Feb. 11, 2017 • Gorecki Center, College of Saint Benedict
#SFACONF • MAP ON BACK COVER & BACK OF YOUR NAMETAG

7:15 a.m. REGISTRATION OPENS
8:30 a.m. OPENING PLENARY IN 204A-B-C
9:10 a.m. BREAK/TRADESHOW
9:15 a.m. Veggie Buds drop-off President’s Dining
9:30 a.m. SESSIONS ROOM
  ❑ INTRO TO SOIL HEALTH & RESTORATION ........204A
  ❑ YEAR-ROUND INCOME ON 15 ACRES OR FEWER...204B
  ❑ OUR FARMLAND: WHAT MATTERS MOST? ..........204C
  ❑ WILD SHEEP & GOATS; SUSTAINABLE SHEEP .....120A
10:40 a.m. BREAK/TRADESHOW
11 a.m. SESSIONS ROOM
  ❑ WINTERING LIVESTOCK.............................204A
  ❑ DEEP WINTER GREENHOUSE DESIGN ...........204B
  ❑ KEEPING THE FAMILY FARM GOING .............204C
  ❑ PROMISE OF ECOLOGICAL SERVICE LIVESTOCK ...120A
  ❑ CONTROL OF SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA ....120B
12:10 p.m. Veggie Buds breaks for lunch; parents, pick up kids at this time in President’s Dining
12:10-1:20 p.m. LUNCH ON YOUR OWN
12:20 p.m. LUNCH SPECIAL SESSIONS ROOM
  ❑ YOUR FARM LEGACY: SUCCESS FACTORS........204A
  ❑ IS THIS EQUIPMENT RIGHT FOR ME...............204B
  ❑ SLOW MONEY MN: WHERE WE’RE AT..........204C
  Ask the Deep Winter Grower Advice Table is open during lunch and will be upstairs in exhibit area
  1:20 p.m. Veggie Buds begins again; parents may drop off kids in President’s Dining Room
1:20 p.m. SESSIONS ROOM
  ❑ FENCING INNOVATIONS & MANAGING REST ...204A
  ❑ WATER MANAGEMENT ON SMALL FARMS...........204B
  ❑ GROWING AND MARKETING HERBS ...............204C
  ❑ SOIL HEALTH FOR THE SMALL FARMS ..........120A
  ❑ THE FOREVER GREEN INITIATIVE................120B
2:40 p.m. BREAK/TRADESHOW
3 p.m. SESSIONS ROOM
  ❑ TIME TO CALL THE BUTCHER........................204A
  ❑ GARLIC MYTHS & WINNING A BLUE RIBBON ....204C
  ❑ STARTING, MANAGING PROFITABLE ORCHARD ....120A
  ❑ DEEP ROOTS ALUMNI GATHERING.................120B
4:10 p.m. – LAKEWINDS CO-OP SOCIAL HOUR
WITH LOCAL CHEESE, PICKLES, DRINKS AND
OTHER GOODIES • ROOM 204B
Session Descriptions

9:30 A.M. SESSIONS

INTRODUCTION TO SOIL HEALTH & RESTORATION
ROOM 204A

Session Leader: Kent Solberg, SFA Livestock & Grazing Specialist

What to Expect: New to the concepts of soil health? Is it just no-till and cover crops? Kent will cover some soil science basics and provide you with a solid foundation on soil health. If you plan to attend other sessions on soil health or the Midwest Soil Health Summit, this session is a great place to start. If you have been practicing soil health management techniques for a while, it will be a good review of fundamental concepts and applications.

YEAR-ROUND INCOME STREAMS ON 15 ACRES OR FEWER • ROOM 204B

Session Leader: Rod Greder, Wright County Extension Educator; Jeff Aldrich, Mana Gardens; and Mark Boon, Little Boon Farm

What to Expect: Steady cash flow is necessary for all businesses. Small farms trying to become larger farms are no different. If your dream is for your hobby to become your livelihood you’ll need to be creative to add additional income streams beyond fresh summer produce. Learn from practitioners who are expanding their timelines and product lines to add more revenue to keep the dream alive. Come share your creative ideas.

11 A.M. SESSIONS

WINTERING LIVESTOCK • ROOM 204A

Session Leaders: Kent Solberg, SFA Livestock & Grazing Specialist; Ivan & Dayle Reinke; Lynn Mizner

What to Expect: Beef producers Ivan and Dayle Reinke, shepherd Lynn Mizner and Solberg will discuss techniques for wintering livestock in northern climates, including large and small ruminants, hogs and chickens. There will be a follow-up field day to be arranged.

DEEP WINTER GREENHOUSE DESIGN & PRODUCTION: LOCATION SELECTION & MANAGING THE THREE SEASONS • ROOM 204B

Session Leaders: Sue Wika, Tom Prieve, Kim Erickson, Carol Ford, Jill Thiel, David Thiel, Daniel Handeen

What to Expect: Join seasoned deep winter growers, architects and builders for a nuanced discussion on siting your deep winter greenhouse and how to grow fresh greens across the three seasons of winter. Carol Ford and Daniel Handeen of the U. of Minnesota will lead the presentation, supported by several deep winter growers.
Session Descriptions

11 A.M. SESSIONS CONT.

KEEPING THE FAMILY FARM GOING: ON-FARM AND OFF-FARM HEIRS • ROOM 204C


What to Expect: There is probably no more vexing issue for farm families than how to keep the farm going for the next generation, particularly when there are farming and non-farming heirs. Come discuss with others what is fair to both those who stayed home to farm and those who went away. Plus, give your feedback on a method for valuing the contribution of the farming heirs.

RETURNING LIVESTOCK TO THE LAND: THE PROMISE OF SERVICE LIVESTOCK • ROOM 120A

Session Leader: Karl Hakanson, U. of Minnesota Extension; Jake Langeslag, Goat Dispatch; Kyle Johnson, Diversity Landworks; Steven Thomforde, farmer & ecologist.

What to Expect: Thomforde will explore the need for and challenge of restoring our degraded landscapes, and how grazing and browsing livestock can restore ecological functionality. Langeslag and Johnson, will discuss the practice of contract grazing for managing private and public lands, its potential as a business, and the basics of how to get started. Hakanson coordinates the Ecological Service Livestock Network (ESLN).

ORGANIC CONTROL OF SPOTTED WING DROSOPHILA: GOING BEYOND SPRAYS IN BERRY CROPS • ROOM 120B

Session Leader: Dr. Andy Petran, postdoctoral associate at the University of Minnesota

What to Expect: Dr. Petran is a specialist in organic small fruit production and currently manages all Minnesota sites in a multi-University project investigating organic control of Spotted Wing Drosophila (Drosophila suzukii, SWD) along with Dr. Mary Rogers. Andy spent three years investigating season-extension techniques for strawberry production in the Upper Midwest, and now focuses on blueberries and fall-bearing raspberries.

LUNCH SPECIAL SESSIONS

12:20 p.m.

YOUR FARM LEGACY – THE SUCCESS FACTORS • ROOM 204A

Session Leader: Sonja Bjork, Highview Advisors LLC, and Rachel M. Dahl, Hellmuth & Johnson, Attorney at Law

What to Expect: Bjork and Dahl will present a dynamic session designed to help you determine the success factors to further strengthen the financial position you have established. Your life’s work deserves the best care, and this workshop will help make sure you understand the financial planning success factors, including leaving a legacy you want. Free box lunch for the first 16 attendees.

IS THIS EQUIPMENT RIGHT FOR ME? EVALUATING INPUTS FOR SMALL FARMS • ROOM 204B

Session Leaders: David Birky, Ag Resource Inc.

What to Expect: Birky fields your questions about supplies and equipment for the small fruit and vegetable farm. How do we prep the soil, plant or transplant, weed, fertilize, irrigate, harvest, prep for sale and sell it, all while taking care of our sanity, health, soil and financially viability? We can’t cover it all in 45 minutes, but we can look at some equipment options which make the important work of growing good food easier. Free box lunch for the first 10 attendees.

SLOW MONEY MINNESOTA • ROOM 204C

Session Leader: Jan Joannides, Executive Director, Renewing the Countryside; Julie Ristau, Main Street Project

What to Expect: 2016 brought in the official launch of a Slow Money Minnesota network. Already, several connections have been made that have led to the financing of farm and food businesses. And, we helped launch the Grow a Farmer fund, which raised nearly $100,000 small loans for small farms in southeast Minnesota. Join Jan and Julie to learn about what is happening and how you can get involved. Free box lunch for the first 30 attendees.

Also: Ask the Deep Winter Grower Advice Table is open during lunch; get your questions answered by experts upstairs in exhibit area.
Session Descriptions

1:20 P.M. SESSIONS

GRAZING: FENCING INNOVATIONS AND MANAGING REST PERIODS • ROOM 204A

Session Leader: Kent Solberg, SFA Livestock & Grazing Specialist

What to Expect: Pasture management, the value of rest for pasture productivity and what works for fencing will get you going for your forage management. Quality functional fencing is paramount to successful husbandry of most livestock on pasture, rest is a key component of long-term sustainability of forage production in our pastures, and fencing is the tool that helps producers manage pasture rest. Join Kent to learn how to weave these critical pasture management tools into a successful system.

WATER MANAGEMENT ON SMALL FARMS: USING KEYLINE DESIGN PRINCIPLES • ROOM 204B

Session Leader: Lisa Baker, Baker’s Acres

What to Expect: Bakers’ Acres installed 900 feet of berm and swale to move water from concentrated areas out to drier hillside ridges, exploring how we can utilize excess water as an asset to increase productivity and resilience by capturing and storing it high on the landscape. The presentation by farmer Lisa Baker will discuss the strategy, construction process, first-year observations, and next steps. The project was funded by the Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships and sponsored by SFA Central Chapter.

GROWING AND MARKETING HERBS • ROOM 204C

Session Leaders: Connie Karstens

What to Expect: When growers and would-be growers begin to consider herbs as a potential crop, they often think about the common fresh market herbs such as basil, thyme and flat leaf parsley. But have you ever thought about carving out a new niche with herbs? In this session, we will discuss unique approaches to growing and marketing both culinary and medicinal herbs. Learn about the income potential by adding a new twist to product selection, creative marketing strategies, value-added products and education of consumers. You will leave this eye-opening session with a fresh approach of new ways to diversify your enterprise with herbs.

SOIL HEALTH FOR SMALL FARMS • ROOM 120A

Session Leaders: Sharon Perrone and Liz Perkus

What to Expect: Soil health is an exciting and popular topic in agricultural circles. While many articles and conferences target larger operations, the principles are the same regardless of size. Even though smaller acreage producers have different needs and circumstances, with the help of some accessible tools, they can incorporate the fundamentals of soil health into their farming activities.

THE FOREVER GREEN INITIATIVE • ROOM 120B

Session Leaders: Craig Sheaffer and Katherine Frels

What to Expect: The Forever Green Initiative is a University of Minnesota and USDA Agriculture Research Service (ARS) program to develop new crops and high-efficiency cropping systems. Craig Sheaffer is an agronomist in the Department of Agronomy and Plant Genetics at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul. He teaches courses in crop production and sustainable agriculture, and conducts research in sustainable cropping systems with a focus on crop rotations, pasture management, and native perennial systems. He has extensively studied alfalfa, clovers, and perennial grasses and most recently research on Kernza intermediate wheatgrass as a perennial grain and forage crop. Kernza intermediate wheatgrass is one of the new crops that is a component of the Forevergreen Project. Dr. Katherine Frels is a research associate at the University of Minnesota whose research focuses on breeding and developing field pennycress as a winter annual cash cover crop. She currently runs pennycress breeding trials in St. Paul, Rosemount, Lamberton, and Morris.

SEED SWAP • ALL DAY • LOBBY

Managed by Greg Reynolds

The Seed Swap returns, once again under the direction of Greg Reynolds of Riverbend Farm. The swap will run throughout the day in the lobby – bring your seeds to trade and share your techniques with other growers from around the region.
3 P.M. SESSIONS

TIME TO CALL THE BUTCHER: WHAT TO EXPECT, TERMINOLOGY, AND HELPING CUSTOMERS WITH THE PROCESS • ROOM 204A

Session Leaders: Ivan Reinke of Cloverleaf Grass Farm, Andy Hayner of Freedom Rangers, LLC; Tom Barthel of Snake River Farm, Brad Bachmann of Lakes Processing, and SFA Livestock & Grazing Specialist Kent Solberg

What to Expect: for a panel discussion on communicating with your butcher. Whether you are making decisions on how to process livestock you have raised for your own freezer or for your customers, we’ll take some of the mystery out of that communication process.

GARLIC MYTHBUSTERS & HOW TO WIN BLUE RIBBONS WITH GARLIC • ROOM 204C

Session Leaders: Chris Kudrna, Plum Creek Garlic; Dr. Carl Rosen, garlic scientist; Tom Coffman, Coffman Farms

What to Expect: Presented by the Upper Midwest Garlic Growers networking group, this session will be a roundtable discussion that welcomes your input, led by Dr. Rosen, garlic scientist and lead author of “Growing garlic in Minnesota.”

STARTING AND MANAGING A PROFITABLE ORCHARD • ROOM 120A

Session Leaders: Thaddeus McCamant, Speciality Crops Instructor, Central Lakes College

What to Expect: Apples and other tree fruit can be profitably grown in Minnesota, but potential growers need to start planning before the first tree is put in the ground. In this session, we will go over the steps every grower must take from planning to caring for the plants the first two growing seasons. Topics that will be covered include site requirements, soil fertility, rootstock selection, potential training systems and variety selection. The advantages and disadvantages of high-density production will be covered.

DEEP ROOTS ALUMNI GATHERING • ROOM 120B

Session Leaders: Dr. Sue Wika, SFA; Cassi Dutcher, SFA Deep Roots Intern; Holly Pearson, SFA Deep Roots Intern

What to Expect: Come enjoy the company of fellow farm enthusiasts who know that farming is as much about constantly learning as it is constantly doing. This session is designed for those who’ve taken any Deep Roots course (Farm Skills 101 or short courses) and those curious to see if Deep Roots courses would be a good fit. Whether you are starting to see your farming ambitions realized, or you are just beginning your farming journey, you will find validating and engaging conversation. Bring a farming book or magazine to trade and an inquisitive spirit.

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Launching in March, Veggie Buds is a subscription that teaches kids about a new healthy veggie each month • veggiebuds.com

GYST Fermentation Bar celebrates the ancient art of preservation – uncovering the very soul of food and drink – and creating diverse flavors. • gystmpls.com.

Since 1977, Valley Natural Foods has served the south metro a broad selection of organic, local and natural products • valleynaturalfoods.com

Lunch Hour Sessions

Lunch, from 12:10 to 1:20 p.m., is on your own. The bountiful and delicious St. Ben’s Cafeteria is in this building; there are restaurants across Minnesota St; and if you brought your lunch there are plenty of spots to enjoy that, including the Lunch Hour Sessions; some lunch sessions have box lunches available in limited quantities. Lunch is also a great time to visit the lower lobby for our fabulous exhibitors and the ever-popular Seed Swap.
VISIT OUR TRADE SHOW EXHIBITORS

Trade show is all day in the lobby areas on both levels! Exhibitors include:

- Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture
- Minnesota Farmers Union
- Renewing the Countryside
- Highview Advisors
- Werner Farm Seed
- Solar Farm
- Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships
- Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture
- Cropland Grazing Exchange
- MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program
- Forever Green
- CURE
- Luxemburg Feed Service
- North Central Region Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education
- All Energy Solar
- Ag Resource, Inc.

NOTES
ROOM 120A
9:30 a.m. – Wild Sheep & Goats; Sustainable Sheep
11 a.m. – The Promise of Ecological Service Livestock
1:20 p.m. – Soil Health for Small Farms
3 p.m. – Starting & Managing a Profitable Orchard

ROOM 120B
11 a.m. – Organic Control of Spotted Wing Drosophila
1:20 p.m. – The Forever Green Initiative
3 p.m. – Deep Roots Alumni Gathering

Wi-Fi is free, but users at St. Ben’s now must register. Find the Guest network and, when prompted, create a network username & password.