

Upper Midwest Regional Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference January 22 & 23, 2009

Sponsored by
The Minnesota Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association
in cooperation with the
University of Minnesota Extension Service
Minnesota Department of Agriculture
USDA – Risk Management Agency

Thursday morning, January 22, 2009

Opening Session

- 8:45 – 9:00 Welcome & Announcements
9:00 – 10:00 WeedCast – Frank Forcella, Research Agronomist, USDA-ARS Soils Lab, Morris, MN
10:00 – 10:30 Break to the Trade Show
10:30 – 11:15 Impact of the New Farm Bill on Fruit & Vegetable Producers – Phyllis Framstad, Stearns County Farm Service Agency
11:15 – 12:00 Grower Profile – Gilbertson Farms, Scandia, MN
12:00 – 1:15 Lunch – Trade Show Area

Wednesday Night “Special”

If you are planning to arrive early for the conference in St. Cloud, join other growers on Wednesday night, January 21st for an informal discussion on a variety of topics. We are hoping to also offer a focused discussion with representatives from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on health and safety issues related to petting zoos, fresh apple juice and other issues that could impact your customers and your operation.

Bring your questions, comments, marketing tips and stories from last year. This informal gathering is an excellent chance to visit with other growers, meet new people, renew old acquaintances and pick up some useful tips. We will get together at 7:00 p.m. at the St. Cloud Civic Center. If you have questions, contact the MFVGA office at 763-434-0400.

MFVGA Policy on Conference Registration Cancellations and Refunds:

MFVGA will refund registration fees for the 2009 Upper Midwest Regional Fruit and Vegetable Growers Conference in full if the MFVGA office is notified before Friday, January 16, 2009. If the MFVGA office is notified after January 16, 2009, but before Monday, January 19, 2009, 75% of the registration amount will be refunded. No refund will be issued if registrations are cancelled after Monday, January 19, 2009.

Thursday afternoon, January 22, 2009

- Session I: Berries and New Fruits**
1:15 – 2:15 Year in Review – Grower Participation
2:15 – 3:00 Growing Strawberries in a Northern Climate – Waldo & Lorna Thiessen, Berry Hill Farm – Altona, Manitoba
3:00 – 3:30 Break to the Trade Show
3:30 – 4:30 Apricots in Minnesota? – Frank Forcella, Research Agronomist, USDA-ARS Soils Lab, Morris, MN
- Session II: Sweet Corn**
1:15 – 1:45 New Herbicides for Sweet Corn Production – Dr. Roger Becker, University of Minnesota – Dept. of Agronomy & Plant Genetics
1:45 – 2:15 Sweet Corn Earworm Update – Dr. Bill Hutchison, University of Minnesota – Dept. of Entomology
2:15 – 2:45 Multi-state Fungicide Trials for Improved Emergence – Dr. Vince Fritz, University of Minnesota – Dept. of Horticultural Science
2:45 – 3:15 Break to the Trade Show
3:15 – 4:15 Structured Roundtable on Fertilizers and Diseases – Dr. Carl Rosen & Michelle Grabowski, University of Minnesota
- Session III: High Tunnel Production**
1:15 – 2:00 Identifying the Five Major Critical Control Points – Terry Nennich, University of Minnesota Extension
2:00 – 2:30 Fertility Research – Dr. Carl Rosen, University of Minnesota – Dept. of Soil, Water & Climate
2:30 – 3:00 Break to the Trade Show
3:00 – 3:45 Raspberry Research at Grand Rapids and Morris – Dr. Emily Hoover, Steve Poppe and Dr. Shengrui Yao, University of Minnesota
3:45 – 4:15 Nutraceutical Crop Production – Dr. Vince Fritz, U of M – Dept. of Horticultural Science
4:15 – 4:45 Management Issues with Different Fruits & Vegetables – Terry Nennich, Carl Rosen, Karl Foord and Jerry Wright, University of Minnesota
- Session IV: Alternative Energy**
1:15 – 2:15 Is Solar Energy an Option for You? – Rebecca Lundberg, Powerfully Green
2:15 – 2:45 Using Biomass Gasification to Supply Local Energy Needs and Create Ammonia Fertilizer from Hydrogen – Michael Sparby, Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI)
2:45 – 3:15 Break to the Trade Show
3:15 – 3:45 Gasification, Cellulosic Ethanol, Biodiesel and Co-Generation Projects in Minnesota – Michael Sparby
3:45 – 4:30 Conservation Tips – Phil Smith, Energy Specialist, Minnesota Office of Energy Security
- 4:45 MFVGA Business Meeting**
5:15 Social Hour in the Trade Show Area
6:30 Minnesota Grown Banquet
Speaker: Craig Edwards – Exploring the Past to Predict the Weather Calamities of the Future.