



**Beginning Grower Workshops
January 20, 2010
St. Cloud Civic Center – St. Cloud, MN**



Sponsored by the
**Minnesota Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association
University of Minnesota Extension Service
USDA – Risk Management Agency
Community Outreach & Assistance Partnership Program**

The Beginning Grower Workshops are designed for people thinking about starting or expanding a commercial berry operation and individuals considering high tunnel vegetable production. The workshops are for people with no experience in farming, people transitioning from other types of agricultural production and people already in commercial production who are looking for a good review of the basics.

Getting Started in High Tunnel Production

- Introductions
- Starting in High Tunnel Production – Why and How
- Using Drip Irrigation in High Tunnels
- Investigating Crops for High Tunnels
- Developing Markets, Utilizing Labor and Dealing with the Unexpected
- Soils and Plant Growing Media – Managing and Amending Soils for Productive Yields in High Tunnels
- What Has Worked and Problems We Encountered in the High Tunnel

Beginning Berry Production

- So, You Want to Start a Berry Farm...Introductions and Goals
- Assessing and Accessing Your Market – Market research, consumer audience and competition
- Being a Business – Accounting, licenses, permits, tax numbers, etc.
- Grower Profile
- Getting Ready for Planting – Pre-plant preparation, variety selection, planting tips, setting up a field, soil, water, drainage, etc.
- Strawberry Production Basics
- Raspberry Production Basics
- Blueberry Production Basics
- Marketing Tips & Tricks – Grower Panel
- Questions & Answers

Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. Both sessions run until 5:00 p.m.

More information on the topics and speakers will be included in the next newsletter.

The Upper Midwest Regional Fruit & Vegetable Growers Conference & Trade Show will be held on Thursday and Friday, January 21 & 22, 2010 at the St. Cloud Civic Center. We encourage you to review the schedule in this newsletter and attend those sessions also. Scholarships are available for the Beginning Grower Workshops and the main conference. For more information contact the MFVGA office at 763-434-0400 or mfvga@msn.com.

Beginning Grower Workshop Registration Form:

Name _____

Farm Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Berry Workshop _____ @ \$60 = _____

High Tunnel Workshop _____ @ \$60 = _____

There will be an additional \$5 per person charge for those registering at the door.

Names of Additional Participants:

Method of payment:

- Check (payable to MFVGA)
 VISA MASTERCARD

Number _____

Exp. Date _____ V Code _____

Signature _____

Return this form with payment to:

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