

2018 Winter Class Schedule

All winter classes take place at The Good Acre, 1790 Larpenteur Ave W, Falcon Heights, MN 55113, unless otherwise noted. This schedule is subject to change – please [click here](#) for the most up-to-date information, or call our office at 651-433-3676. Registration required.

Class Topic, Date, Time & Location:	Presenter:	Description:	Intended for:
Emerging Farmers Conference Friday, January 26 6:00 PM-Saturday, January 27 5:00 PM University of MN Continuing Education & Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave, St. Paul, MN	Various	The annual Emerging Farmers Conference (formerly the Immigrant & Minority Farmers Conference) serves to advance the success and sustainability of farmers who traditionally face barriers to the education and resources necessary to build profitable agricultural businesses, including immigrant farmers and farmers of color. FREE REGISTRATION for Farmers! <i>*Recommended Workshop: Goal Setting & Values – Saturday, 10:30 AM-12:00 PM</i>	All Farmers
Crop Families & Profiles Monday, January 29 5:45-8:00 PM	Molly Schaus, Farm Director & May Lee, Farmer Mentor	Get a better understanding of the vegetable crops you can grow in Minnesota. We will go over the different vegetable families and what you need to know about them, such as direct seeding verses transplanting, ideal growing conditions, fertility needs and pests and disease issues.	All 1 st Year & Organic Transitions Farmers
Filing Farm Taxes (& the Records that Make it Easy) Thursday, February 1 5:45-8:00 PM	Hli Xyooj, Attorney / Farmer Advocate	Ms. Xyooj will go in depth on how to fill out a schedule F, and how to organize your records over the year to make it easier when tax season comes! We will also have information on crop insurance and how to apply.	All Returning Farmers
Crop Plan & Plot Map Monday, February 5 5:45-8:00 PM	Molly Schaus, Farm Director & May Lee, Farmer Mentor	In this class, you'll begin making your own farm production plan. We'll talk about how to decide what to grow, and how to organize your plot to maximize production, taking into account factors such as crop rotation, time of planting, time of harvest, spacing, water needs and companion planting. Finally, we'll help you determine which records to keep as you put your plan into action! <i>*Come with your field measurements and some ideas of what you would like to grow</i>	All 1 st and 2 nd year farmers, Organic Transitions
Farm Goals & Plans Thursday, February 8 5:45-8:00 PM	Tong Thao, Asian Economic Development Association	Why do you farm? This class will help you decipher your farm values, develop a mission statement, and come up with goals for your business. We will work together to get you a head start on developing your business.	All Farmers

<p>Community Work Day: Greenhouse Plastic Saturday, February 10 10:00 AM-1:00 PM ~ New Year Farmer Meeting Saturday, February 10 1:00 PM-3:00 PM <i>(Rescheduled from January 22nd)</i> Big River Farms</p>	<p>Molly Schaus, Farm Director & May Lee, Farmer Mentor ~ Various</p>	<p>Help pull plastic over the Big River Farms greenhouse to get it ready for your seedlings! Hours worked will be deducted from independent plot farmers' community work fee. ~ Kick off the new farming year with a meal together! We will introduce farmers and staff, go over required paperwork and expectations, pass out farmer resources, and discuss any program changes from the previous year. <i>*In case of bad weather, alternate date is Saturday, February 17th</i></p>	<p>All Farmers</p>
<p>Greenhouse & Planting Schedule Monday, February 12 5:45-8:00 PM</p>	<p>Molly Schaus, Farm Director & May Lee, Farmer Mentor</p>	<p>Learn how to plan ahead so your crops are healthy, productive, and ready when you need them. Determine what to transplant and what to direct seed, and create a schedule for planting. This class will also introduce ways to track actual planting dates and locations.</p>	<p>All 1st & 2nd year farmers, Organic Transitions</p>
<p>Identify & Plan your Markets Thursday, February 15 5:45-8:00 PM</p>	<p>Tong Thao, Asian Economic Development Association</p>	<p>Learn how to define your target market, marketing 101, and how to market your farm business effectively.</p>	<p>All Farmers</p>
<p>Seed Order & Organic Inputs Monday, February 19 5:45-8:00 PM <i>*May move to Tuesday if there are Presidents' Day conflicts</i></p>	<p>Molly Schaus, Farm Director & May Lee, Farmer Mentor</p>	<p>Now that you have a crop plan, plot map, and planting schedule, you're ready to make your seed order! Learn how to calculate how much seed to order, how to read a seed catalog, and how to choose the best varieties. You'll also learn what other "inputs" – transplants, soil, fertilizer, and other materials – are approved for organic farming, and what records you need to keep!</p>	<p>All 1st & 2nd year farmers, Organic Transitions</p>
<p>MOSES Organic Conference Thursday, February 22nd - Saturday, February 23rd La Crosse Center, La Crosse, Wisconsin</p>	<p>Various</p>	<p>The largest event in the U.S. about organic and sustainable farming, offering 66 workshops over 6 sessions, inspiring keynotes, engaging roundtables, and a resource-packed Exhibit Hall with over 170 vendors. The event is preceded by Organic University full-day courses that dig deeper into specific farming topics. FREE REGISTRATION for MFA Farmers!</p>	<p>Optional for All Farmers</p>

<p>How to Grow Healthy Soil Monday, February 26 5:45-8:00 PM</p>	<p>Anne Pfeiffer, University of Minnesota Soil Scientist</p>	<p>In this class you'll learn about the different types and characteristics of soil, which ones are best for growing healthy vegetables, and methods to build the soil on your farm. We'll discuss cover cropping, crop rotation, compost, and more.</p>	<p>1st & 2nd year farmers, Organic Transitions</p>
<p>Sustainable Farm Law 101 Friday, March 2 9:00 AM-3:30 PM</p>	<p>Matt Stannard, Farm Commons with farmers Rodrigo Cala & Ariel Pressman</p>	<p>In this extended and interactive workshop, you'll learn from lawyers and farmers all about farm law: Business Entities, Land Matters, Food Safety, Employment Law, Sales & Contracts, Agritourism, and Insurance.</p>	<p>Returning Farmers</p>
<p>Introduction to Greenhouse Production – Skill Sessions All Saturdays, March 3- April 30 10:00 AM-12:00 PM Big River Farms</p>	<p>May Lee, Farmer Mentor</p>	<p>Learn how to grow your own seedlings in the BRF greenhouse, and basic greenhouse management. May will teach proper seeding, watering, thinning, hardening off, and more. *Topics taught and length of lessons vary based on weather and crop plans. Call our office the week before to find out what will be taught.</p>	<p>All Farmers</p>
<p>Record Keeping Basics Monday, March 5 5:45-8:00 PM</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>1st & 2nd year farmers, Organic Transitions</p>
<p>Understanding Farm Financials – Part 1 Thursday, March 8 5:45-8:00 PM</p>	<p>Tong Thao, Asian Economic Development Association</p>	<p>In this workshop, we will help you build your farm budget – we will forecast what will happen each month, and help you plan so that your cash flow works in every season. <i>*Bring 2017 income and expense records for your household and farm to this class!</i></p>	<p>All Farmers</p>
<p>Postharvest Handling & Standards for Wholesale Monday, March 12 5:45-8:00 PM</p>	<p>David VanEckhout, Hogsback Farm & Ariel Pressman, Seed to Seed Farm</p>	<p>Learn best practices for post-harvest handling of produce that will keep your produce in top condition, food safety practices to keep things safe, and how to sort and grade your produce for selling to wholesale accounts.</p>	<p>All Farmers interested in wholesale</p>
<p>Understanding Farm Financials – Part 2 Thursday, March 15 5:45-8:00 PM</p>	<p>Tong Thao, Asian Economic Development Association</p>	<p>In this session we will learn about income and cash flow statements – the difference between them and how they work together. We will also work on your balance sheet and analyze your breakeven point.</p>	<p>All Farmers</p>

<p>Organic Systems Plan Monday, March 19 5:45-8:00 PM</p>	<p>Wendy Paulsen, Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA)</p>	<p>Walk step-by-step through your Organic Packet, an abbreviated version of the Organic Systems Plan. An Organic Inspector from MCIA will also be available to speak more in depth on organic certification and answer questions. <i>*Bring all of your production plans and records!</i></p>	<p>All Farmers</p>
<p>Wholesale Pricing, Communications & Logistics Thursday, March 22 5:45-8:00 PM</p>	<p>Nick Mabe, The Good Acre & Kate Seybold, Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS)</p>	<p>Learn about how to adjust pricing for wholesale markets. Hear from produce buyers about how to effectively communicate what your farm has to offer, how to respond to their requests and get produce efficiently packed and delivered. Learn from other's mistakes as we talk about do's and don'ts of selling to institutions.</p>	<p>Returning Farmers</p>
<p>Farley Center Farm Retreat Saturday-Sunday, March 24 & 25 <i>(dates tentative)</i> Overnight trip to Madison, Wisconsin</p>	<p>Farmers & Staff from The Farley Center for Peace & Justice</p>	<p>Visit the Farley Center in Wisconsin for an overnight trip to learn from other farmers like you! We will tour their incubator farm and speak to farmers first-hand about their tractors, season extension, perennial production, weed control, and fertility and cover cropping.</p>	<p>All Farmers</p>
<p>Promoting your Farm Business Thursday, March 29 5:45-8:00 PM</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>In this workshop, we will discuss what works to promote your farm to different audiences, and begin to create promotional materials for your farm.</p>	<p>All Farmers</p>

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

Updated 1/22/2018