



**MFVGA Expo Conference**  
**January 9 and 10, 2025**  
(Draft Subject to Change)

**Thursday Morning January 9, 2024**

**8am - Trade show opens**

**Berry/Small Fruit Production 1 Lauer House #1**

**Moderator: Kevin Edberg**

9:00 – 10:00 2024 in review - Audience Participation – Kevin Edberg

10:00-11:00 Investigating High Density Strawberry Production in Affordable Controlled Environmental Structures, Andy Petran Twin City Berry Company

11:00 - 11:30 SWD Updates –A nightmare in 2024, Mary Rodgers and Madeline Wimmer

11:00- 11:30: Advances in fungicides

**Marketing Lauer House #2**

**Moderator: Rick Abrahamson**

9:00-9:30: Minnesota grown Update: Mallory Forsyth and Rachel Wandrei

9:30-10:15: Getting media coverage for your farm – a toolkit and a producer panel

10:15-11.00: Who has interest in buying local? Market research insights you can use to target your marketing to high-potential consumers

**Systems of Machinery for any Scale with a focus on Weed Control**

**Moderator: Tom Gregor**

9:00- 11:30 This full morning session will go into detail on weed control machinery and how to use them, From the smallest to the largest. Come and go anytime during the session you want. Presented by Sam Oswald Tilton

**11:30 – 1:00 Round Table and informal Chats with Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner, Thom Peterson. Host: Dave Nathe and MFVGA Members Head House 1**

11:30-1 Break to the trade show and Lunch

**12-1 Greenhouse tour (Info at sign up desk)**

**Tour Guide: Pahl Farms.**

## **Thursday Afternoon**

### **Pumpkins and Winter Squash. 1-3 Head House #1**

**Moderator: Marissa Schuh**

1-2:00: Pumpkins, Squash, and Gourds, Growing Heirloom varieties: John and Jenny Thull

2-2:30: How to not waste space between pumpkin rows: Charlie Rohwer

2:30- 3:00: Preserving quality of pumpkins stems- Best Practices (Grower participation)

### **Keeping a Watchful Eye on New Insects and Diseases that could cause serious problems - Lauer House**

**(In high tunnels and field production)**

**Moderator: Ron Branch**

1-2:00: New and Exciting Insects and Diseases in Fruits and Vegetables – be prepared.  
Michelle Grabowski, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

2:00-2:30: High Tunnel Year in Review, Terrance Nennich

2:30- 3:00: Insect and Disease Monitoring, Marissa Schuh

**2:30-3:00: What's all this about HRAC Codes in selecting crop protectants.**

### **Vegetable Production Lauer House #2**

**Moderator: Dave Nathe**

1-2:00- Vegetable Production year in review. Led by MFVGA Board

2:00 -2:30 Sprouting Broccoli Varieties – Cindy Tong

2:30 -3:00 Aster yellows in Garlic production. Carl Rosen, Cindy Tong

3:00 -3:30 Advances in Pre and Post-Harvest Handling for Fruits and Vegetables. – Cindy Tong.

**3-3:30: break to the trade show.**

### **Soil and Plant Health Head House #1**

**Moderator: Rick Abrahamson**

3-30- 4:00 Micronutrients in Vegetable Production - Carl Rosen

4-4:30: Tissue and Sap Testing

4:30- 5:00: Fertilizing after the floods -Carl Rosen

### **Crop, Pesticide and Applicator Safety. Lauer House #1 HARC Codes**

2:30-3:00: What's all this about HRAC Codes in selecting crop protectants.

2:30- 3:00: Private Pesticide Applicator Training updates for 2025

### **Minor Hardy Fruit Crops for Minnesota. What to Grow and how to Grow. Lauer House #2 3:30-5**

**Moderator:**

3:30-5:00: Josta Berries, Gogiberries, Currents, Gooseberries, Saskatoon, Elderberry and Kiwi  
Presented by Honeyberry USA

**Social Hour 5:00-6:00 Barn Area**

**MFVGA Expo Conference  
Friday January 10, 2024**

**Friday January 10**

**8AM: Trade show opens**

**8AM- Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers. Head House #1**

**Berries 2 Lauer House #1**

**Moderator: Terrance Nennich**

9:00 -9:30 Honeyberry production for beginners- Honeyberry USA

9:30 - 10:00 Incorporating Fruit crops into Diverse Vegetable Growing Operations.

10:00-10:30 Advanced Honeyberry production - Honeyberry USA

10:30-11:00 Rhubarb Production from planting to Harvest. Dave Nathe, Riverside farms

**Food safety Lauer House #2**

**Moderator: Gary Pahl**

9:00-10:00 Food Safety Modernization Act Updates (FSMA)

Annalisa Hultberg, U of MN. Extension

Nichole Baysal, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

10:00 -11:00 Spray drift, prevention and consequences, a major problem in Specialty crop production.

Christine Wicks, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

**Farm Profiles/Marketing Head House #1**

**Moderator: Janssen Hang**

9:00 – 10:00 Farm Profile:

10:00 -10:45 Selecting Crops for Farm to School and other Wholesale Markets: Profitability and Planning". Natalie Hodial, Ryan Pesch, Chengyan Yue, Uma Parasuram, Manlin Cui)

**Break to the Trade show /Lunch**

**12-1 Greenhouse tours (See front desk)**

**Tour guide- Pahl Farms**

**Trade Show Concludes at 1:30**

## Friday Afternoon

### Risk Management in Fruits and Vegetables

**Moderator: Erick Heimark**

**1:00 - 1:30pm:** Insuring Specialty Crops through the Non Insured crop Disaster Assistance Program.

1:30 – 2:00pm: Crop insurance options for Specialty Crops

2:00 - 2:30pm: Predator control options, Department of Natural Resources, Brandon Kaiser (DNR)

### The World of Drones in Agriculture Head House #1

**Moderator: Tom Gregor**

**1:00-2:00** Drones in Specialty Crop Production from Picture Taking to Crop Protection Applications.  
Bear Bouwman, AeriAll Spray and Survey

### Sweet corn production Lauer House #1

**Moderator: Gary Pahl**

**12:45-1:15** Evaluating tools to manage tar-spot in Sweet Corn. Ananda Gevens, University of Wisconsin

1:15-1:45 Latest information for Corn Earworm, trapping data, BT Resistance, efficacy Trials.

Dr. Bill Hutchinson and Dr. Fie Yang, University of Minnesota