

2018 Growing Season Class Schedule

All classes take place at Big River Farms, 14220-B Ostlund Trail North, Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047 unless otherwise noted. **Registration required.** All classes are \$20 unless noted. To register and find out about scholarships and multi-class discounts, contact Laura at laura@mnfoodassociation.org, or call 651-433-3676.

Class Topic, Date, Time & Location:	Presenter:	Description:
<p>Greenhouse Skills Saturdays, March-April 10:00 AM-12:00 PM</p> <hr/> <p>Shared Plot Skills Mondays, late April-October 5:45 PM-8:00 PM</p> <p><i>**These dates change regularly – call to confirm each date**</i></p> <p>Location: Big River Farms</p>	<p>May Lee, Farmer Mentor</p>	<p>Learn how to grow your own seedlings in the BRF greenhouse. May will teach proper seeding, watering, thinning, hardening off, and more.</p> <hr/> <p>All season long, May will help decide the field work priorities of the week and help farmers address them. Topics will include transplanting, direct seeding, trellising, mulching, watering, harvesting, post-harvest handling, record-keeping, and more.</p> <p><i>These skill sessions will feature a short, 15-30 minute lesson, followed by a dedicated time to work together with a mentor.</i></p>
<p>Farm Law & Legal Liability Thursday, April 5 5:45 PM-8:00 PM</p> <p>Location: The Good Acre</p>	<p>Stephen Carpenter, Farmers Legal Action Group</p>	<p>Learn from a lawyer all about farm law basics. This will be the first of a series of interactive sessions on farm law, and will focus on farm business entities and legal liability.</p>
<p>Work Day & On-farm Orientation Saturday, April 7 10:00 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Big River Farms</p>	<p>Molly Schaus, Farm Director</p>	<p>Help with spring clean-up on the farm, and afterwards go through the basic systems for shared spaces, safety, and communication. Intended for Big River Farms growers only.</p>
<p>Record Keeping Basics Monday, April 9 5:45 PM-8:00 PM</p> <p>Location: The Good Acre</p>	<p>Katie Kubovcik, Farm Consultant</p>	<p>Learn about the basic records required for organic certification, and smart ways to start small.</p>
<p>Small Business Banking Thursday, April 12 5:45 PM-8:00 PM CANCELED Location: The Good Acre</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>This class will cover the basics of small business banking – when and why to open a business bank account, why and how to build your credit, and other topics depending on farmer interest.</p>

<p>Writing your Food Safety Plan - FREE Wednesday, April 18 9:00 AM-2:30 PM</p> <p>Location: The Good Acre</p>	<p>Annalisa Hultberg, University of Minnesota Extension</p>	<p>In this full day class, Annalisa will help you prepare for a GAP audit in the morning and then help you develop a Food Safety Plan in the afternoon. <u>FREE lunch included.</u></p>
<p>Co-op Partners Warehouse Tour Tuesday, April 24 12:00 PM-1:00 PM</p> <p>Location: 744 Vandalia St. St. Paul, MN 55114</p>	<p>Lori Zuidema, Co-op Partners Office & Sales Manager</p>	<p>Come and tour Co-op Partners, an Organic Wholesale Distributor in St. Paul. Learn from the experts: See the facility, how produce arrives, how it goes out, how produce is handled and packed, and what is expected of growers.</p>
<p>Farm Tour: Holistic Health Farms – Spring High Tunnel Techniques Sunday, April 29 2:00 PM-4:00 PM</p> <p>Location: 1243 Hewitt Ave, St. Paul MN 55104</p>	<p>Tim Page & Cherry Flowers</p>	<p>Come see how the urban farming duo, Tim & Cherry of Holistic Health Farms, manage their urban high tunnel, the first registered in St. Paul! The day will include an overview of their high tunnel production methods, hydro/aquaponics set-up, use of mini-hoopers, cover cropping in the tunnel, markets, and more. **REGISTRATION REQUIRED for all farmers: call or visit TGAhightunnel.eventbrite.com**</p>
<p>Organic Inputs RESCHEDULED Thursday, May 3 5:45-8:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Big River Farms</p>	<p>Molly Schaus, Farm Director</p>	<p>In this class we will go over the organic inputs we use for fertility and pest control at Big River Farms and how to correctly use them. We will also review how to document usage for your records and Organic Certification.</p>
<p>Irrigation RESCHEDULED Thursday, May 10 5:45 PM-8:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Big River Farms</p>	<p>Molly Schaus, Farm Director</p>	<p>Learn about the different irrigation options for small-scale vegetable farming and the pros and cons of each. We will also go through a hands-on demonstration of how to install a drip-tape system.</p>
<p>Lawyer on the Farm Monday, May 14 5:45-8:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Big River Farms</p>	<p>Stephen Carpenter, Farmers Legal Action Group</p>	<p>Learn from a lawyer all about farm law basics. This will be the second of a series of interactive sessions on farm law, and will focus on topics of interest identified by farmers.</p>
<p>Packing Shed, Farm Safety, & Farmers Market RESCHEDULED Thursday, May 17 5:45-8:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Big River Farms</p>	<p>Molly Schaus, Farm Director Angelica Adams, Market Education Coordinator</p>	<p>This meeting will cover BRF packing shed operations and on-farm safety practices. We will also go over farmers’ market logistics and systems, including market rules, materials, records, payment processing, and leftover produce. Intended for BRF growers only.</p>

<p>Plastic Mulch & Transplanting with the Tractor RESCHEDULED Thursday-Saturday, May 24-26 **By appointment only** Location: Big River Farms</p>	<p>Molly Schaus, Farm Director</p>	<p>Learn how to use a tractor to apply plastic mulch and transplant using the tractor! This will be a hands-on, experiential 1:1 learning opportunity.</p>
<p>Food Safety Field Day RESCHEDULED Tuesday, May 29 5:45 PM-8:00 PM Location: Big River Farms</p>	<p>Annalisa Hultberg, University of Minnesota Extension</p>	<p>In the second half of the day, we will put concepts and lessons-learned into practice during a hands-on food safety field day. Annalisa will go over water testing, manure application, packshed sanitation, pest control, worker training, and recordkeeping.</p>
<p>BRF Markets Meeting RESCHEDULED Thursday, June 7 5:45 PM-8:00 PM Location: Big River Farms</p>	<p>Molly Schuas, Farm Director Food Hub Manager</p>	<p>This meeting will cover all of the steps and any changes involved in selling your produce through the Big River Farms Food Hub. Intended for BRF Growers only.</p>
<p>Lawyer on the Farm Monday, June 11 5:45-8:00 PM Location: Big River Farms</p>	<p>Stephen Carpenter, Farmers Legal Action Group</p>	<p>Learn from a lawyer all about farm law basics. This will be the third of a series of interactive sessions on farm law, and will focus on topics of interest identified by farmers.</p>
<p>Farmer Listening Session Monday, June 25 5:45-8:00 PM Location: Big River Farms</p>	<p>Big River Farms Growers</p>	<p>Meet with other farmers in the program to share your opinion. This meeting is very important to help MFA understand farmers' needs! We'll keep this meeting short to save time for an informal farmer get-together following.</p>
<p>Mid-season Cover Crops Thursday, June 28 5:45-8:00 PM Location: Big River Farms</p>	<p>Vivian Wauters, University of Minnesota & Molly Schaus, Farm Director</p>	<p>Cover crops are a basic practice in organic systems essential to productive and healthy crops. This class will discuss the cover crop plan at BRF, showcase a summer cover crop installation, and encourage ways you can begin cover cropping in your own plot.</p>
<p>Farm Tour: Uproot Farm – Farming with Focus Monday, July 9 5:30-8:30 PM</p>	<p>Sarah Woutat, Farmer Vivian Wauters, University of Minnesota</p>	<p>Learn from an Organic vegetable farmer about her decision to scale back her production and markets this year for improved efficiency, profitability, and a better work-life balance. After seven years of managing employees, 7 acres of land, and a successful CSA, she decided this year to spend more time with her daughter in the fields, to focus on a</p>

Location: 6800 County Rd 6 NW, Princeton MN 55371		smaller farm, and to stop delivering CSA shares. This field day will also showcase Sarah’s experience with summer cover crops and innovative salad mix production techniques.
Co-op Farm Tour! Saturday, July 14 10:00 AM-4:00 PM	NA	Come celebrate the beginning of the season, meet your farm supporters, and party with food, music, games, and more.
Location: Big River Farms		
Farm Tour: Cala Farm – Summer High Tunnel Production Monday, July 16 10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Rodrigo Cala, Farmer Vivian Wauters, University of Minnesota	Learn from organic farmer & MFA graduate Rodrigo Cala about his farm. He will focus on his use of different hoophouse styles and reviews, crop selection, and best management practices. Then, he’ll talk with Vivian about his summer cover crop installation. Farmers who attend will also have the opportunity to share their own experiences.
Location: 1354 3 3/4 St, Turtle Lake WI 54889		
High Tunnel Field Day at The Good Acre Wednesday, August 1 10:30 AM-12:00 PM field day; 12:00 PM-4:30 PM sign-ups	David VanEeckhout, The Good Acre NRCS staff	Take a walk through The Good Acre’s high tunnels to learn about their innovative “fertigation system” that allows them to analyze plant nutrients and adjust fertilizer accordingly through drip irrigation. The second half of the workshop NRCS staff will be available to help farmers apply for their own high tunnels through the EQIP program. <u>Free lunch included!</u>
Location: The Good Acre		
Farm Tour: Mouacheupao Farm – Hemp Production & Hmong Farming Culture Thursday, August 23 5:00-8:00 PM	Xong Mouacheupao, Farmer	Learn about traditional Hmong farming culture and daily life from farmer Xong Mouacheupao, including the practices of hemp production for fiber and clothing. Walk with Xong, cook and share a farm-fresh meal together, and learn how to harvest and process hemp into fiber.
Location: 16797 Elmcrest Ave N, Hugo MN 55038		
Farm Tour: Seed to Seed – Wholesale Farming Friday, September 7 10:00 AM-12:00 PM	Ariel Pressman, Farmer	Ariel Pressman of Seed to Seed Farm currently farms 14 acres of certified organic vegetables, operates 3 greenhouses and 3 high tunnels, and sells primarily wholesale vegetables and plant starts. Tour his farm and talk with him about his general farm efficiency practices, how he selects the best plant varieties, and the many other lessons he has learned since he started farming 7 years ago.
Location: 1189 150th ave Balsam Lake, Wisconsin 54810		
Farm Tours: HAFA, Santa Rosa, & Thao Gardens – 1st Year in a High Tunnel September, TBD	TBD	Learn from local farmers about their 1 st year of experience producing a high tunnel – what lessons did they learn, and what mistakes can you avoid making!

<p>Work Day: Fall Clean-up Saturday, October 6 10:00 AM-1:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Big River Farms</p>	NA	Put your fields to bed and help clean up the rest of the farm in preparation for the end of the season.
<p>Fall Harvest Party! Sunday, October 14 3:00 PM-6:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Big River Farms</p>	NA	Come celebrate the end of the season, meet your farm supporters, and party with food, music, games, and more.
<p>Writing your Annual Farm Report Thursday, November 15 5:45 PM-8:00 PM</p> <p>Location TBD</p>	Laura Hedeem, Programs Manager	The goal is to keep good records during the season of all your field activity and farm work. Now, what can you learn from those records? Learn how to use your records to create a helpful summary of the past season to assist with planning for next year and future years.
<p>CSA Contracts & Land Meeting Thursday, November 29 5:45 PM-8:00 PM</p> <p>Location TBD</p>	Molly Schaus, Farm Director	This meeting will be an initial discussion between staff and farmers on market contracts for the following season. We will also discuss the Farm Operations budget and any other program/policy changes for the following year.
<p>Stone Barns Young Farmers Conference Wednesday-Saturday, December 5-8</p> <p>Location: New York</p>	Various	Over the course of three days, attendees choose from over 60 workshops, attend keynote addresses given by agricultural luminaries, and network with peers and mentors over farm-fresh meals —building community they can work with and depend upon as they grow their farm enterprises in the seasons to come. ***REGISTRATION REQUIRED – RSVP to Laura***

- Additional Community Work Days will be scheduled on an as-needed basis.
- Class times and dates are subject to change based on weather and presenter availability. Updates to this schedule will be communicated with farmers as they are made.

*****Additional classes & more information coming soon!***

Updated 4/10/2018

