

Beyond Corn

What defines an Iowa farm? Corn and hogs? Wine and organic vegetables? Two acres or 2,000? Students in an Iowa State University environmental writing class tackled just such questions, learning how much the world of farming is shifting. The result of their inquiry, *Farmscape: Documenting the Changing Rural Environment*, is a docudrama that challenges viewers to explore the complexity of Iowa agriculture. The one-hour readers' theater production — using scripts but no props, costumes, or sets — is based on the voices of real Iowans. “We tried to keep it balanced,” says Mary Swander, ISU professor and the show's director, who is staging the play around the state. “It's a dialog that puts all the balls up in the air and the audience has to make up their own minds.” — C.B.

Visit www.leopold.iastate.edu/news/events.htm for a schedule of performances. To book a performance, contact: mwander@iastate.edu or 515-294-3373.

COURTESY DAVID PEREZ COMEZ

A slide show of farm images provides a backdrop to the *Farmscape* readers' theater production.