

Land Investment Monthly - February 2019

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Highlights from the 2019 Land Investment Expo

Martha Stewart tells Iowa farmers she has ‘a passion for growing things’

What do Martha Stewart and Iowa farmers have in common?

They both wear boots, think cornfields are beautiful and appreciate good fertilizer.

"If you're going to have a farm, it might as well be beautiful," Stewart told about 900 farmers and landowners in Des Moines Friday. "I would consider a cornfield to be beautiful."

Stewart, who's turned graceful living into big business, was the keynote speaker the Peoples Company 12th annual Land Expo. [Read More](#)

8 Highlights from the Land Investment Expo

More than 900 attendees attended the 12th annual Land Investment Expo on Friday in Des Moines, Iowa. Started in 2012, the expo brings together farmers, landowners, investors, economists, and policy leaders to discuss the challenges and opportunities involving land investment, market forces, and the growing impact of technology in land management.

The event is known for bringing in big names for the keynote speaker and this year did not disappoint with Martha Stewart in that slot. Here's what Stewart had to say about food and farming, plus notable nuggets from the other sessions and speakers. [Read More](#)

Martha Stewart: I Always Wanted to be a Farmer

Martha Stewart has a long list of accomplishments that includes hosting an Emmy-award winning TV show, writing 93 books, and becoming one of America's most iconic and trusted lifestyle experts. But what did she want to be when she was growing up?

"I always wanted to be a farmer," says Stewart, who was in Des Moines, Iowa, on January 25 as the keynote speaker for 900 people attending the Land Investment Expo. [Read More](#)

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2019 Farmland Outlook: Values Stay Resilient

Despite another year of low profit margins for farmers, rising interest rates and global economic uncertainty, the farmland market was flat to even slightly-higher in 2018.

“Farmland values remain relatively resilient given the downward pressure from farm incomes,” says RD Schrader, president of Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company in Columbia City, Ind. “Overall farmland values continue a slight trickle-down trend, as interest from farmers who saved in the better income years and investors continues to provide support.” [Read More](#)

Key to Survive: Get Better, Not Bigger

In these continued tough times, what makes for a successful farmer? If you’re spending more time in the office and less time in the tractor or cab, that’s a good sign.

These are the times in agriculture for farmers to get better, not bigger, says Jim Knuth, a senior vice president with Farm Credit Services of America. Knuth spoke to a standing-only room at the 2019 Land Investment Expo on January 25 in Des Moines, Iowa. [Read More](#)

Nature Conservancy spends big bucks to buy farmland in Murray-Darling Basin

Conservation group Nature Conservancy has purchased two major cattle stations in NSW for \$55 million.

The purchase is believed to be the largest of a farm by a conservation group, and is being described as a game-changer in the Murray-Darling Basin.

Nature Conservancy has partnered with Tiverton Agriculture, which plans to run some of the 33,000 hectare property as a working farm. [Read More](#)