8:15 a.m. — Registration & Coffee
Sponsored by:

9 a.m. — Opening Welcome Session
Thom Petersen, Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Lucinda Winter, Executive Director, Sustainable Farming Association
Angie Walter, Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Project Outreach Coordinator

9:30 a.m. — Applying Principles of Systems to Vegetable Gardening and Farming
Sarah Lindblom, Solar Fresh Produce, Buffalo
Take a different approach to how you think about your farm operation using principles of systems theory. This interactive session will include a slake test demo, discussion of basic principles of systems theory, examples of how to apply these principles to a farm operation, and tools to help you start implementing new ideas on your land. Learn about why we are sometimes surprised by our farm’s behaviors and how to promote optimal soil health over the long term.

10:30 a.m. — Break & Exhibits

10:50 a.m. — Nutrient Management for Healthy Soils
Natalie Hoidal, Assistant Extension Professor, Center for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
Paulo Pagliari, Associate Professor, U of M Department of Soil, Water and Climate
KaZoua Berry, Big River Farms Program Manager, The Food Group
In this presentation, our panelists will discuss the connections between soil health and nutrient management, as well as common nutrient-related problems that we see on vegetable farms. We will include a heavy focus on compost and manure, and how to use them effectively and responsibly.

11:50 a.m. — Exhibits and Local Foods Taco Lunch from Elbows Allowed Distinct Catering
Featuring food from Pastures a Plenty, Swany White Flour Mills, Redhead Creamery, Whole Grain Milling, Farm Girl Fresh, Salsa Lisa, La Perla Tortillas and Organic Valley.

12:50 p.m. — BREAKOUTS
Keep the Poop Off the Food: Managing Produce Safety Risks of Livestock in Produce Operations (Community Room)
Annalisa Hultberg, Assistant Extension Professor, U of M Center for Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources
Jeff Bender, Professor, U of M Environmental Health Sciences
Erik Heimark, Maple Ridge Produce, Aitkin
If you apply manure to your fresh fruit & vegetable fields or rotate livestock in the fields or orchards, it is important to take steps to reduce risk so the manure doesn’t become a source of contamination. While manure can improve soil and benefit plants, it can also contain harmful pathogenic bacteria. This session will provide an overview of the science of zoonotic diseases in animals, how they can spread to humans in the farm environment and ways to reduce those risks. A produce farm that integrates livestock into their operation will share lessons learned about how to both improve soil health while protecting human health. You will leave with practical ideas to keep your produce safe while improving soil qualities through the integration of livestock.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:
12:50 p.m. – BREAKOUTS (CONT.)
Financial and Technical Assistance Programs Available for You and Your Farm (Deal/Land O’ Lakes Room)
Eric Nooker, Ag Marketing & Development, MN Department of Agriculture
Ryan Brunn, Farm Service Agency
Lisa Buckner, State Appeals Specialist, Natural Resources Conservation Service
If you are wondering what options there are out there to help you accomplish your farm goals, this session is for you! We have speakers from FSA, NRCS, and MDA who will share the programs within their organization that offer technical and financial assistance to you and your farm!

1:50 p.m. Break & Exhibits

2:10 p.m. – BREAKOUTS
Management on a Market Farm (Community Room)
Dan Zimmerli, SFA Community Organizer and Outreach Coordinator, Cedar Crate Farm, Waldorf
What does management look like on a market farm? Dan will discuss the various management practices he’s implemented on his 3-acre market farm that have been successful. Topics will include crop planning and cover crop integration, task management, financial management, employee management, risk management and more.

New Perennial Fruit & Nut Crops (Deal/Land O’ Lakes Room)
Thaddeus McCamant, Assistant Manager, Forbidden Fruit Orchard, Paradise, Mont.; and Specialty Crops, Farm Business Management, Central Lakes College, Staples
A number of new fruit and nut crops are currently being developed for the Upper Midwest, which will allow growers to grow more perennial crops. Crops that will be discussed include elderberries, honeyberries, hazelnuts, currants and dwarf pie cherries.

3:10 Break & Exhibits

3:30 p.m. Vegetable Production and A No-till Approach to Soil Health on One Midwestern Farm
Les Macare, Racing Heart Farm, Colfax, Wis.
Learn how Racing Heart Farm incorporates the five principles of soil health into a diversified, no-till vegetable farm. Les will cover basic tools for no-till vegetable production, techniques for planting into cover crops, and intercropping techniques that have worked on their farm.

SFA Soil Health Resources & Guides
Visit sfa-mn.org/soil to access our expertly produced:
• Soil Health for Fruit & Vegetable Producers Handbook
• Growing Asparagus in Minnesota
• ‘Dirt Rich’ Podcast
• Silvopasture Handbook
• Fact Sheet: Silvopasture in Minnesota
• Fact Sheet: The How-Tos of Silvopasture
• Fact Sheet: Converting Wooded Area Into a Silvopasture Site & Resource Assessment
• Beginning Grazer Handbook
• Soil Health Case Studies
• Silvopasture Case Studies
All these and more are available to download at sfa-mn.org/soil.

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MAWQCP is a voluntary opportunity for farmers and ag landowners to take the lead in conservation practices that protect our water while obtaining regulatory certainty for 10 years. For more information, contact Angie Walter at angie@sfa-mn.org or speak with her at this conference.