

# Matt Wettengel

Growing up among the farmland that lines Iowa's fertile Loess Hills, Matt Wettengel always felt so close, yet very disconnected from agriculture. While he would marvel at the productivity of his parents' garden, a meaningful connection to farming seemed ironically elusive for someone born and raised in the Midwest. Agriculture seemed like a path people were born into or went to school for, which is why the opportunity to participate in Big Muddy's aspiring farmer residency captured Matt's attention and imagination.

Having earned a degree in journalism and mass communication from Iowa State University in 2013, Matt looks forward to helping share Big Muddy's story as a resident. His hope is that doing this will help bridge the gap to urban agriculture for others and show how accessible growing your own food can be. In addition to the experiences of the residency, Matt also looks forward to forging many new connections and getting more involved in the Gifford Park neighborhood in the year ahead.