

## Contact

[www.linkedin.com/in/mattrussell3](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mattrussell3)

(LinkedIn)

[www.drake.edu/law/clinics-centers/aglaw/](http://www.drake.edu/law/clinics-centers/aglaw/) (Company)

[www.coyote-run-farm.com](http://www.coyote-run-farm.com)  
(Personal)

## Top Skills

Agriculture

Group facilitation

Public Speaking

## Languages

French (Limited Working)

Spanish (Elementary)

## Publications

Farmers can profit economically and politically by addressing climate change

It's time for Iowans to implement faith-based solutions to climate change

2019 can be the year Iowans start to take serious action on climate change

Why Trump is the greatest prophet of our time

Why Trump's Decision to Leave Paris Accord Hurts the US and the World - How American Farmers will be Hurt

# Matt Russell

Executive Director at Iowa Interfaith Power & Light  
Des Moines, Iowa Area

## Summary

I'm a fifth generation Iowa farmer fighting for solutions to climate change and leading Iowa Interfaith Power & Light.

## Experience

### Iowa Interfaith Power & Light

Executive Director

April 2018 - Present

Des Moines, Iowa Area

Iowa IPL is a joint response of Christian, Jewish, Muslim and other faith communities to global climate change. We work to protect creation and safeguard society's most vulnerable by providing education about global climate change, helping individuals and congregations reduce their carbon footprints, and advocating for sustainable energy policies.

### Drake University Law School

Resilient Agriculture Coordinator

April 2006 - Present

Des Moines, Iowa

Coordinate projects to improve opportunities in Iowa's food system and rural economy including Sustaining Our Iowa Land (SOIL) Conference

Engage local and statewide media to promote the work of the Agricultural Law Center.

Improve opportunities for farmers and rural communities.

Research issues concerning retail agriculture, land tenure, conservation, climate change, farmer veterans, rural development, state food policy, and federal farm policy.

### Coyote Run Farm

Farmer

January 2005 - Present

Lacona, Iowa

Manage grazing beef and poultry

Produce heirloom tomatoes and seasonal produce

Work with retail agriculture--provide produce to local restaurants and farmers markets

## USDA

Farm Service Agency State Appointed Committee Member  
January 2010 - December 2017 (8 years)

Heard and acted on farmer appeals regarding USDA programs.

Set statewide rules for implementing USDA programs.

Decided personnel issues for Iowa FSA employees.

## Iowa Citizen Action Network

Community Organizer

July 2003 - April 2006 (2 years 10 months)

Des Moines, Iowa

Facilitated working groups of human service, labor, environmental, and farm advocates.

Organized conferences, media events, political rallies, and volunteers for state and federal policy reform.

Lobbied on health care reform at Iowa statehouse.

## Catholic Rural Life

Community Organizer

July 1999 - August 2001 (2 years 2 months)

Des Moines, Iowa

Led program in community food security, renewable energy, and land use for faith communities.

Linked grassroots organizations with governmental agencies.

Facilitated working groups in Iowa and among national organizations for food, agriculture, rural reform.

## Bishop Gorman High School

Teacher

1997 - 1999 (3 years)

Las Vegas, Nevada

Religion: Morality and Social Justice

Production Journalism: The Lance

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## Education

Iowa State University



MS, Rural Sociology · (2001 - 2003)

University of Saint Mary of the Lake  
Divinity/Ministry · (1994 - 1996)

Loras College

BA, History and French, minor in Music Education, St. Pius X  
Seminary · (1989 - 1993)