



2024 Minnesota Fruit & Vegetable Expo Program Book

January 25-26, 2024 | Apple Valley
mfvga.org



MFV Expo SPONSORS



Thank you for attending the 2024 Minnesota Fruit & Vegetable Expo! We will follow-up after the conference by email to request your feedback on our post-conference survey. Your feedback is confidential and will help us better plan for the 2025 MFV Expo.

- Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association





2024 MFVG Expo **SCHEDULE**



Thursday, January 25, 2024

7:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Onsite registration	Head House #1
8:00 AM	Trade Show Open	Head House #1
9 AM - 11:30 AM	Education Sessions- Berry/Small Fruit Production	Lauer House #1
9 AM - 11:30 AM	Education Sessions-Marketing	Lauer House #2
9 AM - 11:00 AM	Education Sessions-Hightunnels/Greenhouse Biologic Controls	Head House #2
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Break to lunch and trade show	Barn Area
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	INFORMAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION WITH MN ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, PATRICE BAILEY	Head House #2
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	GREEN HOUSE TOURS	Meet by Registration
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Education Sessions-Pumpkins/Winter Squash	Head House
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Education Sessions - Garlic Production Updates/ Bedding Plants Panel	Lauer House #1
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Alternative Perennial Crops	Lauer House #2
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Educational Sessions- Soil and Plant Health	Head House #2
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Educational Sessions- Solar Production on your farm	Lauer House #1
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Educational Sessions-Apple Production	Lauer House #2
5:00 PM- 6:00 PM	Social hour	Barn Area
5:00 PM- 6:00 PM	Growers Focus Group: Let's talk about pollinators	Lauer House #1



Friday, January 20, 2023

8:00 AM	Annual meeting of MFVGA	Head House #2
8:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Trade Show Open	Head House #1
9 AM - 11:00 AM	Education Sessions- Berry/Small Fruit Production 2	Lauer House #1
AM - 11:00 AM	Education Sessions-Food Safety	Lauer House #2
9 AM - 11:00 AM	Farm Profiles	Head House #2
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Break to lunch and trade show	Barn Area
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	GREEN HOUSE TOURS	Meet by registration
1:30 PM	Trade Show Concludes	
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Education Sessions-Grape Production 101	Lauer House #2
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Education Sessions - Agri Tourism	Head House #2
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Education Sessions- Sweet Corn Production	Lauer House #1



2024 MFV Expo EDUCATION PROGRAM

THURSDAY

Session 1 Berry/ Small Fruit Production 1

9:00 am - 10:00 am

- 2023 in review - Audience Participation - Kevin Edberg

10:00 am - 11:00 am

- State of the Berry Growers Industry in MN. - Kevin Edberg

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

- New and Exciting Insects and Diseases in fruits and vegetables - be prepared. Michelle Grabowski, Minnesota department of agriculture

ROOM LOCATIONS

Lauer House
#1

Lauer House
#1

Lauer House
#1

Session 2 Marketing

9:00 am - 9:30 am

- Marketing Resources and Program Updates- Minnesota Grown

9:30 am - 10:00 am

- How to Reach New Customers with Social Media: Focus on Paid Ads

10:00 am - 10:30 am

- Direct Marketing Farmers: Apply to Accept SNAP & Market Bucks- Kathy Zeeman

10:30 am - 11:00 am

- Are you pricing your products right? -Ryan Pesch

Lauer House
#2

Lauer House
#2

Lauer House
#2

Lauer House
#2

Session 3 High Tunnels/Greenhouse Biologicals/Organic Controls

9:00 am - 9:30 am

- Basics of Biological Control - Rachel Sporer, Bio best

9:30 am - 10:00 am

- Bio Control of Aphids in peppers

10:00 am - 10:30 am

- Bio Control of Mites in cucumbers

10:30 am - 11:00 am

- Bio Control from a farmer's perspective

Head House #2

Head House #2

Head House #2

Head House #2

Session 1 Pumpkins and Winter Squash

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm

- Biggest Problems in your Pumpkin Patch? -Group discussion Terry Nennich

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm

- Herbicide recommendations for weed free pumpkins - Marissa Schuh

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

- Retail Award Winning Varieties for Pumpkin and Winter Squash

Head House #2

Head House #2

Head House #2

Session 2 Garlic Production Updates

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

- Is Pre-chilling good for your garlic? -Carl Rosen and Cindy Tong, U of M Extension

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm

- Garlic fertility update- Carl Rosen

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

- Bedding Plants: Lessons Learned- Grower to Grower- Dave Nathe, Gary Pahl, Tom Gregor

Lauer House
#1

Lauer House
#1

Lauer House
#1

Session 3 Alternate Perennial crops

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

- Christmas tree production 101 - Minnesota Christmas tree Growers

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

- Hop production 101- Joshua Havill, U of M Extension

Lauer House
#2

Lauer House
#2



2024 MFV Expo EDUCATION PROGRAM

THURSDAY

Session 4 Soil and Plant Health

3:30 pm - 4:15 pm

- Feed the soil, Feed the plant, and Feed the Leaf- Jon Frank

4:15 pm - 5:00 pm

- Soil health in high tunnels and fields on diversified vegetable farms: lessons learned from the 100 farms study -Natalie Hoidal

ROOM LOCATIONS

Head House #2

Head House #2

Session 5 Solar Production on Your farm

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

- Understanding the in and outs of Solar Production-Bobby King
- Solar production from a farmers prospective- Stuart Lavalier

Lauer House
#1

Lauer House
#1

Session 6 Apple production Session

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm

- Apple fruit harvest and handling basics are not always as easy as ABC -Cindy Tong, U of MN Extension

Lauer House
#2

4:00 pm - 4:30 pm

- Varieties and root stock, Updates to U of M apple breeding program -Sarah Kostick, U of MN. Extension

Lauer House
#2

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

- Hail Netting for Pest Management on MN Orchards - Gigi DiGiacomo, U of M

Lauer House
#2

5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

- Grower Focus Group: Let's Talk About Pollinators! -Gigi DiGiacomo, U of M

Lauer House
#2

5:00 - 6:00 pm

- Social Hour

Barn Area

FRIDAY

Session 1 Berries 2

9:00 am -9:30 am

- Busting open the black root rot complex-Thaddeus MaCamant and Terrance Nennich

Lauer House
#1

9:30 am - 10:00 am

- Economics in Strawberry Production- Thaddeus MaCamant

Lauer House
#1

10:00 am - 10:30 am

- SWD Update -Mary Rodgers, U of MN Extension

Lauer House
#1

10:30 am - 11:00 am

- Cyclamate mites, and control, more of a problem then you think?- Bill Hutchinson, U of MN Extension

Lauer House
#1

Session 3 Food Safety

9:00 am - 10:00 am

- Food Safety Modernization Act Updates (FSMA)- Annalisa Hultberg U of MN Extension and Heidi Hangman Department of Agriculture

Lauer House
#2

10:00 am - 11:00 am

- Spray drift, prevention, and consequences- a major problem in Specialty crop Production -Josh Stamper and Staff, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Lauer House
#2

Farm Profiles

9:00 am - 10:00 am

- Brand Farms- Aaron Brand

Head House #2

10:00 am - 11:00 am

- Hmong American Farmers Association -Janssen Hang

Head House #2



2024 MFV Expo EDUCATION PROGRAM

FRIDAY

Session 2 Grape production 101

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm

- **Grape Breeding Program (Wine and Table Grape)-** Soon Li Teh & Erin Treiber U of M Extension

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm

- **Vineyard Establishment-** Colin Zumwalde and Madeline Wilmer

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm

- **Vineyard pruning and management -**Colin Zumwalde and Madeline Wilmer

ROOM LOCATIONS

**Lauer House
#2**

**Lauer House
#2**

**Lauer House
#2**

Session 4 Agri Tourism

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm Brad Chmielewski

- Researching what is needed in your market area
- Fitting Agri tourism into your individual farm
- First year necessities and what not to spend money on
- Set up ideas to make customers say WOW!!
- First year budget plan and making a profit

Head House #2

Session 5 Sweet Corn Production

1:00 pm - 1:30 pm

- **Corn Earworm & Sweet Corn: The Battle Continues-** Dr. Bill Hutchinson and Dr. Fie Yang

**Lauer House
#1**

1:30 pm - 2:00 pm

- **Market Reaction to Performance Hybrids-** Ian Jenkins

**Lauer House
#1**



2024 MFV Expo SPEAKERS

Gigi Diacomio- U of M, Dept. of Applied Economics- St. Paul, MN

Kevin Edberg- Cooperative Development Services- St. Paul, MN

Malory Foseth- MN Grown MN Dept. of Agriculture- St. Paul MN

Jon Frank-ISP Technology- Fairmont, MN

Michelle Grabowski-MN Dept. of Agriculture- St. Paul, MN

Heidi Hagman- MN Dept. of Agriculture- Produce Safety Div. St. Paul, MN

Mark Hanson- MN Christmas Tree Growers- Twin Cities, MN

Joshua Havill- Dept. of Agronomy and Plant Genetics- U of M St. Paul, MN

Natalie Hoidal- Local Foods and Vegetable Crops- U of M Extension St. Paul, MN

Dr. Bill Hutchison- U of M, Dept. of Entomology- St. Paul, MN

Ian Jenkins- Rispen Seeds Inc. Beecher, IL

Bobby King-Solar United Neighbors- MN State Director

Sarah Kostick- U of M, Dept. of Horticulture Science- Apple Breeding

Stuart Lavalier- Lavalier Apples and Berries- Grand Rapids, MN

Soon Li Teh- U of M Extension- St. Paul, MN

Dr. Thaddeus McCamant- Detroit Lakes, MN

Terry Nennich- Retired U of M Extension Professor- Fruit and Veg. Production

Gary Pahl- Pahl Farm's- Apple Valley, MN

Brad Paulson- Rupp Seeds- Wauseon, OH

Ryan Pesch- U of M Extension Educator- Agriculture Business Management- Moorhead, MN

Dr. Mary Rogers- U of M- Dept. of Horticulture Science

Dr. Carl Rosen- U of M Dept. of Soil Water and Climate- St. Paul, MN

Marissa Schuh- U of M Extension Educator- Horticulture IPM

Rachel Sporer- Biobest IPM Specialist- Twin Cities, MN

Dr. Cindy Tong- U of M- Dept. of Horticulture Science

Erin Trieber- U of M- St. Paul, MN

Rachel Wandrei- MN Grown- MN Dept. of Agriculture- St. Paul, MN

Madeline Wimmer- U of M Extension Educator- Fruit- Rochester, MN

Colin Zumwalde- U of M- St. Paul, MN



MFV Expo SPONSORS



How did we do? Online Post-Conference Survey

Thank you for attending the 2024 Minnesota Fruit & Vegetable Expo! We will follow-up after the conference by email to request your feedback on our post-conference survey. Your feedback is confidential and will help us better plan for the 2025 MFV Expo.

- Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association





- Ag Resources
- All Energy Solar
- Carlin
- Compeer
- Frootz Plants
- Glacier Valley
- Gowan Seeds
- ISP Technology
- Midwest Fence
- MN Dept. of Agriculture
- MN DNR
- MN Grown
- Nutrient Ag Solutions
- Outstanding Seeds
- Prographics
- Rispen Seeds
- Rupp Seeds
- Second Harvest
- Stillwater Greenhouse
- Stokes Seeds
- U of M Extension
- USDA
- WestRock

