



MINNESOTA FRUIT & VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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April, 2003 Volume 17, No. 2

A Note From The Board

By Cindy Femling - Afton Apple Orchard, Hastings, MN

Hello - and welcome spring! It seems that we have been in the winter mode forever!

Thanks for re-electing me to the Board. It's great to be back. My husband, myself and children own and operate Afton Apple Orchard in Denmark Township located in the lower St. Croix Valley about 20 minutes southwest of St. Paul. We have approximately 75 acres of apple trees, 13 acres of strawberries, 8 acres of fall raspberries and about 15 acres of pumpkins, squash and gourds. We are mostly a 'pick-your-own' operation with several value-added things such as hayrides, playground, picnic facilities and a corn maze.

People are concerned these days about budget cuts, layoffs, higher gas prices and the situation in the Middle East. Many people will be looking for fun spring, summer and fall family activities that are closer to home. So we all need to be prepared to step up to the plate and make them all feel welcome at our farms and markets and remind them that there are a lot of wonderful places to go and things to do in our own towns and cities.

Also, in this time of state budget cuts, please take the extra time to watch for any more proposed cuts in funding to the University of Minnesota Extension Service or cuts to University research programs. We all need to work together to make sure we do not find ourselves out there with no resources. As we learn more about the situation we'll keep the membership informed.

Being farmers, the eternal optimists, we all believe this year's growing season will be better than the last. So, here's to a very wonderful growing season for all of us!

Thank You to Our Conference Sponsors and Supporters

A number of exhibitors, businesses and associations help support the annual educational conference and the MFVGA by contributing dollars toward our refreshments and by helping to defray other costs associated with the conference. With the continued increase in conference costs for refreshments, etc., their contributions help us keep your conference registration fees reasonable. Please join us in thanking the following companies and associations for their sponsorship and support of this year's Upper Midwest Regional Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference:

AgStar Financial Services

Bayer Corporation

Central Minnesota Vegetable Growers Association

DeVries Manufacturing, Inc.

Harris Seeds

Hennepin Co-op Seed Exchange, Inc.

Indiana Berry & Plant Company

St. Paul Growers Association

Stark Brothers Nursery

Stokes Seeds, Inc.

Syngenta Seeds

UAP Northern Plains - Howe

Welcome back, Cindy Thank you, Foster

Cindy Femling from Afton Apple Orchard in Hastings, MN, was re-elected to the MFVGA Board of Directors at the MFVGA annual business meeting held on February 6, 2003, during the Upper Midwest Regional Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference. Cindy previously served on the MFVGA Board from 1996 to 2002.

Foster Mooney from Jewel Lane Farm in Chisago City, MN was thanked for his three years of service on the MFVGA Board. Foster, it has been a pleasure to work with you. Thank you for your ideas and opinions and your commitment to this industry.

"Year 2003 Strategies: Techniques and Tactics Guaranteed to Increase Your No-till Profits"

is a 320-page manual featuring articles on no-till practices pulled from farming publications throughout the year. The editors of *No-Till Farmer* magazine publish the book.

The book includes information on no-till spraying, crop rotations, residue management, machinery management, no-till planters, no-till drills, strip tilling, precision farming and more.

It is available for \$79.95, plus \$4.00 shipping and handling. For more information call 800-645-8455, or visit www.no-tillfarmer.com.

Midwest Food Alliance Seeking Producers - Cost Share Dollars Available for Strawberry Growers -

The Midwest Food Alliance (MWFA) is seeking producers who would like to be Food Alliance certified this year. MWFA is entering its 4th year of promoting local farms and foods – of helping consumers put their food dollars to work for local growers.

MWFA certifies environmentally friendly and socially responsible farms. We focus on elements of stewardship that many farms address, such as soil and water conservation, integrated pest management, safe and fair working conditions, and wildlife habitat conservation.

MWFA then uses this certification in a public education and consumer awareness campaign designed to build market support for local, certified farms and foods. In 2002, MWFA conducted 62 demos/store events in 37 communities throughout Minnesota, reaching over 14,000 customers one-on-one. We provided point of sale materials, media, buyer's guides, advertising, press releases, and partnerships. We'll be continuing this successful formula in 2003 to increase market opportunities for our certified growers.

And here's a reminder that limited cost share dollars are available to commercial strawberry growers who apply for Midwest Food Alliance certification this year. Through a producer SARE grant, monies will be available to partially offset MWFA certification fees.

For more information about getting your farm certified this year contact MWFA Certification Coordinator, Ray Kirsch, at 651-653-0618 or rkirsch@landstewardshipproject.org

You can learn more about the Food Alliance program at:
www.thefoodalliance.org

Thank you - Jill MacKenzie

If you are a Minnesota berry or apple grower, you probably know Jill MacKenzie. If you attended the 2003 educational conference you probably also know that she is no longer with the University of Minnesota. Jill got married and moved to New York State.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jill for her work during the last three years and her support of Minnesota's commercial fruit growers. Her input and insights were valuable in planning for the annual educational conference. Her involvement in various research projects has helped growers throughout the state.

Jill - Congratulations and best wishes. We will miss you in Minnesota.

Because of the State budget situation and a University of Minnesota hiring freeze, it doesn't look like Jill's position (Assistant Extension Horticulturist – Fruit) will be refilled. University and Extension people are looking at ways to continue fruit extension help for growers. We'll keep you updated as we get more information.

MFVGA Board Elects Officers for 2003

The MFVGA Board of Directors met on February 17, 2003 and elected the following individuals as officers of the association: President – Ron Branch from Alexandria, MN; Vice-President – Terry Nennich from Bagley, MN and Secretary/Treasurer – Dan Whitcomb from Princeton, MN.

Other members of the MFVGA Board of Directors include Floyd Broman, Rogers, MN; Kevin Edberg, White Bear Lake, MN; Cindy Femling, Hastings, MN; Bill Jacobson, White Bear Lake, MN; Gary Pahl, Apple Valley, MN; and Mike Thorson, Browerville, MN.

MDA Researches Insurance Options

Producers of insured crops under the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) program understand the value of having traditional multi-peril and revenue insurance as a tool to mitigate losses due to weather and other perils. Unfortunately, there are several commodities in Minnesota, such as livestock and turf grass that do not have crop insurance protection available.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is examining several possibilities to develop and bring risk management protection to Minnesota's commodities that are presently without coverage. The MDA is currently in search of external funding and expertise to examine the feasibility and development of a Dairy Revenue Insurance (DRI) product that would be federally reinsured and subsidized. The MDA is also examining the possibility of bringing two products offered in the Eastern United States, Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) and Adjusted Gross Revenue Lite (AGR-Lite), to Minnesota as possible pilot programs. These insurance products use revenues and costs from a farmer's tax form as a basis for farm revenue coverage. These products can be used to cover specialty crops and livestock production.

Given the diversity of Minnesota agriculture, the MDA is committed to facilitating the introduction of risk management products to protect all of the state's producers.

(The AGR-Lite program is a pilot program in Pennsylvania for 2003. The program allows farmers to purchase "whole-farm" protection that covers both crops and livestock using only one set of historical records, the tax return. The program, recommended by a task force that included farmers, agricultural groups, national insurance companies and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Risk Management Agency, was developed at the request of Pennsylvania farmers. The increased simplicity, compared to other insurance programs, will make it easier for producers to understand and improve their risk management decisions.)

The MFVGA Newsletter is published five times a year (February, April, July, October and December) in cooperation with the University of Minnesota Extension Service and funded in part by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Editorial office: MFVGA, c/o Marilyn Nysetvold Johnson, Exec. Coordinator, 15125 W. Vermillion Cir. NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304. Phone: 763-434-0400 Fax: 763-413-9585. Please address all correspondence, advertising and membership inquiries to MFVGA at the above address. Deadlines for future issues: The first day of the month preceding publication (For example: Jan. 1st for the February issue).

The information in this MFVGA Newsletter is for educational purposes only. Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association is implied.

U of M GLEANINGS

Dr. Cindy Tong
Dept. of Horticultural Science
University of Minnesota

As you all probably know by now, budget cuts are hitting all state-funded organizations, including the University of Minnesota. We at the U will have to work smarter and do less with less.

In the Department of Horticultural Science, we have been interviewing candidates for a turfgrass researcher & lecturer position (whether or not we'll be allowed to hire anybody is a separate issue). One of the candidates for this position has developed, in collaboration with a business school colleague, a web site called "Turf Doctor". The URL for this site is <http://knowledge.bus.usu.edu>. It provides tools to diagnose turfgrass problems. Dr. Marvin Pritts, the Cornell University professor who does fruit extension work, has a similar site for small fruits, The Berry Diagnostic Tool (see <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/department/faculty/pritts/BerryDoc/Berrydoc.htm>).

The turfgrass site offers two ways to determine what is causing the problems one may be having with turfgrass. The first way is through a diagnosis page, in which one picks from a list of symptoms in the turfgrass. Using some mathematical algorithm, the symptoms are assigned percentages. The percentages determine the likelihood that the symptoms are indicative of this specific disease or that insect problem. If more than one cause of the symptoms is possible, the Turf Doctor then will lead to pages showing pictures of the possible causes. If the pictures don't look like what the problem is, then one clicks on "symptom is absent", and the web site brings up other pictures that may look like the problem.

For example, maybe you're seeing spots in your lawn, but the grass isn't dead (yet). You'd have to choose between "irregular spots" or "distinct spots", and you'd also have to choose "grass not dead". Step 2 asks you to choose from a list of more specific symptoms. If you choose "irregular patches of brown, wet-looking grass", then Turf Doctor will tell you that there's a 75% probability that the symptoms are caused by the fungus Pythium. You can then choose from a series of pictures of what Pythium-blighted turfgrass looks like, and if one of the pictures matches what you're seeing, you can get advice on treatment (cultural or chemical).

If you already know or suspect that you have a disease problem, you can click on "problems", then "disease" in Turf Doctor, and get a picture of what a typical lawn looks like if it had that problem. If the picture looks like what you're seeing, then you can go to the "treatments" page to learn how to try to fix the problem.

The Berry Diagnostics Tool is more like the "problems" page than the "diagnosis" page of Turf Doctor. In the Berry Diagnostics Tool, you can choose between strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, and grapes. Once you choose a commodity, a page that lists various symptoms comes up, from which you choose the problems you're seeing. You can

only choose one symptom. That choice will lead you to another page with more specific symptoms. That choice will take you to a page with pictures with a description of the cause. The Berry Diagnostic Tool is meant to be used with the NRAES Production Guide for Strawberries, Raspberries and Blueberries, from which you can get treatment information. Putting together a web site like this is a lot of work, requiring a lot of pictures. Something like this could be done for vegetables, but as vegetable farmers in Minnesota grow a lot of different kinds of vegetables, we'd have to pick a few to start with and add more pages every year. If you'd like to see something like Turf Doctor or The Berry Diagnostics Tool developed for your favorite commodity, please let me know (c-tong@umn.edu).

I studied the lives of great men and famous women,
and I found the men and women who got to the top
were those who did the jobs they had in hand,
with everything they had of energy
and enthusiasm and hard work.

– Harry S. Truman

2003 Midwest Vegetable Production and IPM Guide Available

Growers may order the *2003 Vegetable Production Guide* from Purdue University. University of Minnesota specialists contributed to new changes for 2003, and plan to continue to support this 5-state regional publication in the future. However, we elected to not have hard copies printed this year due to various state budget cuts. The price of the guide for 2003 is \$10.60, which includes sales tax and shipping.

To order a copy, mail your request for "ID-56 2003 *Midwest Vegetable Production Guide*" and your check made payable to "Purdue University" to:

Agricultural Communication
Media Distribution Center
231 S. University Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2064

Copies of the publication can also be ordered via phone (765-494-6795 or toll-free 1-888-398-4636) or online from the Purdue website at www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia



MINNESOTA GROWN

Fresh From Your Neighbor

Infinity Broadcasting Sponsors MN Grown Directory

The 2003 *Directory* will sport a new look and will be promoted more heavily to more consumers than ever before as a result of a new sponsorship agreement. Infinity Broadcasting, which includes WCCO-AM, WLTE-FM, KCCO-AM and WXPT-FM, has signed-on as the exclusive radio sponsor of the *Directory*. As part of the agreement, the four Infinity stations will have their logos prominently displayed on the front cover and will also receive additional ad space on the inside. In exchange, each station will run over 150 ads and promotional announcements for Minnesota Grown and each station will have a link from their website to the online edition of the *Minnesota Grown Directory*. The *Directory* will also be distributed at several special events sponsored by the radio stations. We'll keep you updated as the partnership develops.

Order Your FREE 2003 MN Grown Directories!

Farm and market listings in the printed version of the 2003 *Directory* will exceed 500 again this year. The publication will expand from 88 to 96 pages to accommodate new sponsor content, and will include printed tabs in the right margin to help users distinguish the five regions at a glance. 170,000 copies will be printed, with a run of 7,500 with a custom back cover shipped to Farm Bureau for their distribution.

The *Directory* is distributed by a growing network of farms, farm industry providers, libraries, churches, tourist centers, realtors and many others. We're always looking for new distributors. If you would like to help out 500 Minnesota farms and markets by distributing 2003 *Directories*, either e-mail us at brian.j.erickson@state.mn.us, order online at www.mda.state.mn.us/mngrown/directory.htm, or call our answerline at 651-297-8695 or 1-800-657-3878 and leave your complete shipping address and quantity of directories desired. Large requests are welcomed; the books will be boxed in 75 and 150 quantities. Set a box out at your farm or place of business and see if your customers aren't appreciative, or share them with co-workers, clubs, or other groups to which you belong.

We appreciate early orders, as guides that are ordered now will be shipped straight from the printer in mid to late April. The web/online version of the guide has already been updated. You can go to the above web link now to search the online directory.

Growers who distributed 500 or more books in 2002 included: Bauer Berry Farm, Forestedge Winery, Albert Lea Farmers Market, Oak Dale Farms, Richfield Farmers' Market, Rochester Downtown Farmers' Market, VanGundy Elk Farm, MN Buffalo Association, Splendor Ridge Elk Farm, Fall Harvest Orchard, Green Barn Garden Center, Inc., St. Paul Farmers' Market, J.Q. Fruit Farm, Hugo Animal Farm, Inc., Strawberry Basket, Mankato Farmers Market, Yesterday's Kitchen Goods & Gifts, At the Farm, and Kathan's Ridgeview Orchard. Thank you to all our '02 distributors on behalf of the listed growers!

Results of 2002 MN Grown Directory User Survey Available

Results of a survey given to users of the 2002 *Directory* can be found online at: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/surveys/mngrown.htm>. The survey was conducted online and through the mail, with 178 combined responses from consumers who requested a directory in 2002.

The survey reveals a very active patronage to listed Minnesota farms and markets by *directory* users. Those people surveyed said they use the book an average of 4.7 times, and they visit an average of 3.1 *new locations* listed in the book. Further, the survey shows that *Directory* users are 83% female, with an average household of 2.7 people and income of \$67,000. 66% of surveyed consumers said they'd be more likely to buy MN Grown labeled products, with the most common reason stated for doing so, being "support for local/small/family farmers."

Budget Update

The Minnesota Grown Program is included in Governor Pawlenty's budget proposal that was presented to the legislature in February. The governor's proposed budget leaves the Minnesota Grown Program at its current level of funding (\$71,000 of matching funds annually). The state's appropriation matches private industry contributions to the Minnesota Grown Program such as advertising revenue and the private portion of cost-share programs. Being a part of the governor's proposed budget doesn't guarantee funding but it certainly improves the odds.

The Minnesota Grown Advisory Committee met in St. Paul on March 12th to finalize the proposed work plan for the Minnesota Grown Program for fiscal year 2004. Plans are contingent upon the Program being funded at the level proposed by the governor.

Download the logo and order form off the web

The quickest way to get the point-of-sale material order form or the Minnesota Grown logo is to download from the licensed producer only web page. This page is just for marketers that are licensed to use the Minnesota Grown logo and is not linked to the rest of the Minnesota Grown web pages. If you are licensed to use the logo and have misplaced the web address, just send an e-mail to Brian or Paul and we'll send the link to you. Along with the point-of-sale material order form you'll be able to download the Minnesota Grown logo in several different formats.

New Banner Program Available

One of the questions asked by growers during the past few years has been "When are you going to have banners available?" The good news is that licensed members of the Minnesota Grown Program can now order custom vinyl banners at a discounted rate. The Minnesota Grown Program will cost share \$10 of the cost of each banner printed by Banner Galaxy. Each banner includes a color Minnesota Grown logo along with whatever text the grower chooses. That's right, you can print it with your farm name or whatever message you wish. You can order any quantity and prices start at roughly \$60 for a 2ft x 6ft vinyl banner (including delivery). You can choose the weights of vinyl, size of the banner and the type of hem. Flyers containing details about how to order the banners are being printed as this article goes to press and will be mailed to everyone currently licensed to use the logo. Contact Paul Hugunin at 651-297-5510 with any questions about ordering your custom banner.

Minnesota Grown information is supplied to MFVGA by Paul Hugunin (651-297-5510) from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Ag Marketing Services Division. If you have any questions about Minnesota Grown, contact him at the number listed above.

“5 A Day The Color Way” Campaign for Healthier Eating

*(Taken from the 5 A Day News
Volume 5, Number 1, Winter 2003)*

In an effort to move more fruits and vegetables onto America's plate, the Produce for Better Health Foundation (PBH) unveiled its new 5 A Day the Color Way marketing campaign at Produce Marketing Association's Fresh Summit October 13 – 15 in New Orleans, LA. The campaign urges consumers to eat a colorful variety of fruits and vegetables: at least one daily serving from each of the five color groups (blue/purple, green, white, yellow/orange, and red).

Getting the Message Out: Color Keeps it Simple

While most Americans realize the important role fruits and vegetables play in a healthy diet, many have made insufficient progress in improving their eating habits. **The 5 A Day The Color Way** campaign reaches out with a simple and direct call to action: Eat Your Colors Every Day to Stay Healthy and Fit. To support this strategy, PBH has developed and consumer tested an arsenal of campaign materials designed to make shopping, preparing, and serving fruits and vegetables easier and more convenient for the consumer. Program elements include:

- The 5 A Day The Color Way campaign logo
- Color Way Guide – pocket-sized reference tool explaining the color story and providing fruit and vegetable purchase ideas by color
- Color Way Plan – a 44-page booklet with detailed health and nutrition information, two weeks of menus, and 24 delicious 5 A Day approved recipes covering all five color groups
- Retail Program – provides an umbrella strategy to increase sales for fresh, frozen, canned, dried and juiced fruits and vegetables that, in addition to promotion support, features a host of point-of-sale materials
- TV and radio PSAs and print ads
- A national public relations program
- A redesigned www.5aday.com website
- Nutrition education programs, in partnership with Crayola and Dole Food Company, reaching one-million school children nationwide
- School cafeteria posters and communications

All campaign documents are now available. Order at www.shop5aday.com.

The State of America's Plate

The PBH campaign comes at a time when Americans are eating significantly fewer servings of fruits and vegetables than recommended by the USDA Food Guide Pyramid. The USDA advises eating between five and nine servings of fruits and vegetables a day; recent research conducted for PBH shows that the average consumer eats only 3.6 servings daily. As concerns about obesity, diabetes, cancer, heart disease, Alzheimer's and other health issues grow, the connection between food, especially fruits and vegetables, and disease prevention becomes even more critical.

Why 'Color' is Key

Each fruit and vegetable has a different complement of vitamins, minerals, fiber and phytochemicals. That's why it is so important to sample the complete color spectrum, as well as to eat a variety within each color group, every day to get the full health-promoting benefits of fruits and vegetables. According to PBH President Elizabeth Pivonka, "No one color group or commodity can do it all. Calorie for calorie, fruits and vegetables pack a nutritious wallop. Given the alarming rate of obesity, especially among children, Americans need to include more high nutrient foods that are not high in calories in their diets."

There are plenty of 5 A Day items currently available. Call 888-391-2100 or shop online at www.shop5aday.com.

There are risks and costs to a program of action,
but they are far less than the long-range risks
and costs of comfortable inaction.

– John F. Kennedy

Internet Marketing Guide Now Available

The USDA announced in January the release of a new publication designed to assist agricultural producers in marketing their products via the Internet. "How to Direct Market Farm Products on the Internet" provides basic information to farm direct marketers who are interested in selling their products online or using a Web site to publicize their farm or products.

"For agricultural producers, the Internet can help solve problems of time, distance and location in marketing their products." Said A.J. Yates, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service.

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman also announced in late January that USDA will expand efforts to bring farmers, rural residents and businesses greater access to improved telecommunication technology through the financing of more than \$1.4 billion in loan and loan guarantees to rural telecommunications providers.

Many farm direct marketers are turning to online marketing to increase their customer base. The publication addresses issues to be considered before adopting the Web as a marketing tool, as well as tips on how to research the Internet market, set up a Web site, and market products on the Web.

The publication is available in print and on the Internet at www.ams.usda.gov/tmd/MSB/msb.htm. For more information or to obtain a copy of the publication, contact Errol Bragg, (202-720-8317) or Errol.Bragg@usda.gov.

RESOLUTIONS

MINNESOTA FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION 2003 ANNUAL MEETING – ST. CLOUD CIVIC CENTER ST. CLOUD, MINNESOTA

RIGHT TO FARM:

We support the RIGHT TO FARM law.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (B.M.P.'s):

We support the development of Best Management Practices with inputs from producers, researchers and suppliers. We oppose the establishment of mandatory Best Management Practices.

FARM CHEMICALS, PESTICIDES AND FERTILIZERS:

Because pollution comes from many sources other than the farming sector, we oppose additional taxes on farm chemicals and fertilizers.

We oppose legislation which would regulate the sale and farm use of nitrogen fertilizers, and we oppose unnecessary restrictions on chemicals or liabilities resulting from the use of chemicals, as per label instructions.

We support research and development of Best Management Practices for the greatest economic return and safe use of nitrogen products.

We encourage the use of returnable, recyclable or reusable chemical containers.

REGULATED PESTICIDE USE:

We support federal and state government regulation on regulated pesticide use. However, we oppose any local (city, township, etc.) government intervention on regulated pesticide use.

GROUNDWATER:

We support a program of research projects and education in susceptible areas as designed by groundwater legislation for possible contaminants in the groundwater. We also support state grants and monies to fund these research projects and education.

IRRIGATION:

Irrigation insures a continued adequate supply of food and fiber for all people; therefore, we oppose a tax on agricultural usage, and continued increases of water usage fees.

WETLANDS PROTECTION:

We support efforts to preserve Minnesota's wetlands, but advocate a reasonable approach to agricultural drainage. We oppose unreasonable restrictions on the repair and cleanout of existing drainage systems. We support the compensation of land owners who are denied the use of their land.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT:

We support controlled management environments of deer and other wildlife in agricultural areas and we support the right to hunt all legal species within the guidelines of federal and state laws. We consider baiting to be deemed illegal only if it is not normal farming practices.

TRESPASS LAW:

We support the Minnesota Trespass law and would support the elimination of all exceptions currently allowed. Privately owned land should be automatically considered posted. Anyone using private property for

recreation and/or hunting must carry written permission from landowners.

CRP ACRES:

We oppose the use of program acreage land to produce fruit and vegetable crops that directly compete with crops grown on non-program acreage.

UNEMPLOYMENT AND WORKERS COMPENSATION:

We support revisions in Minnesota's Workers Unemployment Compensation laws to lessen the burden on producers to allow them to be competitive with producers in neighboring states. We support changes in the Workers Compensation laws which limit the amounts of compensation an injured worker may receive. We oppose extending unemployment benefits to workers who voluntarily quit their job, workers who are students on a full-time basis, or migrants who have relocated to a different job market.

FOOD SAFETY:

In order to assure the continued abundant, safe and wholesome food supply in the United States, we support uniform laws setting pesticide tolerance levels based on scientific research. We oppose the scare tactics used with media cooperation which causes people to believe not only the food in question, but all food has been contaminated without supporting scientific evidence. We support increasing the percentage of tolerance levels testing at importation sites.

MARKETING:

Be it resolved, we are opposed to the concept of minimum pricing for agricultural products.

MINNESOTA GROWN PROMOTION GROUP:

We support the continued cooperation of agricultural commodity groups and the State of Minnesota in the promotion of Minnesota Grown products.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES AND RESEARCH:

We advocate the expenditure by the University of Minnesota to maintain and enhance agricultural research and departmental positions.

BIOTECHNOLOGY:

We encourage the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to develop technology. We encourage studies in the area of biotechnology and support solid research to make the facts known to growers who can then make good decisions based on correct information.

U of M EXTENSION SERVICE:

We oppose budget cuts affecting the University of Minnesota Extension Service. The U of M Extension Service is a very important resource for the Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association as well as its individual members. Budget cuts greatly reduce the resources that are available to Minnesota's fruit and vegetable growers. We encourage the University to restore funding to the Extension Service.

MINNESOTA FRUIT & VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

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