



sustainable
farming
association

OF MINNESOTA

Festival of Farms™

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GOVERNOR DAYTON PROCLAIMS JULY 16, 2011 SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE DAY IN MINNESOTA

Fueled by productive land and climate, high consumer demand, and a strong support network, Minnesota has become a national leader in sustainable and organic agriculture. Sustainable Agriculture Day in Minnesota celebrates Minnesota's agricultural heritage and national leadership by highlighting farming practices that are environmentally friendly, economically viable, and socially sustainable. Additionally, Sustainable Agriculture Day recognizes the important role consumers play when they support moderate scale, sustainable family farms.

Environmentally friendly farming practices include reducing and eliminating pesticide use and the movement of feedlot-based meat production toward grass and forage based meat production. Economically viable farming practices are increasingly reflected in Minnesota's growth in farmer's markets and direct marketed locally-produced food. Socially sustainable farming practices are of a scale and scope that one family can provide the bulk of the day-to-day management and labor and such that the next generation is encouraged and able to succeed in the future.

In light of Minnesota's nationally recognized leadership in Sustainable Agriculture, Governor Dayton has proclaimed July 16, 2011 as Sustainable Agriculture Day in Minnesota.

In recognition of Sustainable Agriculture Day, Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota (SFA) is hosting the 2011 SFA Festival of Farms on July 16. Participants will be able to tour SFA member farms throughout the state and see these practices first-hand. Details regarding locations, times, tickets and more are at: <http://www.festivaloffarms.com>

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For more information about the Festival of Farms™ visit www.festivaloffarms.com or contact SFA's Executive Director, John Mesko, at 763-260-0209, john@sfa-mn.org