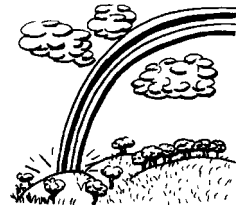


# MINNESOTA FRUIT & VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

President:  
Vice-President:  
Secretary-Treasurer:  
Board of Directors::

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Cindy Femling  
Daniel Whitcomb  
Bill Bauer  
Floyd Broman  
Matt Eisinger  
Mark Gilbertson  
David Macgregor  
Foster Mooney  
Marilyn Johnson

Executive Coordinator:



April, 2005 Volume 19, No. 2

## A Note From The Board

By Matt Eisinger - Dehn's Garden, Andover, MN

As one of the newly elected Board members of MFVGA, and as one of my duties, I get to write "A Note from the Board" this month. I am very excited to learn more about the hard work that goes into making our organization work effectively.

My exposure to MFVGA started when I began to work for my mother-in-law and father-in-law in 1995. At Dehn's Garden we sell our products at the Minneapolis Farmers' Market and supply many of the local grocers with fresh herbs. I enjoy the great variety of projects and jobs that are associated with our farm. There is always something new to work on. The main responsibility that I have at the farm is to maintain equipment and buildings. I am also very involved in the sales of our products at the Farmers Market.

At our Board meeting in March we discussed the Upper Midwest Regional Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference & Trade Show that was held in St. Cloud this past February. We had a lot of great input from attendees on the many wonderful sessions that were offered. The evaluations are an essential element for the Board to create the sessions for future conferences. We will work hard to put together another great show for next year. At our next meeting we will again discuss ideas for sessions at the conference for next year. Thank you again for all of the important feedback that we received! Also, thank you to all of the exhibitors who participated in the trade show. Good luck this season!



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

2005 Summer Tour – June 3, 2005  
Berry Ridge Farm, Alexandria, MN  
See details on page 3.

2006 Upper Midwest Regional Fruit &  
Vegetable Growers Conference – February 2 & 3, 2006

## New MFVGA Board Members Elected

Two MFVGA Board members completed their terms of service at the 2005 Upper Midwest Regional Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference and MFVGA annual meeting. Kevin Edberg from White Bear Lake, Minnesota and Gary Pahl from Apple Valley, Minnesota both completed three-year terms on the MFVGA Board of Directors and chose not to run for re-election. Bill Jacobson from White Bear Lake, Minnesota was re-elected to a second term and continues to serve as the president of MFVGA.

Elected to the MFVGA Board to serve three-year terms were Matt Eisinger from Dehn's Garden, Inc. in Andover, Minnesota and Bill Bauer from Bauer Berry Farm in Champlin, Minnesota. Welcome to the Board.

Our thanks go to Kevin and Gary for many years of service and dedication to MFVGA, far beyond their current three-year terms on the Board of Directors. Gentlemen, it has been a pleasure having you on the Board and we look forward to your continued involvement with the association. Gary continues to serve as the MFVGA representative to the Minnesota Grown Promotion Group.

## Thank You to Our Conference Sponsors & Supporters

A number of our exhibitors as well as other businesses and associations helped to support the 2005 Upper Midwest Regional Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference and the MFVGA by contributing dollars to offset our cost of providing refreshments in the trade show area and by helping to defray some of the other costs associated with the annual educational conference. Their contributions and support help us to provide high quality programming for growers at a reasonable price. Please join us in thanking the following companies and associations for their sponsorship and support of this year's conference:

AgStar Financial Services  
Central Minnesota Vegetable Growers Association  
DeVries Manufacturing, Inc.  
Food Alliance Midwest  
Hennepin Co-Op Seed Exchange, Inc.  
Stark Bros. Nurseries & Orchard Co.  
St. Paul Growers Association  
Stokes Seeds  
Syngenta Seeds  
UAP Northern Plains – Howe

Special thanks go to the USDA – Risk Management Agency for providing dollars through a partnership agreement that has helped to offset a variety of conference and promotional expenses.

## New Manuals Now Available

Two new manuals prepared by the University of Minnesota Extension Service and funded through partnership agreements with the USDA – Risk Management Agency and the Risk Management Agency Community Outreach & Assistance Partnership Program are now available.

**The Minnesota High Tunnel Production Manual for Commercial Growers** addresses issues including site selection and construction, layout, irrigation and water management, soil and plant fertility, disease management, insect management, crop production, basic economics of high tunnel production, organic production with high tunnels and information on where to find other resources. Development of the manual was coordinated by Dr. David Wildung from the U of M North Central Research & Outreach Center and Terry Nennich, Regional Extension Educator based in Crookston, MN. Several other U of M Extension specialists also contributed to the manual.

**The Minnesota Fruit & Vegetable Growers Manual for the Beginning Grower** is an updated and expanded version of the beginning grower manual prepared by the U of M Extension Service in 1994. The manual is designed for people who want to start growing fruits and vegetables to sell to other people and it contains basic information that all growers should know BEFORE they start planting their crops.

The new manual includes sections on risk management, business planning and start-up, marketing, knowing your soil, production, irrigation and cultivation, farm safety, pest management, harvesting and storage. The manual also includes several farm profiles and a section on where to find more detailed information.

Both manuals are available from the MFVGA office for \$35.00 each. Please send your requests and payment to the MFVGA office at 15125 W. Vermillion Cir. NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304. Make the check payable to MFVGA.



## CSP Signup Starts March 28 in Six Minnesota Watersheds

### *CSP Signup Starts March 28*

The 2005 Conservation Security Program (CSP) signup period starts Monday, March 28 and ends Friday, May 27. A 20-page signup announcement at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/cspsignupannouncementfinal31805.pdf](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/cspsignupannouncementfinal31805.pdf) describes how the signup will work. Watershed-specific information about eligible practices, activities and payment rates will be available shortly on the Minnesota NRCS CSP website at [www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/csp.html](http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/csp.html).

### *Watersheds that Participated in 2004 are Eligible Again in 2005*

In addition to the five Minnesota watersheds previously selected to participate in 2005, the Blue Earth Watershed in south central Minnesota will also be eligible to participate (along with 17 other watersheds across the country that participated in the 2004 pilot signup).

Allowing the 2004 watersheds to participate two years in a row appears to be a one-time exception due to the pilot nature of the 2004 signup; we do not anticipate other watersheds being able to participate two years in a row.

Despite the short notice for producers in the Blue Earth Watershed, it may be good news for any who were interested in applying for CSP during the 2004 pilot signup but were unable to gather the necessary documentation during the short signup period. Now those producers will have another chance to apply. It may be a mixed blessing, however, as CSP will be more competitive in 2005 than it was in 2004.

### *2005 Signup Highly Competitive*

In 2004, \$35 million was available to fund initial payments on 2,200 CSP contracts in 18 watersheds nationwide – enough to fund all eligible applications. In 2005, approximately \$140 million is available to fund initial payments on an estimated 12,000-13,000 contracts in 220 watersheds, such that the number of eligible applications will very likely exceed the available funds.

Funding decisions will be based on the enrollment category and subcategory into which applications fall. In a nutshell, the applications funded will be those with the highest cropland soil quality or grazing land condition on farms that have also had the greatest number of conservation practices in place for the past two years as described on pages 11-20 of the signup announcement.

**CSP Signup** continued on page 3

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 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: March 1st for the April 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.

# Join Us for the 2005 Summer Tour

**Friday, June 3, 2005**  
**Berry Ridge Farm - Alexandria, MN**

Registration – 10:00 – 10:30 a.m.  
Tour begins at 10:30 a.m.

Registration fee: \$10.00 per person (includes lunch)

Lunch reservations must be made by May 27, 2005.

## Items of Interest:

- A second year planting of an **Annual Bed Strawberry Production Study** by the University of Minnesota.
- **High Tunnel Production** of tomatoes, green beans and strawberries. The strawberries were planted on August 27, 2004. The plastic was removed on November 24, 2004 after mulching with straw.

Berry Ridge Farm was started in 1987 by Ron Branch. It is located two miles west of Alexandria, or two miles from Exit 100 off I-94, at 1301 Firemans Lodge Road SW. Berry Ridge Farm produces strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, and an assortment of other vegetables that are marketed on site and at the Alexandria Farmers' Market.

## Summer Tour Registration Form:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Farm Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fee: \$10 per person  
Registration must be received by May 27, 2005 to guarantee lunch.

Number of people attending: \_\_\_\_\_ at \$10.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to MFVGA.

Return this form with payment to:

MFVGA  
15125 W. Vermillion Cir. NE  
Ham Lake, MN 55304

CSP Signup continued from page 2

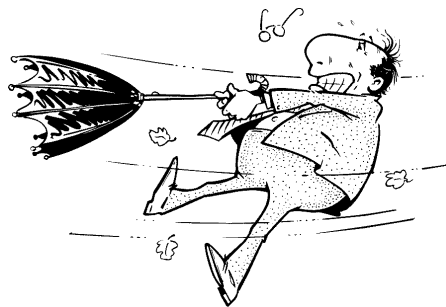
In Minnesota, an estimated 3.5 million acres in more than 10,500 farms are eligible to apply for the 2005 signup.

## CSP Rulemaking: Another Round of Public Comments

Instead of the final rule that had been anticipated, USDA has released an amended interim final rule, available at [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/). A 120-day public comment period ending in late July will commence as soon as the amended interim final rule is published in the Federal Register.

Minnesota watersheds eligible to participate in the 2005 CSP signup include Blue Earth, Red Lake, Redeye, Redwood, Root and Sauk. Counties containing land in eligible watersheds are Becker, Beltrami, Blue Earth, Clearwater, Cottonwood, Dodge, Douglas, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Jackson, Lincoln, Lyon, Marshall, Martin, Meeker, Mower, Murray, Olmsted, Otter Tail, Pennington, Pipestone, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Redwood, Stearns, Todd, Wadena, Watonwan, Winona, Yellow Medicine.

This information was provided by the Agricultural Resources Management & Development Division of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.



## 2005 Proceedings Books Available

If you were unable to attend the 2005 Upper Midwest Regional Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference, but would like a copy of the conference *Proceedings Book*, copies are available from the MFVGA office for \$17.00 each.

The 2005 *Proceedings Book* contains information from many of the talks given at the educational conference and includes articles on berry production, business management, grapes, high tunnel production, irrigation, marketing, melon production, organic production, pumpkins & squash, sweet corn, tomato production, tree fruit and much more.

To receive a copy of the 2005 *Proceedings Book*, send your check for \$17.00 (payable to MFVGA) to the MFVGA office at 15125 W. Vermillion Cir. NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304.

## AGR-Lite Crop Insurance Program

In the July 2004 issue of the MFVGA Newsletter we printed an overview of the AGR-Lite Crop Insurance Program. AGR-Lite is a revenue policy, rather than one based on acres and yield, as are most of the other crop insurance policies. AGR-Lite is currently in 17 states with applications pending from several other states. This program is not currently available in Minnesota, but several producer associations are exploring the possibility of submitting an application to make AGR-Lite available to Minnesota producers. The policy covers a wide variety of crops and livestock enterprises currently not covered by conventional policies in Minnesota, including fresh market sweet corn and strawberries.

In the July 2004 article, and with your membership renewals, we asked you to respond to the MFVGA office if you were interested in having AGR-Lite available in Minnesota. If you did not respond last fall, we'd like to hear from you now. Please send, fax or e-mail your comments to MFVGA. Mailing address: 15125 W. Vermillion Cir., NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304; FAX: 763-413-9585; e-mail: [mfvga@worldnet.att.net](mailto:mfvga@worldnet.att.net). You can also call the MFVGA office at 763-434-0400.

The St. Paul Regional Office of the USDA Risk Management Agency has provided the following comparison between the AGR-Lite Crop Insurance Program and the NAP Program. Please review the information below and let us know whether you would be interested in the AGR-Lite program. If you don't think AGR-Lite would work for you, we'd like to know why. This program is still in the pilot stage and states that have the program will be able to suggest changes before it becomes a permanent program.

### Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) Compared to Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR-Lite)

	NAP	AGR-Lite
What is it?	Designed to reduce financial loss due to loss of production for noninsurable crops from RMA crop insurance.	A non-traditional whole farm revenue insurance program insuring against production and revenue loss.
Where to buy coverage:	County Farm Service Agency	Licensed insurance agent in states where policy is offered.
Sales closing date:	March 15	January 31
Coverage levels:	Covers crop losses over half of normal production. Pays at 55% of state average price.	Covers crop, livestock and livestock products. Coverage levels from 65% - 80% and payment rates from 75% - 90%.
Who can participate?	Farm producers and landowners who share in the risk of production and are entitled to a share of the crop.	Farm producers and landowners who share in the risk of production and are entitled to a share of the crop. Have 5 years of Sch. F 1040 tax records. Average annual gross revenue of up to \$512,821. No more than 50% of income from commodities purchased for resale. Expected potato revenue not to exceed 83.3% of total income.
Eligible crops:	Any crop grown for food or fiber <b>not</b> eligible for "CAT" from RMA.	Covers revenue from crops, livestock and livestock products.
Ineligible crops:	Crops not for food or fiber. Crop byproducts (straw, mulch) Livestock, livestock products.	Value added activity; sorting, packaging. Custom hire machine work. Revenue from timber and forest products. Animals for sport, pet, show. Ad-hoc disaster payments.
Insurance limit:	None	Policy liability limit; \$250,000. Avg. 5 yr adjusted gross income of up to: \$512,821
Fee/Premium Cost:	\$100 per crop, per person per County. \$300 max. per person per County. \$900 max per person all Counties.	Premium range from \$3 - \$15 per \$100 of coverage depending on commodity or commodities insured.
Period of coverage:	Later of 30 days after applic. or date crop planted. Ends at harvest, latest normal harvest date or at abandonment or destruction of crop.	Calendar or fiscal year (corresponding with producer's IRS tax year).
Claim payment:	After reported loss has been adjusted during growing season.	Paid after filing Sch. F 1040 with IRS for tax year.



# MINNESOTA GROWN

Fresh From Your Neighbor

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## Media Partner Selected!

After another extremely competitive bidding process, Channels 9 (KMSP) and 29 (WFTC) have earned the right to be the Minnesota Grown Program's media partners for 2005. Strong proposals were received from several television stations, radio stations and newspapers. The partnership with Channels 9 and 29 includes a full year of paid and promotional television ads, internet links on both station's home pages and numerous promotion tie-ins on both morning and evening news programming. More details can be found in the next issue of this newsletter and the Minnesota Grown Update newsletter.

Part of the agreement gives us access to both stations to promote special events through their community calendar announcements on the air and on their web site. If you know of any special events for your business or industry coming up in 2005, please contact Paul Hugunin at [paul.hugunin@state.mn.us](mailto:paul.hugunin@state.mn.us) or by phone at 651-297-5510. The opening dates for your farmers' market, a milestone anniversary for your business (such as your 25th or 50th year in business), or the opening of a new location are just a few examples of the kinds of events we'd like to publish.

## Directory Goes to Press

As this article was written, final edits and additions to the 2005 *Minnesota Grown Directory* were being made. Printed copies will be available in April. Those who ordered quantities for distribution will receive them as soon as printing is completed. The first public event with distribution of the new *Directory* will be the Living Green Expo on April 30 and May 1. If you haven't already ordered quantities, you can request them by contacting Brian Erickson at [brian.j.erickson@state.mn.us](mailto:brian.j.erickson@state.mn.us) or by phone at 651-296-4939. Local festivals, fairs, and tourist destinations are all great locations for the *Directory*. Many real estate agents and insurance agents also like to make them available to their customers.

## Living Green Expo

The 4th annual Living Green Expo is scheduled for April 30 and May 1 at the State Fair Grandstand. The Minnesota Grown Program is a key sponsor of the local foods portion of the event and will underwrite a portion of the exhibit fee for producers licensed to use the Minnesota Grown logo. Contact Paul Hugunin at 651-297-5510 or by e-mail at [paul.hugunin@state.mn.us](mailto:paul.hugunin@state.mn.us) for more information about exhibiting at the event, or visit the Expo web site at [www.livinggreenexpo.org](http://www.livinggreenexpo.org).

## Twin Cities Food & Wine Experience

The Minnesota's Table pavilion at the 2005 Twin Cities Food & Wine Experience was a big hit. With eight Minnesota wineries, five Minnesota cheese makers, elk, specialty bakery items and Minnesota made chocolate, the Minnesota pavilion made a lasting impression on many of the over 10,000 attendees who paid over \$50 each for a ticket to attend. The event was held on February 25-27 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. If you

would like to exhibit in the 2006 Minnesota pavilion, contact Paul Hugunin at 651-297-5510 or by e-mail at [paul.hugunin@state.mn.us](mailto:paul.hugunin@state.mn.us).

Congratulations to several Minnesota Grown members who received awards at the event! Dehn's Garden received the award for "Best Presentation". Winehaven Winery and Vineyard received the award for "Best Value Wine, Merlot". Forestedge Winery won the award for "Best Minnesota Fruit Wine".

## Custom Banners

The Minnesota Grown Program continues to offer discounts on custom-banners that include the Minnesota Grown logo. Our banner partner is BannerGalaxy. To order, visit [www.bannergalaxy.com](http://www.bannergalaxy.com) and click on the "partners" tab. Your user name is "mngrown" and your password is "banners". You can then design your banner's size, colors, text and materials. Once you've got it set, purchase it on-line and enter "mgpg" as your discount code to receive a \$10 discount. Your banner will be delivered in 7-10 days. They're great for seasonal products or special events!

## Labeling Cost Share Available

Remember the Minnesota Grown logo when you update your labels, bags or boxes. The Minnesota Grown Promotion Group will reimburse you for up to \$100 of plate charges or design charges if you add the Minnesota Grown logo to your packaging. Call us at 651-297-5510 for details.

## A Look Back at 2004

As we enter a new marketing season, we wanted to take a brief glance back at a few 2004 highlights. The year featured several new initiatives to go along with continued growth in the core program offerings.

- Record participation. Record numbers of producers participated in the program, including 828 producers licensed to use the Minnesota Grown logo and 565 listings in the 2004 *Directory*.
- New television ads. WCCO television's exclusive sponsorship of the 2004 *Directory* led to the production and airing of five new television ads, including garden centers, specialty meats, fall activities (apples, pumpkins and wine), November apples at grocery stores and Christmas trees. We also continued our previous television ads on behalf of farmers' markets and summer produce in grocery stores.
- Living Green Expo. The Minnesota Grown Program was a sponsor of the Living Green Expo, attended by 15,000 consumers interested in buying local products.
- Dine Fresh Dine Local. Along with the Food Alliance Midwest, Land Stewardship Project, and the Blue Sky Guide, we proudly sponsored this brand new event to increase sales of locally produced products at restaurants.
- Increased Internet Exposure. Our partnership with WCCO TV resulted in a Minnesota Grown ad on [wcco.com](http://wcco.com)'s home page from May through December. The result was nearly 1,000 more people visiting the on-line *Minnesota Grown Directory* each month.
- Enhanced Marketing Conference. The new look Marketing Conference was attended by 140 marketers in 2004. The average ranking given to speakers was a remarkable 4.55 on a scale of 1-5!
- Cost share opportunities. Apple growers, berry growers and Christmas tree growers participated in cost-share programs to help them advertise their products as Minnesota Grown.
- On-line ordering of promotional materials. Licensed marketers can now order stickers, price cards and other free POS items on-line at [www.mda.state.mn.us/mngrown](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/mngrown).

*Minnesota Grown information is supplied to MFVGA by Paul Hugunin (651-297-5510) and Brian Erickson (651-296-4939) from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Ag Marketing Services Division. If you have any questions about Minnesota Grown, contact them at the numbers listed above.*

# RESOLUTIONS

## MINNESOTA FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION 2005 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:**

1. Because pollution comes from many sources other than the farming sector, we oppose additional taxes on farm chemicals and fertilizers.
2. 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.
3. We support research and development of Best Management Practices for the greatest economic return and safe use of nitrogen products.
4. 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.

Whereas the vegetable and small fruit industries have never received subsidies or price supports from the federal government but have been dependent on prices set by supply and demand, the Association is on record as opposing any provisions in federal farm legislation that would allow farmers to plant vegetables and fruit for the fresh market on acreage for which they receive government payments under commodity subsidy programs but allowing provisions for growers to plant and avoid losing base acres for land planted to contracted processing vegetables if the subsidy payment for the year in which the vegetable crop is planted is forfeited for such 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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **U of M HORTICULTURAL BUDGET CUTS:**

We advocate the expenditure by the University of Minnesota to maintain and enhance agricultural research and departmental positions. We oppose budget cuts affecting the University of Minnesota Extension Service and the horticulture positions at the U of M Research and Outreach Centers. The U of M Extension Service and the Research and Outreach Centers are a very important resource for the Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association as well as its individual members. Budget cuts and the loss of horticulture field positions at the U of M and the Research Centers greatly reduce the resources and applied research available to Minnesota's fruit and vegetable growers. We encourage the University to restore funding to the Extension Service and to fund horticulture field positions and technical staff positions so applied horticultural research in Minnesota may continue.

# MFVGA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

## October 1, 2004 - September 30, 2005

Farm/Company Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Primary Crop  Apples  Berries  Vegetables  
 Crops \_\_\_\_\_

**Names of direct members:**

(grower, spouse, employees, partners)

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERS:**

Gross Sales	Dues	
Up to \$25,000	\$ 75.00	
\$25,000 - \$75,000	125.00	
\$75,000 - \$225,000	225.00	
Over \$225,000	325.00	\$ _____

Direct Membership includes a subscription to one of the following periodicals. Please indicate which publication you would like to receive. Choose one.

- \_\_\_ American Fruit Grower
- \_\_\_ The Fruit Growers News
- \_\_\_ American Vegetable Grower
- \_\_\_ The Vegetable Growers News
- \_\_\_ Northland Berry News

(An additional \$10.00 fee is required to receive the Northland Berry News.) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Be sure to tell our advertisers  
 "I saw your ad in the MFVGA Newsletter"**

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:**

(Dues are \$25.00 per year.)

Associate members are related agri-business firms, educators, and suppliers. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Contributions or gifts to MFVGA are not tax deductible as charitable contributions; however, they may be tax deductible as ordinary and necessary business expenses.*

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MFVGA**

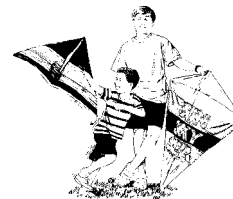
Mail to: MFVGA  
 c/o Marilyn Nysetvold Johnson, Exec. Coordinator  
 15125 W. Vermillion Cir. NE  
 Ham Lake, MN 55304  
 Questions? Call 763-434-0400 Fax: 763-413-9585

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 Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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This issue of the MFVGA Newsletter is sponsored, in part, by the USDA – Risk Management Agency. For more information on the Risk Management Agency visit their website at [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov). Information on the Farm Service Agency can be found at [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov).

## Sign Up Now for the Minnesota Fruit & Vegetable IPM News

The *Minnesota Fruit & Vegetable IPM News* will begin production in early May for the 2005 growing season. The popular publication is a joint production of the University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

The newsletter will contain fruit and vegetable pest monitoring information and alerts, pest management articles, guest author articles and articles on topics like biotechnology and specialty crops, nutritional benefits of fruits and vegetables, food safety, produce marketing, information on the benefits of integrated pest management and sustainable agriculture and much more.

The publication is funded by the Minnesota Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association through a partnership agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture – Risk Management Agency.

If you are currently on the list for e-mail notices or on the mailing list for a hard copy of the publication, you will continue to receive information in 2005. If you are not on the current mailing list and would like to be added for the 2005 growing season, contact Jean Ciborowski at 651-297-3217 or [jeanne.ciborowski@state.mn.us](mailto:jeanne.ciborowski@state.mn.us). You can receive the newsletter via mail or you can receive an e-mail announcement and view the *Minnesota Fruit & Vegetable IPM News* in html. or pdf. format on the web. The newsletter will be available on the web on Friday afternoons from early May through August. Mailed copies will be sent out on Fridays.

### Resources Available:

#### Midwest Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers – 2005

We have a limited supply of the 2005 Midwest Vegetable Production Guide for Commercial Growers available for \$12.00 each which includes shipping and handling. Please send your requests and payment to the MFVGA office at 15125 W. Vermillion Cir. NE, Ham Lake, MN 55304. Make the check payable to MFVGA.

## 2005 Conference and Trade Show Recap

The two-day Upper Midwest Regional Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference and Trade Show was well attended with 275 people registering for the educational sessions and trade show. Growers from Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Iowa joined us in St. Cloud, MN for a fantastic conference.

The conference included sessions on berry production, tomatoes, melons, business management, pumpkins, specialty crops, sweet corn, apples, plums, direct marketing, high tunnel production and an organics workshop.

Grower profiles by John Cooper from Strawberry Tyme Farms, Inc. in Simcoe Ontario and Isabel Barrett-Prescott from Riverview Orchards in Rexford, New York, were very interesting and informative.

Thanks to all the exhibitors, speakers and producers who helped to make the conference a success.

The MFVGA Board and Extension Specialists have already started planning next year's conference. If you have ideas for sessions or speakers, we'd like to hear from you. Contact the MFVGA office at 763-434-0400 or e-mail at [mfvga@worldnet.att.net](mailto:mfvga@worldnet.att.net). The 2006 conference will be at the St. Cloud Civic Center in St. Cloud, MN on February 2 & 3, 2006.



### NOTICE TO NON-MEMBERS

In return for receiving the MFVGA newsletter, we ask a \$10 donation per year to cover printing and mailing costs.

Thank You!

#### PLEASE NOTE:

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please let us know.

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