



MFVGA Expo Conference January 9 and 10, 2025

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 - 10:30 Best management practices and best alternatives for managing fruit rots and other diseases of strawberries. Kerik D.Cox, Ph.D. Cornell University, Geneva New York
- 10:30 - 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

Marketing Lauer House #2

Moderator: Rick Abrahamson

- 9:00 - 10:00 The world of Marketing
- 10:00 - 11:00 Getting Media Coverage for Your Business a toolkit and a producer panel
Mallory Forsyth and Rachel Wandrei –MN Grown
- 11:00 - 11:30 Selecting crops for Farm to School and other wholesale markets: profitability and planning".
Natalie Hodiell, Ryan Pesch, Chengyan Yue, Uma Parasuram, and Manlin Cui

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 Oschwald Tilton – Glacial Drift Enterprises.

11:30 – 1:00 Round Table and informal Chats with MN Agriculture Commissioner, Thom Peterson.

Host: Dave Nathe and MFVGA Members Head House 1

- 11:30-1:00 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

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

- 1:00 - 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, Angie Ambourm- Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Vegetable Production Lauer House #2

Moderator: Dave Nathe and Gary Pahl

- 1:00 - 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 Pre and post- harvest handling techniques of fruits and vegetables – Cindy Tong.

3:00 - 3:30: break to the trade show.

Soil and Plant Health Head House #1

Moderator: Rick Abrahamson

- 3:30 - 4:00 Tissue and Sap Testing – Carl Rosen
- 4:00 - 4:40 Micronutrients in Vegetable Production - Carl Rosen
- 4:40 - 5:00 Fertilizing after the floods -Carl Rosen

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

- 3:30 - 4:00 What's all this about HRAC Codes in selecting crop protectants? Minnesota Dept. of Ag.
- 4:00 - 4:30 Private Pesticide Applicator Training updates for 2025 Minnesota Dept. of Ag.

Minor Hardy Fruit Crops for Minnesota. What to Grow and how to Grow. Lauer House #2

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

8:00 AM - Trade Show Opens

8:00 AM - 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 growing systems – Jim and Bernis Ingvaldson
- 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: Frootz Farms, New York Mills, MN

Break to Tradeshow/Lunch

12:00 – 1:00 Greenhouse tours (See front desk)

Tour Guide- Pahl Farms

Trade Show Concludes at 1:30

Risk Management in Fruits and Vegetables

Moderator: Erick Heimark

- 1:00 - 1:30pm Whole Farm Income Protection, Farm Service Agency USDA
- 1:30 - 2:00pm Crop insurance options for Specialty Crops, Kevin Begin. Begin Insurance
- 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. Fie Yang, University of Minnesota