

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Iowa stars in new documentary
about effects of big ag on water quality
Come for the Show, Stay for the Discussion

One night only - **February 18**
showing of **Big River** and **King Corn**
at Fleur Cinema in Des Moines.

(This film showing was to be shown in January, but was rescheduled due to a snow storm.)

In *King Corn* two college buddies plant and sell an acre of corn as an experiment to learn where and how corn is used in food. In *Big River*, Ian and Curt return to Iowa with a new mission: to investigate the environmental impact their acre of corn has had on the people and places downstream.

Panelists Confirmed for “Big River” and “King Corn” Discussion

After the showing of *King Corn* and *Big River* at Fleur Cinema on Thursday, February 18, Iowa Environmental Council and Practical Farmers of Iowa will host a discussion with local farmers and farm researchers. The panel includes Richard Cruse, professor of Agronomy at Iowa State University; Jerry Peckumn, a corn and soybean farmer in Greene County; and Sarah Carlson, a field crop specialist at Practical Farmers of Iowa.

Join us at 6 pm for a pre-film reception. At 6:45 *King Corn* will begin with *Big River* and the panel discussion to follow.

Richard Cruse is a professor in the Agronomy Department at Iowa State University and the Director of the Iowa Water Center. His research program involves field and laboratory research in soil and crop management, applied soil physics, and soil fertility, with the aim of evaluating the effect of tillage and cropping systems on soil physical properties, soil and water conservation, and crop growth and yield.

Jerry Peckumn is a farmer from Greene County, Iowa, where he farms over 2000 acres with his son, Tom. Jerry raises corn, soybeans and a small herd of natural beef. On his farm, he uses

sound land management tools to minimize runoff and protect the soil. He has created and maintains forty acres of natural prairie and forest for wildlife habitat. Jerry graduated from ISU with a degree in Ag Business and spent many years working with farmers in agriculture banking before farming fulltime.

Sarah Carlson coordinates Practical Farmers of Iowa's On-farm Research Program and organizes specific outreach focused on cover crops, non-GMO and organic corn hybrid testing and soil and water quality monitoring. She was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ecuador for 2.5 years, initiating 4 community banks and increasing farmers' use of low input farming methods. She is originally from northern Illinois and is 1 generation "off" the farm. She has a Master's degree in Agronomy and Sustainable Agriculture at Iowa State University and has lived and worked on farms in Illinois, Iowa and Vermont.

The panel discussion will be moderated by **Marian Riggs Gelb**, Executive Director of the Iowa Environmental Council.

Tickets: \$20

All proceeds benefit Iowa Environmental Council and Practical Farmers of Iowa (\$10 for students with guaranteed group of 10.)

To purchase advance tickets, call
Iowa Environmental Council at
515-244-1194 ext 200 or visit
www.practicalfarmers.org/bigriver

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About the Iowa Environmental Council

The Iowa Environmental Council actively works in public policy to provide a safe, healthy environment for all Iowans. The Council focuses on public education and coalition building to give Iowans a voice on issues that affect their quality of life and to protect Iowa's natural resources for current and future generations. For more information contact the Iowa Environmental Council visit www.iaenvironment.org.

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