Mission
The Sustainable Farming Association supports the development and enhancement of sustainable farming systems through farmer-to-farmer networking, innovation, demonstration, and education.

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What Inspires Us

Healthier soil can completely transform agriculture. Our Midwest Soil Health Summit teaches farmers how to improve soil quality, increase production and grow profits—naturally. It draws both conventional and sustainable farmers to standing-room-only sessions.

Another farmer is a farmer’s best teacher. Farmers are often isolated and work long hours, making it hard to develop a support network. Through our annual conference and local chapters, SFA provides the structure for farmers to meet, share ideas and practices, and expand local markets for the food they produce.

When you make it fun, they will come. Inspiring the public to support sustainable agriculture, local food, and nearby farmers is a universal theme for SFA programs. Signature SFA events include Minnesota Garlic Festival (Hutchinson), Harvest Festival (Duluth), Minnesota Salsa Fest (Long Prairie) and Farm2Families (Aitkin).

SFA Annual Conference
The Annual Conference unites SFA members for informational sessions, conversation, food, drinks, and fun. Held on the second Saturday in February, the event allows members to celebrate SFA, share the wisdom of the community, network, learn, reminisce, and look ahead.

Midwest Soil Health Summit
The Midwest Soil Health Summit is advanced soil health training. Speakers have included Gabe Brown, Dr. Allen Williams, Jay Fuhrer, Dr. David Montgomery, Justin Morris, Kent Solberg and Grant and Dawn Breitkreutz.

Other Events
Family friendly, fun-filled and fragrant, Crow River Chapter’s Minnesota Garlic Festival features fantastic foods, celebrity chefs, music, artisans, games – and lots of garlic – to support a healthy environment, sustainable farms and vital rural communities in Minnesota.

SFA Lake Superior chapter’s Harvest Festival highlights the sustainable production of food in the Lake Superior coastal region.

SFA Central chapter’s Salsa Fest celebrates local food, sustainable farming and multiculturalism in the Little Falls region.

SFA Greater Mille Lacs chapter’s Farm2Families links local producers and food- and health-conscious consumers in the Aitkin region.

Festival of Farms is an event series that promotes sustainable agriculture, farmer networking and marketing, and rural community-building.

We also host multiple on-farm classes, demonstrations and field day events throughout the year, including walks, field days and farm tours.

For a complete calendar, visit www.sfa-mn.org/events.

Our Work

Soil Health
“Dirt Rich: Building Soil Health Experts” summer events dig deep into soil health opportunities, challenges, and monitoring. Our Soil Health Portal is the best source for events, resources, and much more: sfa-mn.org/soil.

Cafe Chats feature area farmers who are practicing soil health principles like cover crops, more diverse species, reduction in soil disturbance and adding livestock.

Soil Health for Fruit and Vegetable Growers will work with beginning farmers and commercial fruit and vegetable growers who want to improve production and enrich soil.

SFA’s Soil Health Network consists of ag professionals, agency employees, and crop consultants who are interested in learning and sharing soil health principles.

As a participant in the Minnesota Dairy Initiative, SFA assists dairy farmers interested in sustainable production practices such as intensive grazing, and on-farm processing.

Specialty Crops

The Minnesota Premium Garlic Project will enhance profitability for existing and new farmers by improving premium garlic production in Minnesota.

The Minnesota Asparagus Project will encourage production and marketing of MN-grown asparagus, a high-value, early season perennial that can be grown on small acreage.

Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship
SFA and the Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship have built a partnership to support the recruitment, education and support of apprentice dairy farmers, work with master dairy producers to ensure more family dairy producers, and enhance pasture dairy operations. The DGA/SFA Central Minnesota Education Coordinator is Hannah Molitor, who also works as the herd manager on her home dairy farm near St. Cloud.

Learn more, join and donate at sfa-mn.org