Help SFA – Give to the Max Day is Nov. 16

It's time to kick off SFA membership renewal, Annual Conference registration and fundraising. Annual Conference registration begins Nov. 1, and the rest kicks off Nov. 16, or Give to the Max Day in Minnesota.

Give to the Max Day is a great opportunity to show your support for the SFA and make a difference to farmers around the state. Last year, SFA nearly cracked the Top 10 in donations received among small nonprofits. This year, with your help, SFA can nudge even higher and compete for additional grants for the highest-grossing groups. In other words, a little help from SFA members could result in a huge boost from an additional grant.

Not only that, but starting Nov. 16 the SFA has incentives planned for those who renew their memberships. Look for details in upcoming editions of SFA Connect.

To donate or just check out giveMN.org, visit its SFA page.

Keynote speaker for Annual Conference: Val Farmer

Dr. Val Farmer (right), a psychologist who specializes in issues that affect farmers’ lives, will be the keynote speaker at the 2012 SFA Annual Conference on Feb. 18 at the University of St. Benedict in St. Joseph.

Farmer is a well-known syndicated columnist with decades of experience in the field of counseling rural Midwesterners about stress and well-being issues. Farmer has been a fixture on call-in radio shows as well as appearing in publications like “USA Today” and “The Wall Street Journal.”

Read his columns here or in a variety of farm country publications. And don't forget to visit the SFA home page for updates about other presenters at the 2012 Annual Conference.

Crow River chapter's Fall Social set

The SFA’s Crow River chapter is hosting a wine tasting, harvest potluck and Halloween costume contest Saturday, Oct. 29, at the Crow River Winery, 14848 Highway 7 East,
The event features a wine tasting with snacks and coffee, a presentation from the winery as well as a winery tour, and a potluck dinner with entree from Mary Jane Miller. Bring a side dish or dessert to share from your garden, farm or co-op. Beer and wine will be for sale, and Crow River wine in bottles will be on sale.

Cost is $10 for SFA members and $12 for nonmembers, and registration is required. To register, click here or contact Jerry Ford at jerry@sfa-mn.org or 320.543.3394.

A note from Executive Director John Mesko

We are entering an exciting time for SFA. Each year starting about now, we kick off our fundraising drive, our membership renewal drive and our Annual Conference registration drive. Fundraising and the renewal drive begins Nov. 16 on Give to the Max Day. There will be more news coming in the weeks leading up to Nov. 16, so stay tuned.

Also, on Nov. 1, we open registrations for the 21st SFA Annual Conference, held Feb. 18, 2012 at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph. We've got a great program in the works, and we'll be posting new information about it regularly.

Did you hear about SFA's latest grant project? In conjunction with Renewing the Countryside, we'll be working on expanding the access for inspected meat processing in Northern Minnesota. You can read more about it on the 920 Blog.

Have a great fall, a great harvest, and start planning your trip to St. Joseph in February!

IATP marks 25 years with Minneapolis bash

The Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy is celebrating its 25th anniversary with a party from 6:30 p.m. to midnight Friday, Oct. 28 at the Polish National Hall, 1304 Fourth St NE, Minneapolis. The IATP has spent 25 years working for fair, sustainable and healthy food, farm and trade systems, and welcomes SFA members to join its staff, friends and partners for an evening of good food, drinks, live music, and a sustainable meat raffle.

Buy tickets here. Food is provided with ticket, and a cash bar will be available.

Mark Your Calendars

SFA Annual Conference - February 18, 2012

College of Saint Benedict, St. Joseph, MN

Also, don't forget to check out the Event Calendar on our Website for more Sustainable Ag Events.