

***HOFFMAN, BETH** reported on food and agriculture for 25 years, left a successful career as a journalist and professor in San Francisco and with her husband moved to his family's farm in SE Iowa several years ago. A best-selling author already, she then wrote a book, 'Bet The Farm' which has received excellent reviews, including this one by a fellow OWR coach Chuck Offenburger who called it "The by-God best book on farming I've read". As a member of the Iowa Writers' Collaborative she weekly authors the Substack Column 'In The Dirt'.

JONES, CHRIS is a retired research scientist and engineer who studied water quality and hydrology in agricultural landscapes. Career stops included Des Moines Water Works, Iowa Soybean Association, and the University of Iowa. He's focusing now on writing for general audiences about the nexus of agriculture and water quality, the Iowa environment, and the outdoors. He is the author of *The Swine Republic, Struggles for the Truth about Agriculture and Water Quality*, a collection of essays examining these issues. He is working on a book about geology, agriculture, and water in the Driftless areas of Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois. He lives in Iowa City and DeSoto, WI. He writes the Substack column: <https://riverraccoon.substack.com/>

JONES, RACHEL is a veteran journalist whose career has expanded to include being a writing mentor. She gleans satisfaction from helping others find their voices as a writer. <http://natedaughternotes.blogspot.com/2007/06/>. Rachel Jones is the Director of Journalism Initiatives for the National Press Foundation. Jones has worked as a journalist and media consultant for the past 30+ years in the US and Africa for companies including the Detroit Free Press, National Public Radio, Internews, the International Center for Journalists, Kenya's Nation Media Group, and Voice of America.

***LEONARD, ROBERT** is a Ph.D. in anthropology who writes about politics and culture at *Deep Midwest: Politics and Culture*. He recently retired from radio and has bylines in *The New York Times*, *TIME*, *USA Today*, *The Des Moines Register*, *The Iowa Capital Dispatch*, *The Kansas City Star*, and more. He is a member of the Iowa Writers' Collaborative. You can read his work at <https://rleonard.substack.com/>

LETOFSKY, POLLY. When Polly wrote her book about (literally) walking around the world and got ripped off in the publishing industry, it launched her into starting a new publishing model that protects authors. In 2012 she started *My Word Publishing*, a publishing model that interrupted the publishing world by helping authors professionally self-publish their books while maintaining 100% of all their rights. *My Word Publishing* has now grown into a publishing library of over 850 books, seven publishing consultants, and 35 editors.

MORES, ALAN is the former co-owner of the Harlan (IA) Newspapers and was the president of three Iowa newspaper organizations. He has received two of the state's highest newspaper journalism honors as its youngest-ever Master-Editor-Publisher and Distinguished Service Award