This packet contains supplemental material for the *Earth's Bounty in Iowa: Then & Now* speaker events from the Iowa Center for the Book.

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For more information: [WWW.IOWACENTERFORTHEBOOK.ORG](http://WWW.IOWACENTERFORTHEBOOK.ORG)

*Earth's Bounty in Iowa: Then & Now* has been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the Human Endeavor
Dr. Pamela Riney-Kehrberg

Pamela Riney-Kehrberg is Professor of History at Iowa State University, where she has taught since 2000. She is the author of *Rooted in Dust: Surviving Drought and Depression in Southwestern Kansas*, *Childhood on the Farm: Work, Play and Coming of Age in the Midwest*, *Always Plenty to Do: Growing Up on a Farm in the Long Ago* and *The Nature of Childhood: An Environmental History of Growing Up in America Since 1865*. She is also the editor of the Routledge History of Rural America. In 2017, she became a Fellow of the Agricultural History Society. Currently, she is researching the Farm Crisis of the 1980s.

Darcy Maulsby

If you enjoy fascinating, true stories well told, you have a lot in common with Darcy (Dougherty) Maulsby. As Iowa’s Storyteller, Darcy believes anyone who eats has a connection to the things she’s most passionate about, including food, farming and history. As a fifth generation farmer, business owner, author, marketing specialist, historian and speaker, Darcy helps businesses uncover their “wow” stories and share them to inspire people to dream bigger, revitalize their rural communities and change the world for the good, one story at a time. She is also proud to be part of a farm family that operates a Century Farm in Calhoun County near Lake City and Yetter. Darcy also serves as president of the Calhoun County Corn Growers, president of Central School Preservation in Lake City and is a member of the District Advisory Committee for the Iowa Soybean Association.

www.darcymaulsby.com
1. What were the features of farms that were common 100 years ago, but are not common today? How big were farms? What kind of technology did they use? When did livestock for home consumption and large gardens become less common? When did farms start to grow significantly, and why?

2. What are some of the differences between small-town and farm life today in Iowa compared to city life in Iowa? What are some similarities?

3. Imagine you’re an Iowa farmer trying to make a living today while raising a family, saving for retirement, and finding a way to pass on the farm to the next generation. What do you think are some of the biggest challenges you might face?

4. There’s a lot of talk today about “corporate ag,” as well as “family farms.” How would you define these two terms? Does it matter who raises our food, and how? Is there a “right” way to farm?

5. How has technology changed your own life (think computers, smartphones, etc.)? How do you think technology has changed farming through the years? When did farms in this community begin to get tractors? Combines?

6. As fewer people live on farms, farmers have become a minority, since they make up less than 2% of the population. How can Iowans include this minority voice in key conversations about food production, conservation, water quality, and farming?

7. How has a focus on sustainability changed people’s view of farming and food production in the past 20 years?

8. Women’s roles in society have changed dramatically since the 1970s, as women entered the workforce in larger numbers. How have women’s roles on the farm changed since the 1970s?

9. Do young people want to remain in the community? Why or why not? How has the community been affected by the loss of rural churches and schools?

10. As Iowa’s rural communities often struggle to maintain their population or grow, what kinds of things would encourage people to consider living in a rural community, especially if they are not farmers?

11. Food security food is directly tied to national security. One of Iowa’s senators has said that any society is only nine meals away from a revolution. What does this mean for Iowa, especially in a world where Iowa agriculture is tied to global trade?
DR. PAMELA RINEY-KEHRBERG RECOMMENDS:

GENERAL
- Danbom, David. *Born in the Country: A History of Rural America*.
- Schwieder, Dorothy. *Iowa: The Middle Land*.

AGRICULTURE
- Anderson, J.L. *Capitalist Pigs: Pigs, Pork, and Power in America*.
- Bogue, Allan G. *From Prairie to Cornbelt: Farming on the Illinois and Iowa Prairies in the Nineteenth Century*.
- Hoffbeck, Steven R. *The Haymakers: A Chronicle of Five Farm Families*.
- Wuthnow, Robert. *In The Blood: Understanding America's Farm Families*.

RURAL LIFE
- Barker-Devine, Jenny. *On Behalf of the Family Farm: Iowa Farm Women’s Activism Since 1945*.
- Bauer, Bryce. *Gentlemen Bootleggers: The True Story of Templeton Rye, Prohibition, and a Small Town in Cahoots*.
- Kline, Ronald. *Consumers in the Country: Technology and Social Change in Rural America*.
- Neth, Mary. *Preserving the Family Farm: Women, Community, and the Foundations of Agribusiness in the Midwest*.
- Riney-Kehrberg, Pamela. *Childhood on the Farm: Work, Play and Coming of Age in the Midwest*.
- Wuthnow, Robert. *Remaking the Heartland: Middle America since the 1950s*.

MEMOIRS AND FICTION
- Burlend, Rebecca. *A True Picture of Emigration*.
- Harnack, Curtis. *We Have All Gone Away*.
- Hoover, Dwight. *A Good Day’s Work: An Iowa Farm in the Great Depression*.
- Ise, John. *Sod and Stubble: The Story of a Kansas Farm*.
- Kalish, Mildred Armstrong. *Little Heathens*.
MEMOIRS AND FICTION CONTINUED
- Smiley, Jane. *A Thousand Acres*.
- Stong, Phil. *State Fair*.

DOCUMENTARY
- “Farm Crisis,” Iowa Public Television.

DARCY MAULSBY RECOMMENDS:

UNDERSTANDING THE HISTORY OF RURAL IOWA
- Bogue, Allan G. *From Prairie to Corn Belt: Farming on the Illinois and Iowa Prairies in the Nineteenth Century*.
- Hunter, Rebecca, and Dale Wolicki. *Sears-Roebuck Book of Barns: A Reprint of the 1919 Catalog*.
- Kenkel, Steve. *Kernels of Corn History*.
- Maulsby, Darcy Dougherty. *Calhoun County*.
- Maulsby, Darcy Dougherty. *Iowa Agriculture: A History of Farming, Food and Family*.
- Maulsby, Darcy Dougherty. *Dallas County*.
- Williams, Myron. *Ol’ Doc’s Cornfield Chronicles featuring Snowball Pony from Hell*.

AG, FARMING AND FOOD RESOURCES

*Iowa Food and Family Project*
Explore how food is grown around the state and meet the farmers who make it happen, 24/7, 365 days a year. The Iowa Food & Family Project is all about celebrating farm families, uniting rural and urban communities and providing the information and experiences you need to make informed food choices. Sign up for the Iowa Food and Family Project’s e-newsletter to get all the latest updates, including information on the next Expedition Farm Country, where you travel via motorcoach to working Iowa farms, meet the farmers and learn more about how the food you eat gets from farm gate to your dinner plate.
www.iowafoodandfamily.com

*CommonGround*
As consumers get further away from the farm, the more questions they have about the food they feed their families. CommonGround is based on the idea that we need to make food and farming personal. When consumers understand that real families are raising their food and that they share common values and expectations, they have more trust in farming.
www.iowacorn.org/education/commonground
**DOCUMENTARIES**

*Farmland* (2014)

Most Americans have never stepped foot on a farm or ranch or even talked to the people who grow and raise the food we eat. *Farmland* takes an intimate look at the lives of farmers and ranchers in their 20s, all of whom are now responsible for running their farming business. Step inside the world of farming for a first-hand glimpse into the lives of young farmers and ranchers. Learn about their high-risk/high-reward jobs and passion for a way of life that has been passed down from generation to generation, yet continues to evolve.

www.FarmlandFilm.com


This documentary, written and produced by Buena Vista University digital media students, shows how a 520-acre “card” in a northern Iowa cornfield in honor of Mickey Mouse’s birthday generated international news and acclaim for the Walt Disney Company and hundreds of northern Iowa residents. It also brought much-needed fun and optimism in the late 1980s, when rural Iowa was still suffering from the effects of the Farm Crisis.

**BLOGS AND AG IN THE CLASSROOM RESOURCES**

*Corn, Beans, Pigs and Kids*

Farmer, mother and native Iowan Val Plagge lives by the saying “bloom where you are planted.” She’s proud to be a farmer, farmer's wife and stay-at-home mom. Combine that passion with her love for her community and volunteering, and there are always fields of opportunities for her family in rural northern Iowa—and she loves to share stories, recipes and more from the farm.

www.CornBeansPigsKids.com

*Iowa Ag Literacy*

Agriculture is too important a topic to be taught only to the small percentage of students pursuing vocational agricultural studies. Agricultural literacy includes an understanding of historical and current economic, social and environmental issues that affect all Americans. This understanding includes being knowledgeable about food and fiber production, processing and domestic and international marketing. An increased knowledge of agriculture and nutrition allows you to make informed personal choices about diet and health. Informed citizens will be able to participate in establishing the policies that will support a competitive agricultural industry in this country and abroad. Iowa Ag Literacy offers a lending library, Iowa Core lessons for teachers and much more.

www.IowaAgLiteracy.org