

## 2019 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. This schedule is subject to change – please [click here](#) for the most up-to-date information. **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](mailto:laura@mnfoodassociation.org), or call 651-433-3676.

<b>Class Topic, Date, Time &amp; Location:</b>	<b>Presenter:</b>	<b>Description:</b>	<b>Intended For:</b>
<b>Ames Farm Beekeeping Class</b> Saturday, April 20 12:00 PM-3:30 PM  Location: Voyageur Environmental Center, 7000 County Rd 15, Mound, MN 55364	Brian Fredericksen, Owner/Founder of Ames Farm	Taught by a beekeeper with over 20 years of experience, this class will provide an overview of honeybee biology, hive ware/equipment, year ‘round management, honey production, and more.  <i>***BRF farmers register for FREE! <a href="#">Register here</a> with code MFA2019</i>	Optional for all farmers
<b>Organic Fertility &amp; Pest Prevention</b> Wednesday, April 24 5:45-8:00 PM (Rescheduled)  Location: Big River Farms	Sarah Woutat, Uproot Farm  Molly Schaus, Farm Director	In this class we will discuss strategies farmers can use to make smart decisions around fertility. Then, we will go over the organic inputs we use at Big River Farms, and demonstrate how to safely and correctly apply them. Finally, we will review how to document usage for your records and Organic Certification.	All farmers
<b>Farm Tour: Season Extension &amp; Farm Efficiency – 10<sup>th</sup> Street Farm &amp; Market</b> Saturday, April 27 9:30 AM-12:30 PM  Location: 13197 10th St. S, Afton MN 55001	Hallie Anderson, Owner/Operator  <i>Hosted in partnership with Land Stewardship Project</i>	Hallie uses a combination of low acreage-high production farming methods, organic practices and extended season tools to grow for her CSA, wholesale, and farm stand customers. Tour their farm and learn what methods they use to make significant savings on two things farmers always need more of: time and money! Light snacks & refreshments provided.	All farmers
<b>Irrigation</b> Wednesday, May 1 5:45 PM-8:00 PM  Location: Big River Farms	Molly Schaus, Farm Director	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.	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> year farmers

<p><b>Cover-cropping on a Small Scale</b> Monday, May 6 5:45-8:00 PM <b>(Rescheduled)</b></p> <p>Location: The Good Acre</p>	<p>Anne Pfeiffer, Organic Program Associate, Grossman Lab</p>	<p>Learn and try out some easy strategies for small-scale cover crop application, termination, and incorporation during this hands-on training in The Good Acre high tunnel. Review the benefits of cover cropping, and practical tips for where to start.</p>	<p>All farmers</p>
<p><b>Food Safety on the Farm</b> Wednesday, May 8 5:45 PM-8:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Big River Farms</p>	<p>Annalisa Hultberg, University of Minnesota Extension</p>	<p>Food safety is something that every vegetable farmer needs to understand. Learn hands-on how you can practice food safety on the farm, and how keep the records you need to pass a food safety inspection. We will cover water testing, pack shed sanitation, pest control, and worker training.</p>	<p>All farmers</p>
<p><b>Asparagus Field Day</b> Saturday, May 18 10:00 AM-2:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Big River Farms</p>	<p>Paul Schmidt, Schmidt Farm</p> <p>Annie Klodd, UMN Extension Educator</p> <p><i>Hosted in partnership with Sustainable Farming Association</i></p>	<p>Join us for a hands-on field day that will cover the basics of successful asparagus production here in Minnesota. We will talk about site selection, ground prep, sourcing crowns, equipment needs, installation, care, harvest, and markets. This course will be taught by experienced asparagus farmers and extension educators, and will include time to gain hands-on experience planting asparagus at Big River Farms. Light lunch provided.</p>	<p>All Farmers</p>
<p><b>Cultivating Crops &amp; Growers with the Right Tools</b> Wednesday, May 29 5:30 PM-8:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Big River Farms</p>	<p><b>TBD</b></p> <p><i>Hosted in partnership with Twin Cities Metro Growers Network</i></p>	<p>Learn the basics of basic hand tool sharpening, maintenance, and repair. Then, bring your own favorite tools and gadgets for a farmer-led tool show and tell!</p>	<p>All farmers</p>
<p><b>Organic Weed Management</b> Wednesday, June 12 5:45 PM-8:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Big River Farms</p>	<p>Molly Schaus, Farm Director</p> <p>Annie Klodd, UMN Extension</p>	<p>This field day will focus on weed control strategies that work for certified organic vegetable farmers. We will start off with how to take back your fields from two of the most vicious invaders: thistle and quack grass. We'll also visit a site under low/no-till production – a potential solution for controlling weeds without destroying your soil. Last, we'll demonstrate different mechanical</p>	<p>All farmers</p>

		weeding tools, including a flame weeder, and discuss the pros and cons of each.	
<p><b>Co-op Farm Tour!</b> Saturday, July 13 10:00 AM-4:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Big River Farms</p>	NA	<i>Come celebrate the beginning of the season, meet your farm supporters, and party with food, music, games, and more.</i>	<i>Optional for all farmers</i>
<p><b>On-farm Composting</b> July, TBD Time, TBD</p> <p>Location: Big River Farms</p>	TBD	Composting is a great way to decrease food waste and add valuable nutrients back to your soil. In this class we will be going over different composting methods and their benefits and limitations, as well as how to use finished compost to maintain soil health. We will also discuss guidelines to follow so that compost is suitable for organic production.	All farmers
<p><b>Farm Tour: Growing Ginger in Minnesota</b> Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> 4:00 PM-6:00 PM</p> <p>Location: The Good Acre</p>	David VanEeckhout, The Good Acre	<b>Coming soon!</b>	

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

Watch out for upcoming workshops on:

- High Tunnel Tomatoes
- Mushroom Production
- Scaling up with Fewer Crops
- Unusual Enterprises
- On-farm Composting

Updated **4/10/2019**