At this moment, we need Centers like this more than ever -- we need to figure out better ways to build carbon in the soil, support farmer livelihood without further degrading the environment and rural economy, and to connect the many people who would like to work in the agricultural and food economy to livelihoods. Every year, surveys of Iowa farmers suggest that over two thirds of current farmers would strongly prefer to be running more diversified farms (and almost all farmers would prefer this to some extent). Very few farmers are running the kinds of operations they would like to run or to pass on to their grandchildren. So although the farm economy may be going along pretty well, it's efforts like those at the Leopold Center that hold out hope that our region might successfully become the kind of place our farmers COULD make it.

A bastion of important think tank research to make our state a competitive viable, competitive state as it sustains viability for future generations
Achieving sustainable agriculture requires study, both quantitative and qualitative for the future of farming as well as the safety of all of Iowa's residents.
Agriculture is Iowa's most important industry, and we need innovative thinking about the challenges that it faces, such as erosion, water quality, superweeds, etc.
Agriculture is the foundation of our communities, families and economy. We must find new ways to preserve the sustainability of our nation's most important industry, and without the Leopold Center that fight will be all the more challenging.
Agriculture is the largest industry by far in the state of Iowa. The Leopold Center is fully committed to providing not-for-profit research and information towards the goal of sustainable agriculture, a goal which is far from being reached and meanwhile contributes greatly to the worst water quality issues in the nation.
Agriculture is the soul of Iowa. The Leopold Center research projects have been major contributors to helping us keep agriculture alive and sustainable into the future. I strongly oppose the Legislature's proposed cuts to the Center's funding.
Agriculture is very important to our state, of course. So is clean water for drinking, for fishing. So is conserving our soil for future generations of farmers. So is habitat for wildlife. ALL of these things are important to the quality of life for Iowans.
As a farmer, the information that the Leopold Center has given to farmers is key to providing and keeping a sustainable farm. The Leopold Center is a key factor in helping farmers and others live a sustainable life.
As a former resident of Iowa, I benefitted through the Leopold Center's thoughtful research to improve the state's sustainable use of natural resources. Access to clean water is a human right, and the Leopold Center's work on water quality is more important now than ever as the Dakota Access Pipeline runs through Iowa's waterways. Fully fund the Leopold Center to keep Iowa from being the next Flint!
As a resident of Iowa, the work done at the Leopold center on water quality and nutrient reduction directly affects my quality of life and health. Please don't defund such an important organization.
As a small scale farmer, I rely on the important work done for soil and water quality by the Leopold Center for Iowa and Iowans. I am extremely disappointed by this year's legislative session and the poor choices made by greedy and short sighted politicians.
As a wildlife biologist, the connections between healthy agricultural practices and healthy wildlife populations is vital. Healthy wildlife populations are indicators of healthy habitats. Healthy habitats are indicators of healthy ecosystems. Healthy ecosystems means humans have a better chance to be healthy, too, as we are an integral part of these ecosystems. We continue to ignore that fact. The Leopold Center conducts critical research and provides critical information for the greater good. It's that simple.
As a young adult, the move toward local food is very important for my future. As we encounter more environmental issues that affect food and water availability/cleanliness, etc, I wanted to be assured that I can get the food and water I deserve in the future. The focus on corporate farming in Iowa (and other midwest states) is disheartening, because it goes against my desire for people to have access to cleanly produced food. While I understand many people need to be fed and large farms are a way to do this, I strongly believe that

places like the Leopold Center use their outreach programs in important ways, which teach people self-sustainability practices that better their food and the food of their community.
As we battle water quality problems and soil conservation issues, it is important that respected entities continue to research and recommend best practices without undue pressure from outside entities.
At no time in history can Iowa benefit more from finding new, innovative ways to protect our natural resources.
Balanced research in agriculture is critical. If ISU loses the Leopold Center the only theory of ag will be biotechnology limiting students to innovation and research studies.
Because of The Leopold Center's support for innovative research and demonstration, Iowa is a leader in the Midwest in sustainable agricultural practices and sound natural resources management.
Being an agriculturally-based state, and seeing that all Iowans need clean water and fertile soil for basic sustenance, it is imperative that we continue to research and fund projects related to making agriculture more resilient.
Clean air and water are important to me. Biodiversity is important to me. Sustainability is imperative for our sustainability, thus the name.
Current agricultural practices may not be sustainable and may not keep our state's natural resources healthy. Support and research for sustainable agriculture is absolutely necessary.
Educating farmers about sustainability practices impacts every Iowan. By keeping our land healthy, it keeps our communities and our economy healthy.
Farmers need a source of unbiased study of a wide range of agricultural practices. The Leopold Center provides just that.
Farming today is in dire straits and we need to keep funding sources of study that push the boundaries that Big Ag would like to keep us within.
Funding science in agriculture is vital to the future of humans who eat.
Hands down the most important resource in sustainable agriculture in the country
I am concerned about the longterm environmental health of Iowa.
I believe that clean water is a human right, and we in Iowa are putting at risk our water systems and our futures with our current agricultural practices.
I don't want to get cancer or have any of my loved ones get cancer because of pollution caused by unsafe agricultural practices that pollute the air my family breathes and the water we drink.
I have worked all of my adult life to support environmental issues and to protect and restore our land. The information from the Leopold Center is key to informing us how to live on and treat our land, water and air.
I have worked closely with people in the Leopold Center and have cited research findings conducted at the Leopold Center in my own research. I also see our teaching and research institute in Florida look for information from the Leopold Center publications. Their research studies are fundamental to the sustainability of agriculture and natural resources and to the wellbeing of all Iowans and US

residents.
I live in rural Iowa and sustainable agriculture is the future.
I support efforts toward water quality and research.
I support sustainable agriculture practices and i believe organizations such as this are leading the way in Iowa
I support the Leopold Center's work and critical mission, because it has a positive and profound impact on our quality of life and future. The Center's projects are compelling examples of forward thinking and community problem solving, and are recognized as a model across the U.S. Defunding the Leopold Center is not only a mistake, it would be a failure of government to serve its people, and a tragic loss for Iowa.
I utilize resources created through the Leopold Center such as the Beginning Farmers guide to get kids and adults excited about growing food and therefore excited about eating healthy food and purchasing fresh fruits and vegetables grown locally.
I work in conservation and agriculture. The Center is crucial to improving soil and water quality AND productivity on Iowa's landscapes.
I'm a farmer and the Leopold Center does essential work to support farmers and rural communities.
Innovative research and outreach.
Iowa must move towards more sustainable agricultural practices to protect soil and water.
Iowa needs the Leopold Center to allow the state to continue to be a leader in world agriculture.
Iowa's Nutrient Reduction strategy is the only thing standing between farmers and heaps and mounds of federal regulation. The Nutrient Reduction Strategy must succeed, in some form or another, in order to keep farms running smoothly and keep our drinking water clean enough to drink. We can argue about how effective the current Nutrient Reduction strategy is, but there is no argument that it would be (will be) less effective without the Leopold Center's efforts to improve agricultural sustainability in the state of Iowa. This defunding is not an attack on environmentalists, it is an attack on Iowans.
It is an important part of Iowa State University.
It is very important for us and future generations for the research that the Leopold Center does for Iowa's Agriculture, water quality and many other projects they continue to work on for our State.
It supports creative, sustainable agriculture that incorporates community concerns.
It supports local food systems, like in Grinnell!
It's important to have continued research for important agricultural studies.
Leader of farming, environmental issues and healthy communities
Leopold Center funding helps create healthy citizens in Iowa!
Leopold center is supporting the future of farming and sustainable development for all Iowans.

Leopold is one of the most highly respected institutions on local and regional food systems. They are innovators in supporting this young, still fragile sector. Leopold Center has contributed to the sector's growing success.
Local food system work and conservation efforts are extremely important and the Leopold Center is a leader in this type of work.
My concern stems primarily from private capacity as a citizen of Iowa -- and the United States of America. The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture is doing vital work that has statewide and national impact. I care deeply about the fate of our environment -- our water quality, wildlife habitat, the climate that supports all life on this planet. I also know that farmers and their land stewardship practices are vital to achieving the kind of balance needed for supporting families, communities and our natural resources and biodiversity.
The Leopold Center uses a collaborative, team approach to addressing challenges facing farmers and our local food systems by doing cross-cutting research that draws on the expertise of a wide range of experts and voices. This kind of collaboration is so essential -- not just for the sake of producing creative, innovative outcomes, but as a role model for how constructive partnerships can be forged in spite of our social climate of divisiveness.
The Leopold Center's work resonates nationally, and the direct support it has provided -- to farmers, to researchers, to students -- has touched countless thousands, through the ripple effects of projects and their impact on ordinary citizens.
The need to find sustainable solutions for Iowa and the nation will only grow more urgent, as economic and environmental challenges confront farmers and communities. We need an organization like the Leopold Center to exist, helping to find the answers.
No comment if it might be shared publicly...I'm too mad.
Organic research and sustainable ag practices
Our nation needs groups like the Leopold center to promote a lasting and sustainable food system that nourishes both people and soil.
Preserving our natural resources is important. The Leopold Center has made significant contributions to that effort.
Programs the Center funds have a long-term positive impact in Iowa on essential topics.
Research and education on sustainable agriculture are more important than ever. The center is effective and efficient.
Research and resource development conducted by Leopold Center are critical to the continued growth and acceleration of the food hub sector.
Research for sustainable agriculture
Seems like research, grants, and programming spearheaded by the Leopold Center would likely "earn" its keep, so to speak. Maybe the Center should justify its existence. But, I definitely don't want it to be a victim of politically motivated budget cuts.
Some of my graduate school funding was provided through the Leopold Center. With out these monies I could not have afforded to attend school.

The GPSA was crucial in my personal development. Through my graduate studies I was prepared for my current career, but more importantly deepened my understanding of the natural processes and grew my connection to the land and to place. It is the reason I am a concerned, engaged, and active citizen. I credit my graduate studies with my professional and personal development. without the funding I received from the Leopold Center I would not be who I am today.

Sustainability and local systems are the future, and the wellbeing of Iowans depends on funding for programs that support research and services in this area.

Sustainability is the only way this country will be able to manage itself in the future. The Leopold Center was the leading force in teaching this to Iowans and others.

Sustainable agriculture in Iowa is important on economic and environmental levels and the Leopoldo center helps to support Iowa agriculture through research and programs.

Sustainable agriculture is almost always ignored in politics. And too many university agricultural programs are funded by the very corporations that actively work against sustainable agriculture initiatives. The Leopold Center at Iowa State is one of the few research initiatives that provides an affordable, unbiased way to study the science of sustainable agriculture.

Sustainable agriculture is essential to the legacy and future of the state of Iowa.

Sustainable agriculture is imperative for a greener future

Sustainable agriculture is the future of food production in Iowa and across the globe. To maintain a competitive edge in regional and global education and commodity production we must continue to fund the Leopold Center.

Sustainable agriculture is the future.

Sustainable agriculture research is vital for the future of Iowa

The world is in ecological crisis. Legislators who are unwilling or unable to understand the science that leads to this conclusion are dangerous. They are pushing human culture to a new Dark Age, where superstition, lies and greed reject reason and compassion. Chemistry and physics are hard sciences. Rejecting the reality of their physical forces will not stop them. Only sustainable practices including regenerative agriculture can begin to mitigate the erosion of ecological services foisted upon Society by industrialized processes the mine natural resources rather than steward them.

Yet, the Iowa Legislature led by Terry Branstad, would strip funding from the Leopold Center, and turn over my hard earned tax dollars in tax rebates and incentives to the very industries that produce the serious ecological consequences we suffer in Iowa, especially in rural areas. I am a rural resident and I deeply resent the poisoning of the Des Moines River by eroded soil laden with herbicides, insecticides, fungicides and expensive manufactured fertilizers that increase eutrophication of rivers and streams. Claiming that the work of the Leopold Center is finished - is either a deliberate lie, or the thoughts of the willingly benighted. The work of the Leopold Center is just beginning. The Iowa Legislators who presume to take away funding for this important work do this because

they known research generated proves that agriculture can be done differently and more sustainably.
I can only surmise that this cabal of legislators are more loyal to the dark money infusing their campaign accounts than they are to Iowa Citizens and future generations of Iowa's children.
The center does good work and take risks getting new research started.
The center is a national leader in sustainable agriculture.
The center is a vital resource for agricultural producers who are interested in improving their operations and be better stewards of the soil, air, and water.
The center's research has helped many farmers including those in my state of Maine.
The closure of facilities is an envoy of the end.
The environment is important and so is our history
The funding from the Leopold Center has encouraged research on very important ag. and water issues that directly affect Iowans. My research on the manure use practices and knowledge of Iowa farmers, funded by the Leopold Center, was critical both to my development as a scientist and as a well-educated citizen and provided scientific information not available elsewhere. Many times alternative funding sources are needed for "less popular" but important research such as mine.
The funding we received is helping us to pilot new business ideas for local, sustainable food. Small grants such as these are an I'm important resource to small businesses and the Iowa economy.
The genetic base for corn has become very limited. It could be wiped out with one disease or pest like the Irish potato disaster. The base needs to be broadened. People are trying to work on this problem at the Leopold Center. Don't cut out the funds they need. Our future and the whole economic bases of Iowa could be quickly destroyed in a couple of years. Consider what tomorrow could hold that is not expected.
The Leopold Center advocates practices that are sustainable and beneficial as opposed to agribusiness' practices.
The Leopold Center allows Iowa to be in a leader in innovation for the continual improvement of agricultural practices in Iowa. The prolonged future of agriculture in Iowa depends on the sound science, transparency, and impartiality that the Center provides.
The Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture (LCSA) has served as an incredibly important force in Iowa over the last 30 years by supporting and leveraging research and education on sustainable agriculture topics. My former colleagues and I (at Whiterock Conservancy) received a Leopold Center grant in 2010 to study grazing of restored grasslands and used the findings to enhance our restoration grazing techniques. Staff from LCSA supported Whiterock Conservancy's work while I was there, by: providing oversight on the board of directors, opening the Grass-Based Livestock Working Group to discussion of WRC's work, and hosting field days at Whiterock. I am only one of the over 51,000 people who have taken part in LCSA programming. Iowa needs LCSA.
The Leopold Center for Sustainable agriculture is one of the only sane representatives in the discussion of sustainable farming and policy in Iowa. They are a very valuable resource to work toward the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Plan.



The Leopold Center funds several programs throughout Iowa that support the development of local food systems and sustainable agriculture. Personally, the organization I work with, Healthy Harvest of North Iowa, are involved with two projects that have a HUGE impact in our North Central area: one is building strong collaborations of our local farmers markets - improving the experience and availability of product for customers and producers alike; the other is supporting the research and development of a food hub model that will include light processing which will greatly increase the market capacity for local agricultural products to restaurants and grocery stores in our area. These projects impact thousands of people, and improve the quality of life for rural and urban communities alike. PLEASE consider the wide impact that this program has throughout our state, and the amount of small, local businesses that are both directly and in-directly by the Leopold Center. The work is crucial for these businesses and consumers alike.

The Leopold Center has become a nationally recognized leader in promoting sustainable agriculture for all farmers.

The Leopold Center has been a strong supporter of programs that have helped my work with women landowners and farmers in Iowa. Research and funding programs related to resource management have also been integral to work I've done in the natural resourced field, working with farmers on best management practices to reduce soil loss and improve water quality. Last, as a small scale farm partner, our farm has benefited from the Leopold Center's support of organizations like Practical Farmers of Iowa. The Leopold's work is not done. We need more of the center's expertise in Iowa and nationwide, helping us mitigate the tremendous challenges in agriculture.

The Leopold Center has funded on-farm research through Practical Farmers of Iowa to help reduce nitrates in our Iowa waters via on farm research of cover crops, conservation efforts, and small grains. They have also funded conservation research, needed so badly in our state. The Center has also supported research on extended crop rotation studies, which have found improvements in crop productivity, weed control, ground water and overall profitability.

The Leopold Center has provided ongoing leadership in the development of sustainable agriculture program in the US and beyond. The future of agriculture depends upon the kind of research that promotes inclusive engagement in agriculture (e.g. women, minorities, immigrants), sustainable livelihoods for farmers and farm communities, and that links the production of agriculture with the nutritional health at the population level. The Leopold Center has been a leader in all of these areas.

The Leopold Center has sponsored the work of Iowans concerned about their water and soil resources through more than 600 research projects---on topics spanning water quality, manure management, livestock grazing, cover crops, alternative conservation practices, biomass production, soil health and the seminal work in local food systems development in Iowa. The results of these projects provided information that directly benefited Iowa farmers.

If you look at just six of the major projects the Center funded, for every dollar the Leopold Center spent on these projects, an additional \$4.60 was leveraged to complement or expand the work. (<http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/change>) And all this money went to Iowans to help conserve Iowa's precious natural resources.

Sustainable agriculture is an imperative in our state. We do not want to end up like states that mined their natural resources and now

there is nothing left.
The Leopold Center is a leader in sustainable agriculture as well as resource conservation research. It is one of the few places where I, as a beginning farmer, can easily access resources and information related to my farm business.
The Leopold Center is a national leader in sustainable agriculture, local value-chains, and food systems...all critical issues to the health and well-being of all Americans, not just Iowans. Iowa has long been seen as ahead-of-the-curve by prioritizing these issues and providing state funding to the Center. Eliminating this funding would be a terrible loss for the state and the country.
The Leopold Center is a pillar of the sustainable agriculture world, and contributes essential research to the future of a healthy environment and food supply.
The Leopold Center is a true leader in sustainable agriculture providing timely, research, programming and opportunities for Iowans but also for others across the country to follow. Sustainability isn't something that is solved and done, with climate change farmers are facing new challenges constantly, not to mention new policy initiatives that also pose a new barrier to farmers, the Leopold Center has been at the forefront of these fights for our farmers and continue to do so. Their research is important for the rich agricultural history and future of Iowa but also for the continued guidance for the rest of the US.
The Leopold Center is an important force driving innovative research into farming systems that are environmentally sustainable and benefit rural economies, American farmers and the health of our communities. This research is channeled into practices that conserve natural resources, stimulate local economies, and support farmers and rural communities, something important to every American, regardless of political persuasion.
The Leopold Center is doing vital work to protect Iowa's water quality and soils and to further sustainable agriculture practices in the state.
The Leopold Center is nationally recognized as a leader in sustainable agriculture that works for ALL farmers. At a time when we need to be cognizant of being the best stewards we can for Iowa's precious land, the work of the Leopold Center can lead the way.
The Leopold Center is not just important for Iowa State University but for Iowa, benefiting its people and the economy through agricultural research, innovation, and outreach.
The Leopold center is one of the greatest foundations our state has. It is one of the only centers that will problem solve issues nobody else is willing to touch. Through education, research, and project leaders this centers closure would be devastating.
The Leopold Center is vital to ISU. It is important because it embodies the ideals of moving toward a better future for the earth - our only planet.
The Leopold Center provides vital funding and programs to research sustainable agriculture in Iowa, and has positively impacted thousands of Iowa farmers. Its existence is necessary for the future of sustainable agriculture in Iowa.
The Leopold Center represents the historic memory of sustainable agriculture research and education not only in Iowa but across the nation. It also represents the future of sustainable soil management, water quality research and most importantly, the next generation of visionary students we all depend upon.

The Leopold Center teaches students of all ages critical thinking skills for ways to better manage our lands for present and future generations. Aldo Leopold's legacy is a state treasure that must be protected!
The Leopold Center, supported by the people of Iowa, is a gift to America. All American's benefit from the research and extension work it has produced or underwritten over the years. But Iowan's get an excellent return on investment-- not only because Leopold brings private and federal funding back to Iowa, but it also hosts meetings, events, and conferences that bring additional dollars to the private sector. Efforts to closing the Leopold Center are absolutely penny-wise and pound foolish. I hope that politics will not squander the natural economic advantage the Leopold Center offers the State of Iowa.
The Leopold Center's mission is important to Iowa's Farmers.
The Leopold Center's value to current and future Iowans is immense, especially relative to its cost, by supporting research and education for which agricultural sustainability is a forethought.
The Leopold Center is our way of leaving a better farm state to our children
The Leopold Center provides an alternative initiative and balance to an agricultural program which is heavily supported and, in turn, influenced by corporate agriculture.
The Leopolds Center contribution to sustainable agriculture extends not just to all of Iowa, but the thinking and work registered on a national scale. To defund this asset to the larger sustainable agricultural movement and mid-sized farms across the nation would be a travesty.
The most progressive and practical organization in the land grant institutions, It has a long and established history of research and outreach and has credibility.
The most reliable regenerative agriculture research comes from the Leopold Center
The research and education AND the projects that the Leopold Center are known for have helped our county and our state in so many ways. Our Farmers Markets have benefitted greatly from the Regional Foods Working Groups and we all benefit from the legacy of the land, the support of diverse landscapes and clean water that projects promote. ASK THAT YOU PLEASE ALLOW A HEARING for Leopold Center Funding.
The sustainability of our lands, from farm fields to prairies, are among the greatest issues facing our state. We cannot allow such a valuable resource and service to fall by the wayside.
The world needs healthy soil and clean water for a sustainable future!
Their research improves our environment and family farms
Their work is critically important to Iowa's water quality, local foods networks, and so much more of the things Iowans are dependent on
They are doing important work on local food systems, crop rotations and water quality!
They have supported great research at Iowa State University that has helped students like myself to network with other professionals in agricultural sciences.

They help a variety of research projects that are beneficial for farmers, students and Iowa.
They offer distance learning that is valuable to ISU!
They promote alternatives to industrial agriculture that ruins the land and our waters. The state's budget shortfall is blamed on low commodity prices. If Iowans grew even more corn, they would get even less for it! More corn does not solve the state revenue problem.
This has helped conserve thousands of acres of land, and helped thousands of farmers.
This is something for Iowa to be proud of. It makes us unique. It positions us looking toward the future rather than clinging to a dying corporate past. The Leopold center has the ability to raise awareness for proper land stewardship through education, preserving the pristine beauty of our state for all to share.
This is the research and think tank that can help farmers today-and educate non farmers on the issues we face in our soil and water conservation and how it matters to us all.
To combat big ag makes all the decisions, many unsafe practices for our land and drinking water. My well is polluted due to nitrates. It is sad I can't drink it with out expensive filtration
Water quality is a very important in Iowa. The research at the Leopold Center will help in raising the quality of water for Iowans.
Water quality is important in Ames and Iowa
We can't ignore environmental issues that will inevitably affect the quality of life that Iowans now enjoy. It would be an appalling display of disrespect toward future generations if funding for this were cut. As lawmakers and representatives, you should want to support programs that make Iowa seem appealing to young, educated people like myself. Taking away funding for programs that show Iowa's commitment to sustainability and agriculture will have the opposite effect.
We have abused this land in our state and the programs supported by this center are working to repair the damage and make farming a sustainable practice.
We have to continue to invest in our communities this way or else there's nothing left.
We need MORE research and action to increase organic farming and a more diverse ag in Iowa - for the sake of water quality, bee and other pollinators' survival, human health, and top soil and soil tilth improvement, etc.
We need organizations that support, research and educate on sustainability in our state.
We need the Leopold Center and sustainable thinking more than ever.
We need their view point and message.
We need to keep scientific inquiry behind decisions made concerning soil and water quality, sustainable agriculture, and other ag management in Iowa. I support local food movements in North Iowa that have benefited from a Leopold Center grant and ISU consultation. This program offers the connection between the university and the local citizenry that helps Iowa grow economically and environmentally. Please continue funding this important program!

We need to keep working on all phases of sustainable agriculture for the health of our people and the health of our land.

We want Iowa to be known as the " healthiest state". This goes hand in hand with the work of the Leopold Center. It is unacceptable to take away these funds.

What educated, thoughtful person who cares about the future would NOT want to fund research that leads to a better life on this planet for everyone??? This is a total no-brainer!

Why are they trying to impede sustainable farming? Other than supporting industries were the long term viability of the land and its people take the back burner and get burnt.