

2019 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:
New Year Farmer Meeting Sunday, January 6 1:00 PM-4:00 PM	Various	Kick off the new farming year with a meal together! We will introduce farmers and staff, decide on group values and dynamics, discuss the history of farming in the US, and introduce winter assignments.	*Required for All Farmers
Farm Mission & Goals Wednesday, January 9 5:45-8:00 PM	Moses Momanyi, Dawn to Dusk Farm TBD	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 also do an exercise to determine your farm team’s strengths and where you might need help to meet your farming goals. Finally, we will hear from farmer Moses Momanyi about how he incorporated his values into his farm plan, and how he determined his strengths and built on them over time.	All Farmers
Minnesota Organic Conference Thursday, January 10- Friday, January 11 St. Cloud MN	Various	Learning and networking opportunities for people new to organic production as well as folk show are old hands at it. The educational program is complemented by an 80+ vendor trade show. ***Limited scholarships available through MFA	Optional for All Farmers
Filing Farm Taxes (& the Records that Make it Easy) Monday, January 14 5:45-8:00 PM	Jaime Villalaz, Latino Economic Development Center	This class 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!	All Returning Farmers
Planning for a Profit Wednesday, January 16 5:45-8:00 PM	Sai Thao, Compeer Financial Moses Momanyi, Dawn to Dusk Farm	In this workshop, we will help you create a profit and loss statement for the previous farm season, and use it to build your farm budget and income goals for the future. We will also introduce concepts of cash flow and balance sheet, and hear from a current farmer about his real life financial planning experience. ***Bring 2018 income and expense records for your household and farm to this class!	All Farmers

<p>Investing in your Future Monday, January 21 5:45 PM-8:00 PM</p>	<p>Rodrigo Cala, Cala Farm & TBD, Latino Economic Development Center</p>	<p>In this class we will review what we learned in <i>Planning for a Profit</i>, and discuss how and when to make investments in your farm to meet the goals you created. We will also hear from a lender what is needed to be approved for a farm loan, and what the process involves.</p>	<p>All Farmers</p>
<p>Identify & Plan your Markets Wednesday, January 23 5:45 PM-8:00 PM</p>	<p>Moses Momanyi, Dawn to Dusk Farm & Farmer, TBD</p>	<p>Hear from current farmers about the different market options available, and what skills and resources are needed for each, going in-depth on both CSA and Farmers' Market. During the second half of the class, we will do an enterprise analysis to help you determine your best market mix.</p>	<p>All Farmers</p>
<p>Emerging Farmers Conference Friday, January 25 6:00 PM-Saturday, January 26 5:00 PM University of MN Continuing Education & Conference Center, 1890 Buford Ave, St. Paul, MN</p>	<p>Various</p>	<p>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!</p>	<p>Optional for All Farmers</p>
<p>Managing your Business Professionally Monday, January 28 5:45 PM-8:00 PM</p>	<p>Farmers Legal Action Group Farmer, TBD</p>	<p>What are the professional and legal steps to move from having a garden plot to running a farm business? This workshop will cover risk management basics, including liability insurance, crop insurance, legal structure, and crop planning, from both a legal and farmer perspective.</p>	<p>All Farmers</p>
<p>Crop Families & Profiles Wednesday, January 30 5:45-8:00 PM</p>	<p>Molly Schaus, Farm Director; May Lee, Farmer Mentor; Farmer TBD</p>	<p>Get a better understanding of the vegetable families you can grow in Minnesota and what each needs to thrive. We will go over crop family commonalities and differences, such as direct seeding versus transplanting, ideal growing conditions, fertility needs and pests and disease issues.</p>	<p>All 1st Year & Organic Transitions Farmers</p>
<p>Organic Vegetable Growers Conference Friday, February 1- Saturday, February 2 Madison, WI</p>	<p>Various</p>	<p>At this two-day conference, over 20 farmer panelists will cover technical production information on garlic, onions, peppers, and one-cut salad heads. Management topics include vegetable no-till, greenhouse management, attracting and compensating labor, and variety selection. ***Scholarships available!</p>	<p>Optional for All Farmers</p>

<p>Crop Plan & Plot Map Wednesday, February 6 5:45-8:00 PM</p>	<p>Molly Schaus, Farm Director; May Lee, Farmer Mentor</p>	<p>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></p>	<p>All 1st and 2nd year farmers, Organic Transitions</p>
<p>Sustainable Farming Association Annual Conference Saturday, February 9 8:00 AM-5:00 PM St. Joseph MN</p>	<p>Various</p>	<p>The SFA Annual Conference is tailored to Minnesota's sustainable farm community. Most sessions are "discussion format" and focus on our farmers' wisdom and needs. <i>***Limited scholarships available through MFA</i></p>	<p>Optional for all farmers</p>
<p>Greenhouse & Planting Schedule Wednesday, February 13 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>Seed Order & Organic Inputs Wednesday, February 20 5:45-8:00 PM</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 21- Saturday, February 23 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. <i>***Limited scholarships available through MFA</i></p>	<p>Optional for All Farmers</p>
<p>Branding & Promoting your Farm Business Wednesday, February 27 5:45-8:00 PM</p>	<p>Naima Dhore, Naima's Farm; 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. Naima Dhore will also share what strategies have led her farm to gain wide recognition in her immediate community and beyond.</p>	<p>All Farmers</p>

<p>Tentative: AgSquared Introduction Saturday, March 2 10:00 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>Location TBD</p>	<p>David Wides, AgSquared</p> <p>BRF Staff</p>	<p>Learn how to set up an account in AgSquared, a digital record-keeping platform for farmers that can be used from a mobile phone. BRF farmers that agree to keep records this year will receive a free subscription.</p>	<p>All Farmers</p>
<p>How to Grow Healthy Soil Wednesday, March 6 5:45-8:00 PM</p>	<p>TBD, Sustainable Farming Association</p>	<p>In this class you'll learn about basic tools for understanding your soil profile, from soil smell, to worm counts, to scientific soil tests. Then, we'll go over some practical ways to build the soil health on your farm.</p>	<p>All Farmers</p>
<p>On-farm Orientation & Introduction to Greenhouse Production Saturday, March 9 10:00 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>Big River Farms</p>	<p>May Lee, Farmer Mentor</p>	<p>Go through the basic systems for shared spaces, safety, and communication at Big River Farms. Then, we'll head to the greenhouse to learn how to grow your own seedlings and the principles of basic greenhouse management. May will teach proper seeding, watering, thinning, hardening off, and more.</p> <p>***Greenhouse Skill Sessions will be held every Saturday through April. 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>*Required for All Farmers</p>
<p>Midwest Soil Health Summit Tuesday, March 12 8:30 AM-4:00 PM</p> <p>Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter MN</p>	<p>Various</p>	<p>Now in its sixth year, the Midwest Soil Health Summit is THE place for profitability-focused soil health training. The keynote speaker is Dr. David Montgomery, a soil scientist and author who makes the case for agriculture that is profitable, productive, and restores life to the land. ***Scholarships available!</p>	<p>Optional for all farmers</p>
<p>Farmers & Food Access Wednesday, March 13 5:45 PM-8:00 PM</p>	<p>TBD</p>	<p>Join a discussion on how you as a farmer can provide food your community can afford, while still charging the prices you need in order to maintain a healthy business. Topics will include how you can be approved to accept SNAP/EBT and other electronic payments, which terminals and service providers are the best to work with, and what other alternative forms of payment exist.</p>	<p>All Farmers</p>

Farm Plan Presentations Wednesday, March 20 5:45 PM-8:00 PM	You!	Each farm team will share with their peers the farm plan they have created over the course of the winter class series, including financial, production, markets, and management plans, in the format of their choice. Big River Farms staff will also present the plan for the incubator farm as a whole.	All Farmers
Organic Systems Plan Wednesday, March 27 5:45-8:00 PM	Wendy Paulsen, Minnesota Crop Improvement Association (MCIA)	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.	All Farmers

Additional classes & more information coming soon!

Updated 12/27/2018