

DAILY SCHEDULES • LISTING OF EXHIBITORS • SPECIAL EVENTS & FORUMS

PLUS: Win Prizes at The Land's Booth #2401



SOUTHERN MINNESOTA INITIATIVE FOUNDATION

## Land is your legacy. Give your acres for good.

Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation's (SMIF) **Acres for Good** program allows farm families to donate their land as a charitable gift upon retirement or passing. SMIF will retain the land and keep it in production by a rental arrangement, allowing farmers the peace of mind that their land will continue to be farmed. The net income stream from the land can be used to support southern Minnesota communities well into the future, benefiting either a local Community Foundation, a specific cause or SMIF's programs which support children, entrepreneurs and community vitality in the region.



SMIF's Community Foundations:

- Alden
- Blue Earth
- Byron
- Eagle Lake
- Ellendale
- Elysian
- Harmony
- Henderson
- Houston
- Lanesboro
- Le Sueur
- Lonsdale
- Mabel
- Madison Lake
- Mapleton
- Montgomery
- New Prague
- Pine Island
- Plainview
- Preston
- Rushford
- Sleepy Eye
- Sibley County
- Southland (Mower)
- Spring Valley
- St. Charles
- St. James
- USC School District
- Wabasha-Kellogg
- Wanamingo
- Winthrop
- Zumbro Valley

Many of these Community Foundations serve multiple towns.



## Things to remember for an enjoyable Farmfest

Farmfest is a presentation of IDEAg Group running Aug. 1-3, 2023. The show opens and closes daily at 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The 50-acre site in Redwood County showcases products, services and technologies from over 500 exhibitors and vendors. There will be live product demonstrations, educational sessions and activities for the entire family.

#### Farmfest Address

Junction of Highways 67 & 3

Gilfillan Estates

Morgan, MN 56266

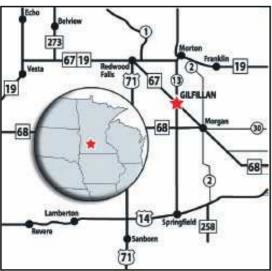
#### Directions to Farmfest

From Redwood Falls, follow Hwy 67 East. Show site on left hand side.

From Morgan, Follow Hwy 67 West. Show site on right hand side.

From Jackpot, Junction Follow Hwy 13 South. Show site on right.

Attendees enter the parking lot from highway 67 on First Street.



#### Admission & Parking

Tickets to the show are \$10 per person at the gate. Kids 17 and under are admitted for free and parking is also free

#### Handicapped Parking

Handicapped parking is available in the first row of the south attendee parking lot, just outside Entrance Gate 2.



**Parking** 

The Farmfest parking lots, sponsored by CHS, are located on the south and west sides of the show grounds. All attendee parking is free of charge.

#### **Parking Lot Shuttle**

The Parking Lot Shuttle is a people-moving trailer which runs through the parking lot during show hours to help you get from your car to the entrances and back again.

#### **Courtesy Shuttle**

The Courtesy Shuttle is a complimentary on-site shuttle that circles the show grounds all three days of the show. Attendees can jump on and off at the Farmfest Shuttle Stop signs.

For your safety, please keep your arms and legs inside the on-site and parking lot shuttles. Secure your belongings and hold on to young children to avoid injury.

#### **Golf Carts**

Golf carts are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The cart rental is located inside Entrance Gate 2. Golf carts can be reserved by contacting NB Golf Cars at (605) 275-4653. No outside carts are allowed on show grounds.

When operating golf carts, attendees should be aware of surroundings and keep speeds to a minimum. Golf carts only carry as many passengers as there

are seats and attendees should follow basic rules of the road. Please do not enter an exhibit with your golf cart. Park them on the side of the street and don't forget to remove your key when you exit.

#### Pet Policy

Attendees aren't allowed to bring their pets to the show grounds, with or without leashes. ADA-approved service animals are permitted.

#### **Show Office**

The show office is centrally located just off Main and 6th Streets. Look for the giant American flag.

#### **Lost and Found**

Lost items will be brought to the show office. Please check in at the show office for lost children. In the event of a lost child, the staff at the show office can make an announcement over the PA system to help locate your



.....Show Closes

## **Schedule of Events**

Tuesday, Aug.
---------------

0.00 a.m
8:30 a.m.—9:20 a.mStrategic Decision Making How to be more strategic in your marketing while minimizing emotional decision making. Sponsored by CHS Wick Buildings Farmfest Center
9:30 a.m.—10:15 a.m
10:00 a.m
10:00 a.m11:00 a.m
10:30 a.m.—11:50 a.m
11:00 a.mFarm Safety Demonstrations  UMASH Farm Safety Pavilion
Noon–1:00 p.mLivestock Education Program  Livestock Tent
Noon–1:00 p.mLinder Farm Network Noon Show and Ice Cream  Wick Buildings Farmfest Center
Noon–1:30 p.m
1:00 p.mKids' Pedal Pull Near Entrance Gate 2



or Events
1:15 p.m.–2:40 p.m
1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m Cattle Chute Demos and Company Presentations  Livestock Tele
2:00 p.m
2:00 p.mMinnesota State Patrol Vehicle Inspection Nuss Truck Booth #83
4:00 p.mShow Close
Wednesday, Aug. 2
8:00 a.mShow Open
8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m
8:00 a.m.–10:00 a.mMinnesota Farm Bureau Pancake Breakfas Wick Buildings Farmfest Cente
8:30 a.m.—9:10 a.m
9:15 a.m.—11:50 a.m.—U.S. House Ag Committee Farm Bill Listening Session A panel discussion with U.S. House Ag Committee members ready to talk, listen and answer questions about the upcomin Farm Bill.  Wick Buildings Farmfest Center
10:00 a.mMinnesota State Patrol Vehicle Inspection Nuss Truck Booth #83
10:00 a.m11:00 a.m
10:00 a.mnoon
10:00 a.m1:00 p.m Minnesota Towards Zero Deaths Child Seats Safety Check
11:00 a.mFarm Safety Demonstration:  UMASH Farm Safety Pavilio
Noon–1:00 p.mLinder Farm Network Noon Show Wick Buildings Farmfest Center
Noon–1:00 p.mLivestock Education Program  Livestock Telegram
Noon–1:00 p.mMeet and greet with Tik Tok's Minnesota Ag Teache  Networking Loung
1:00 p.mKids' Pedal Pu Near Entrance Gate
1:10 p.m.–2:45 p.mPerspectives on Minnesota Ag and Rural Policy Issue.  **Opening comments from Minnesota Governor Tim Walz**  **Wick Buildings Farmfest Center*
1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m
2:00 p.m
2:00 p.mMinnesota State Patrol Vehicle Inspection Nuss Truck Booth #830
3:00 p.m.–3:45 p.m
LRP and Crop Insurance Analyzer Tool to Maximize Risk Mitigatio Livestock Risk Protection (LRP) is designed to insure against declining market prices. Also covered in this session is exclusive technology used by AgCountry Insurance Specialists to analyze federal and private insurance policies.
Sponsored by AgCounti Wick Buildings Farmfest Cente

## **Schedule of Events**

7:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m..... University of Minnesota Manure Applicator Certification Program

### Thursday, Aug. 3

7.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m	Wick Buildings Farmfest Center
8:00 a.m.—10:30 a.m	Morton Buildings Lot #422
10:00 a.m	Minnesota State Patrol Vehicle Inspection Nuss Truck Booth #830
10:00 a.m11:00 a.m(	Cattle Chute Demos and Company Presentations
10:45 a.m.–11:50 a.mWomen in Aq Ag Economist Doris Mold will address the challenges and oppo	rtunities women face. Wick Buildings Farmfest Center
10:45 a.m	Farm Safety Demonstrations  UMASH Farm Safety Pavilion
11:00 a.m	Kids' Pedal Pull
Noon—1:00 p.m	Linder Farm Network Noon Show Wick Buildings Farmfest Center
Noon–1:00 p.m	
Noon–2:00 p.m	Mary Schwartz, Musician Networking Lounge
1:15 p.m.–2:45 p.mUniversit	y of Minnesota Farm Family of the Year Program Wick Buildings Farmfest Center
1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m	
2:00 p.m	
2:00 p.m	Minnesota State Patrol Vehicle Inspection



## **See Us At Farmfest**

August 1-3, 2023

Booth # 716

Visit HHFAB.COM for a complete list of attachments.







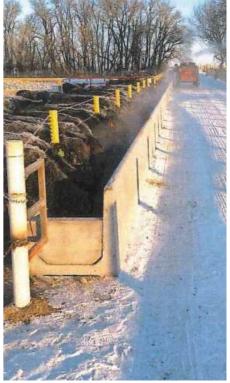


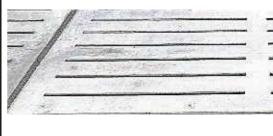
**HH Fabrication & Repair LLC** 877-823-3392 Winsted, MN











WWW.HANSONSILO.COM or visit us at Farmfest booth 313N

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320-664-4171

## Visit *The Land* in booth 2401 in the Ag Tent

The prize wheel is back for another Meet the staff spin as The Land staff will be at Farmfest with prizes and give-aways all three days.

#### Renew your subscription

Look for The Land subscription card in a July issue of The Land. Fill it out completely and RETURN IT IN PERSON at our booth at Farmfest (#2401 in the Ag Tent) for your choice of a bandana or 2024 Almanac calendar (while supplies last).

We need your signed cards every year to help us qualify for lower postage rates and keep The Land coming to your mailbox at a reasonable price. This also helps us show local and national advertisers that The Land is being requested by readers. Fill out a subscription card and don't miss a single issue of *The Land*.

#### Look for your coupon

As you enter the Farmfest gate, you will receive a "welcome" bag. Look inside the bag for a special coupon from The Land. The coupon entitles you to a free classified line ad in The Land. Drop it off at our booth or mail it in later. The coupon expires Nov. 17.

The Land General Manager Deb Petterson will be at the booth all day Tuesday and on Wednesday morning. Stop by and tell her what you think of *The* Land. Deb enjoys hearing from our readers.



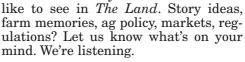
Dan is the one to talk





Dan McCargar

Managing Editor Paul Malchow will be patrolling the grounds on Wednesday and Thursday and will be at The Land's booth Wednesday at 1 p.m. and all day on Thursday. Paul always wants to meet readers and hear what you'd





Paul Malchow

Many of you might be getting familiar with the work of Staff Writer Laura Cole. In addition to her writing skills, Laura coordinates The Land's "From The Fields" feature, maintains our Calendar of Events and handles our social



media. Laura will be at Farmfest all day Tuesday and Wednesday morning. You might be able to catch her at *The* Land's booth when she's not running down a story.

## Join the conversation!

Like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter and Instagram to stay in-the-know. Be sure to tag all posts with #MNFarmfest!

> Facebook.com/TheLandOnline Twitter.com/TheLandOnline Instagram@thelandmagazineonline



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## Visitors of all ages will find activities of interest at Farmfest

Besides sitting behind the wheel of some of the biggest rigs around, or begging to drive the golf cart, youngsters wll find plenty to do at Farmfest.

#### Kids' Pedal Pull

1:00 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday; 11:00 a.m. Thursday

Pedal Pull Track near Gate 2

Enter your 4 to 11-year-old into the kids' pedal pull event. Watch them pedal their way to a free refreshment and stick around to find out who is the first, second and third place winners in each age division.

#### Minnesota Farm Bureau Scavenger Hunt

Booth #7

Youth of all ages are invited to participate in the "From Farm to Field" scavenger hunt at this year's Farmfest. Sponsored by the Minnesota Farm Bureau, this activity provides youth an opportunity to learn about agriculture while they enjoy the sights and sounds of the show. Participants will learn ice cream treat and more!



about products come Minnesota farms.

Participants can pick up an activity sheet at the Farm Bureau Booth (#7). The activity sheet contains ten questions which can be answered by touring the exhibits and finding specificallyplaced posters. Once completed, the activity sheet should be returned to the starting location to claim a ticket for an

#### **Livestock Tent**

University Street between 6th and 7th

Visit our livestock tent for cattle chute demonstrations at 10:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. daily. And don't miss the lunchtime livestock speaker program. Plus, visit with our livestock-specific exhibitors and experts to gain additional expertise for your livestock opera-

#### **Networking Lounge** SR03 & SR04

Need a fun place to relax after a long stroll through the show?

Head over to seed plot area SR03 and SR04 and rest with some live music and refreshments. Chat with neighbors and friends and enjoy the show!

#### **Minnesota State Patrol** Vehicle Inspection

10 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily

Nuss Truck Booth, #830

Watch, listen, and learn as members of the Minnesota State Patrol demon-

strate how vehicle inspections are conducted, what they look for, and why. Inspectors will explain this year's many law changes affecting the operation of farm vehicles.

#### **Ziegler Ag Equipment Ride and Drive**

Northeast Corner of the Show Grounds

Test drive the latest from Ziegler Ag Equipment at the Ride and Drive in the Northeast corner of the show grounds.

#### Can-Am Ride and Drive

Booth SR22 near gate 3

Can-Am will host a ride and drive event in their demo space near Gate 3 and the all-new 2023 Can-Am ATVs will be available for test driving.

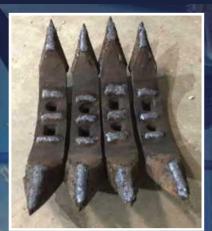
#### **Polaris Rid and Drive**

Booth 40-41 near gate 1

Polaris will host a ride and drive event in their demo space just inside Gate 1.

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See you at Farmfest August 1st - August 3rd
Booth #3405



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1-2-3	
360 Yield Center	432
40 Square Cooperative Solutions	2502
Α	
A&A Engraving	4604
AARP Minnesota	3304
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Conrad American	100
Copperhead Ag	416
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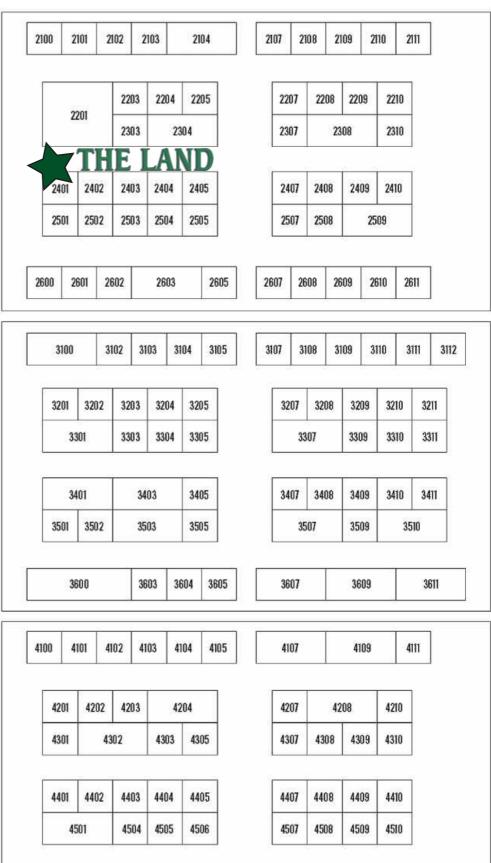
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Courtland Waste Handling	EXIIIDITO	ı nəting
Crary Industries         .901         G           Crysteel Truck Equipment Inc.         .430         Garford/Zurn USA.         .310S           Custom Ag Service         .2210         Gideons International         .2107           Cutco Cutlery         .2303         Gideons International         .2107           Bolaryland Seed         .202         Gold Country Seed         .8712           Dairyland Supply         .603         Golden Harvest         .402           Dakota Micro, Inc.         .3108         Gopher State One Call         .4403           Dan's Custom Welding Tables         .224N         Graham Tire Co.         .916           Delux Manufacturing Company         .421         Grain Handler USA, Inc.         .909           Democratic Farmer Labor Party         .2207         Green Energy Products         .4101           Derson / Clean Burn         .3507         Green Stone Farmers         .3103           Design Electric, Inc.         .4410         GreenStone Farmers         .3103           Digifarm VBN         .4308         Hansen Agri-Commodities, LLC.         .3109           Hansen Agri-Commodities, LLC.         .3109         Hansen Agri-Commodities, LLC.         .3101           Day Ag Products         .2509         Haveri International Inc.	Courtland Waste Handling601	Flitz International, LTD2610
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SoilWarrior		
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Exhibitor Lounge		
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LandProz Real Estate -	
Jen Busch & Kelly Bolin	2402
LDM Ag Services	2611
Leading Edge Credit Union	2404

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## Five finalists announced for Woman Farmer of the Year

The top five finalists for the Farmfest Woman Many changes have been made since she took over Farmer of the Year Award have been selected. IDEAg Group, LLC., producers of Minnesota Farmfest, will bestow the fourth annual Farmfest Woman Farmer of the Year Award on August 3.

The finalists are Rachel Gray of Blackduck, Minn.; Rachelle Krienke of Lester Prairie, Minn.; Alma Kubat of Owatonna, Minn.; Debbie Morrison of Mora, Minn.; and Kari Olson of Hawley, Minn.; These five women will be recognized at an awards ceremony at 10:45 a.m. on Aug. 3.



**Rachel Gray** Blackduck, Minn.

Rachel grew up on the same farm she runs today.

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She began her work experience as a teacher in Blackduck, Minn. After teaching for many years she decided to go back to farming which was her true

She runs the breeding and genetic program on her ranch. She chooses the genetics for other private ranches and does the custom breeding of those animals. While doing all this, she is teaching her son and grandchildren the business. This is her legacy for them.

Rachel is not just a rancher; she has continued as an educator. She hosts ag classes at her farm for students to learn skills they would otherwise just read about in a textbook.

She is also a part of the Cattleman's Association, Soil and Water Conservation board, the Kelliher FFA Alumni, and other local organizations.

#### **Rachelle Krienke Lester Prairie, Minn.**

Rachelle learned the value of hard work and dedication growing up on a hobby farm near Winsted, Minn. — the third of five children. She was active in



County 4-H, including showing beef cattle. After graduating from Holy Trinity High School, she took the Winsted Jolly Juniors 4-H Club and McLeod courses at St. Cloud State University. She fell in love



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## Woman Farmer of the Year (continued)

with and married a farmer. Despite never having so much as milked a cow, she dove feet first into dairy farming.

As Krienkes' Prairie Dairy operation has grown over the years, Rachelle has been invaluable to helping the management of the business evolve. She keeps the farm's books, recruits and schedules employees, and takes an active role in participating in the Dairy Profitability Enhancement Program and Farm Business Management with her husband. She has taken farm-specific Spanish language classes to help support the dairy's largely Hispanic workforce.

In addition to management and business functions, Rachelle is part of daily production operations. Calf care is her area of expertise, and she works to stay current on best practices and help the farm's youngest animals thrive right from the start.

She is a member of the board of education at St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, recently helping lead the search for a new Director of Christian Education in addition to regular duties supporting Sunday School and religious education programming. She has been a member of the Howard Lake Waverly Winsted FFA Alumni group since 2017, playing a supporting role in fundraisers like the annual alumni auction and tractor pull. She is a past 4-H Club Leader for the Winsted Jolly Juniors 4-H

Farming is nonstop, and so is Rachelle. In her farming career, she has done more than 600 herd checks. She has worked all hours of the day and night in the barn, behind the wheel of the tractor, in front of the computer while raising three kids and supporting her community.

She doesn't just care for the animals on the farm. She's a dedicated mother who is there for band concerts, soccer games, FFA awards night and every single day of the McLeod County Fair. She has packed lunches, trekked to orthodontist appointments and always brings the best food to family pot-

Rachelle's nominator told us, "I'm always amazed by her tenacity and her commitment to the farm and her family. Whatever life throws at her, she keeps showing up and giving it her best."

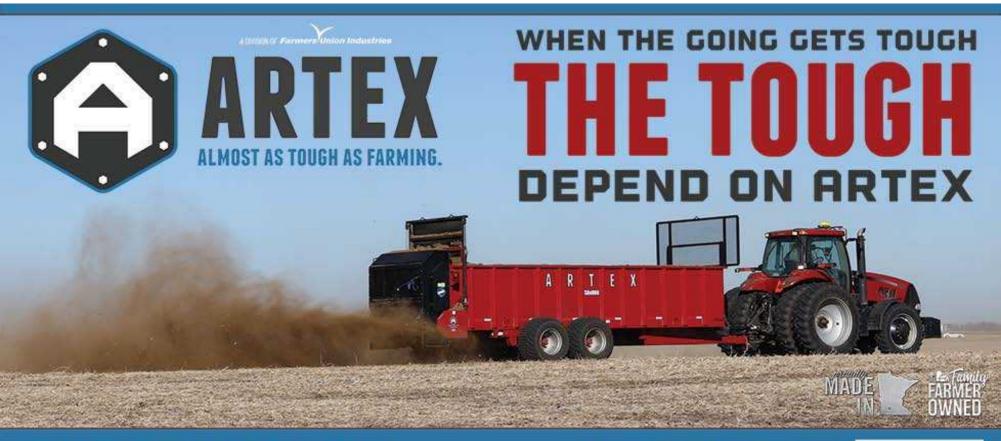
#### Alma Kubat Owatonna, Minn.

Alma was born in Owatonna, Minn. in 1940 and was raised on her parent's family farm in rural Deerfield Township. She attended a one-room country school and graduated from Owatonna High School in 1958.

Shortly after graduation, she met a man on a blind



date and they were united in marriage in 1961. Alma immediately quit her full-time job as a telephone operator shortly after marriage, and at that point,



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## Woman Farmer of the Year (continued)

became a driven, dedicated full-time farm wife. Together, they raised five children on the farm.

After her husband's passing in 1994, Alma continued running the farm operation. At the age of 83, she takes care of her chickens, feeds steers and hogs, and operates bin fans after closely monitoring the weather and humidity. She always wants to be helpful and demands to be included in daily labor farm operations. In most months of the year, she's rarely found in the house — instead doing chores throughout the farm in some capacity.

Alma also takes care of all bills, financing and permits, and income tax preparations. She orders fuel along with being instrumental in grain sales, pricing and marketing.

Alma does a weekly live radio broadcast with her son, Brad, called the "Thursday Morning Almanac with Brad's Mom" at 8:45 a.m.

"Mom was born to be a farmer," Brad says. "She lives, breathes and will die a farmer. She is a great steward of the land, and her faith in God runs deep. She is very proud of the heritage of our family farm and loves to tell its extensive story of good times and bad."

### Debbie Morrison Mora, Minn.

Debbie grew up in the Twin Cities and attended the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus, where



she met her husband. Her husband was an officer in the Navy, and they lived in all four corners of the United States within six years. After returning to Minnesota, Debbie worked in advertising agencies for the next 30 years.

For three years she and her husband camped on the land they purchased and decided to build their home in 2000. The first project was to restore 40 acres of dormant hayfields into native prairie working together with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. This first step catapulted further interests in more farming opportunities such as beekeeping and a CSA farm. In 2012, she quit the corporate world to work full-time on the farm.

Debbie has been able to use her talents to market their taproom and cidery business — encouraging the public to come and spend time at the farm. The public is encouraged to walk the 172-acre farm to see the growing operation, native habitat, and how the two work together. The bluebird houses, martin houses, the wetlands and the bee houses display how conservation and the natural environment of the farm all work together for the production of the farm. They have been certified as an organic farm since 2008.

Over the years, Debbie has worked with Worldwide Opportunities on Organic Farms to mentor aspiring

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## Woman Farmer of the Year (continued)

farmers, students, and others interested in agriculture and farming from all over the world. Garden Clubs, the Osprey Wilds Environmental Center, and other organizations tour the farm regularly to learn more about farming and what they have done to integrate the natural environment into their farming practices. She belongs to the Farm Bureau, the Sustainable Farming Association, and the Minnesota Farmers Union as well as the Cider Guild.

Debbie's out-of-the-box thinking allowed her to grow ginger, a crop not traditionally grown or seen in our area. The arts community and local food talent love the venue and the opportunity to demonstrate their own talents.

### Kari Olson Hawley, Minn.

Kari Olson grew up along with her two sisters on the family farm that her, her father Rob, and their team member, Owen, operate today. She attended North Dakota State University to study agricultural economics and crop and weed science before returning home to the family farm. Since Kari returned to the farm, she's been working alongside her parents to transition the operation and decision making to the next generation. She is the fourth generation on



Robert Olson Farms and looks forward to continuing her family's farming and conservation legacy.

Under Kari's lead, the farm is in the process of entering the livestock industry to graze cover crops, helping them achieve the next level of soil health on their operation. One example of the farm's conservation legacy is their participation in the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program.

Kari is an excellent example and spokesperson for young women in Minnesota agriculture. She has spoken at events such as the Conservation Tillage Conference, and worked with researchers to better understand soil health practices and how to apply them on her operation. Seeing the role she assumes in Minnesota agriculture and soil health spaces is a reminder and encouragement to other young women that women absolutely can and should be decision makers in agriculture.

In order to be considered for Woman Farmer of the Year, candidates must farm or ranch as a sole proprietor or one part of a couple, family or partnership. The farm must be located entirely within the state of Minnesota. Candidates may work outside the home or farm, but must contribute to the farming/ranching operation in addition to the duties outside the farm. Each candidate has had a positive impact on the farm in terms of income, yield, diversification, and/or overcoming challenges. Nominees demonstrates not only impact on the farm but also positive impact on their community.

The Woman Farmer of the Year will receive a \$1,000 cash prize along with recognition of all her hard work and accomplishments.

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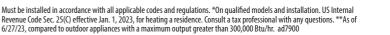
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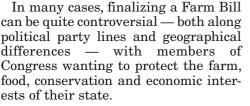






### New Farm Bill reigns supreme during 2023 Farmfest forums

The 2023 crop year will be the final year for the current Farm Bill, which is set to expire on Sept. 30 unless there is an extension. Farm Bills are one of the most comprehensive pieces of legislation passed by Congress, with programs ranging from farm commodity programs to food and nutrition programs, from conservation programs to rural development programs, and several



The current Congressional Budget Office (CBO) baseline estimate for Federal budget expenditures over the next ten years (2024-2033) is \$1.5 trillion, or an average of \$150 billion per year, which would become the first trillion dollar Farm bill in in history.

THE LAND



By Kent Thiesse, Farmfest Forum Coordinator

The projected baseline budget is 65 percent higher than when the last Farm Bill was passed in 2018, which had an estimated 10-year CBO baseline of \$860 billion, or an average \$86 billion per year.

The current CBO estimate for expenditures over the next ten years (2024-2033) for the various titles in the Farm Bill includes Nutrition Title -\$1.2 trillion (82 percent of

total) or \$120 billion per year; Crop Insurance Title — \$97.1 billion (7 percent of total) or \$9.71 billion per year; Commodity Title — \$61.8 billion (4 percent of total) or \$6.18 billion per year; and Conservation Title — \$57.5 billion (4 percent of total) or \$5.75 billion per year. Note that an additional \$34.7 billion (2 percent) was allocated to conservation programs as part of the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. All other titles making up the remainder of the Farm Bill total \$19.5 billion or \$1.95 billion per year — less than 1 percent of the total bill expenditures.

There are several key items which need to be addressed as Congress moves toward completing a new Farm Bill: Increasing reference prices and adding more funding to the Title I commodity programs (PLC and ARC); Enhancing the Dairy Margin Coverage Program to offer more risk protection to mid-sized dairy farms; Protecting and enhancing crop insurance coverage, including the addition of ad-hoc disaster program coverage (ERP, etc.) into crop insurance programs; and enhancing the Livestock Revenue Program (LRP) and other insurance programs as a risk management tool for livestock producers.

The new Farm Bill will also look to address potential changes to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Conservation Security Program (CSP). Congress will also be looking at added funding and support for U.S. Department of Agriculture finance and loan programs, trade programs, rural development programs, and ag research.

And the biggest battle of all could be a showdown involving potential adjustments in requirements and funding for Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP).

An exciting lineup of feature forums is planned for each day at Farmfest in 2023 on August 1, 2 and 3. The forums will be held in the Wick Buildings Forum and Education Center on the Farmfest Site, which is located at the Gilfillan Estate, 7 miles southeast of Redwood Falls, Minnesota.

The forums will have a heavy emphasis on the new Farm Bill and other key topics and policy issues affecting farm families and rural communities. Forum speakers and panels will include national and state political officials, farm organization leaders, ag industry professionals, and successful farm operators.

The Farmfest feature forums this year will be highlighted by a "U.S. House Ag Committee Farm Bill Listening Session" which will be hosted by Congressman G.T. Thompson, Chair of the U.S. House Agriculture Committee. The Farm Bill Listening Session will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 2, from 9:30 to 11:45 a.m. All members of the U.S. House Ag

Committee have been invited to participate in the Farm Bill Listening Session. Several members Minnesota's U.S. House have already committed to participation in this forum. During the Listening Session there will be opportunities to hear from the U.S. House Ag Committee leadership, as well as to make comments to the Committee on issues related to development of the next Farm Bill.

"The New Farm Bill and USDA Ag Policy Issues" is the title of the feature forum on Tuesday, Aug, 1 at 10:30 a.m. Robert Bonnie, USDA Undersecretary of Agriculture, will provide the keynote address for the forum. Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar will also be present for this forum. The forum panel will include the following leaders of national and state farm organizations: Scott Vanderwal, American Farm Bureau Vice President; Rob Larew, National Farmers Union President; Tom Haag, National Corn Growers Assn. President; Lori Stevermer, National Pork Producers Council President-Elect; and Bob Worth, Minnesota Soybean Growers Association President. This forum will focus on the upcoming new Farm Bill and other national policy issues and programs administered through USDA.

U.S. Trade Ambassador Doug McKalip from the U.S. trade Office will be the featured speaker at a forum titled: "U.S. Ag Export and Trade Policy", which is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 1 at 9:30 a.m., will provide an opportunity to get the latest information and details on current and potential U.S. trade agreements, as well as get updates on some of the challenges in trade policies and U.S. ag exports.

The afternoon feature forum at Farmfest on Tuesday, Aug. 1 at 1:15 p.m. is titled, "Understanding Climate-Smart Practices and Policies". This intriguing forum will provide background information on some of the new "climate-smart" initiatives and carbon sequestration efforts which are currently being implemented, as well as be an opportunity to hear from farmers and experts that have experience with these practices. Panel mem-

See THIESSE, pg. F23

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#### THIESSE, from pg. F22

bers will include Troy Daniell, Natural Rescources Minnesota Conservation Service state conservationist; Ariel Kagan, Minnesota Farmers Union; Lief Fixen from the Nature Conservancy; Vincent Gauthier from the Environmental Defense Fund; and Lauren Servick from the Minnesota PorkProducers Association.; along with farm operators Nathan Collins, Minnesota Farm Bureau; Harmon Wilts, Minnesota Farmers Union; and Grant Breitkreutz, State Minnesota Cattleman's  ${f Association}.$ 

A feature forum, "Perspectives on Minnesota Ag and Rural Policy Issues,' will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 2 at 1:15 p.m. Minnesota Governor Tim Walz will deliver the opening comments for the forum at 1:10 p.m. This forum will be an opportunity to learn more about some of recently passed and proposed State policy issues which may affect Minnesota's agriculture industry and rural communities. The forum panel will include Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Thom Peterson, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Commissioner Sarah Minnesota Strommen, Department Transportation ofCommissioner Nancy Daubenberger, Minnesota Polution Control Agency Deputy Commissioner Peter Tester, Minnesota House Ag Committee Chair Rep. Samantha Vang, Minnesota Senate Ag Committee Chair Sen. Aric Putnam, Rep. Paul Anderson, and Sen. Torrey Westrom.

The "Women in Ag Forum" will be held on Thursday morning, Aug. 3, starting at 10:45 a.m. At the conclusion of the forum, the finalists for the 2023 Farmfest Woman Farmer of the Year will be introduced, concluding with the announcement of the winner.

The "Farm Family of the Year" recognition program will be held on Thursday, Aug. 3, at 1:15 p.m., honoring approximately 80 farm families from throughout Minnesota who have been selected at the county level for this special recognition. This event is jointly sponsored by the University of Minnesota and the IDEAg Group, LLC.

A special "Ag Outlook Forum" is scheduled for Tuesday, Aug. 1 at 2:45 p.m., which features an overview of the U.S. ag economy and commodity markets, as well as an update on current crop and weather conditions. Speakers

include American Farm Bureau Vice President of Public Policy Sam Kieffer, U of M Extension Crop Educator Dave Nicolai, and Jason Ward, Grain Marketing Analyst with Northstar Commodities.

A free pancake breakfast, sponsored by Minnesota Farm Bureau will be held Wednesday, Aug. 2, from 8-10 a.m. The event will be hosted by Minnesota Farm Bureau President Dan Glessing and other Farm Bureau leaders. A presentation titled "Changing Hands with Erin Herbold-Swalwell", (sponsored by Farm Bureau Financial Services) will be offered at 8:30 a.m. during the pancake breakfast.

Another special presentation, sponsored by CHS, will be "Strategic Decision Making", presented by Patti Uhrich, Producer Broker for CHS Hedging, LLC.

Ag Country will offer a special presentation on Wednesday, Aug. 2 at 2:45 p.m. titled, "Data-Driven Insurance Decisions", which will highlight the LRP and Crop Insurance Analyzer Tool to maximize risk mitigation for farm-

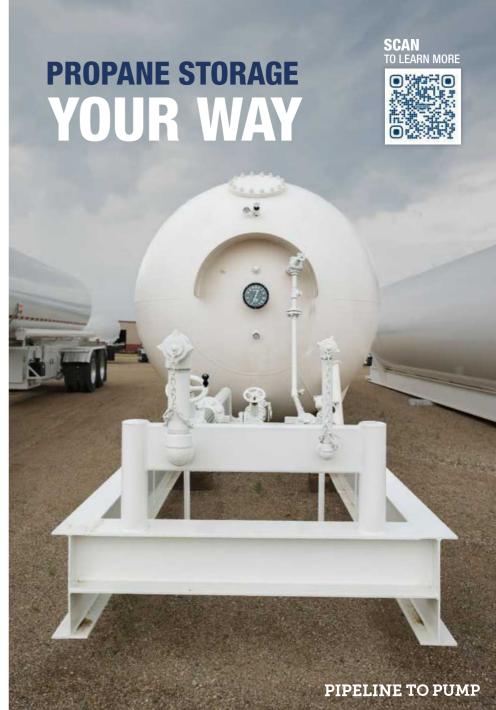
The University of Minnesota is hosting a "Manure Applicator Certification Program" on Thursday morning Aug. 3 from 8-10:30 a.m.

Other special livestock programs will be held at 11:30 a.m. each day at Farmfest. Topics include, "Climate-Smart Practices for Livestock Producers" on Tuesday, Aug. 1, "Current Status of the Minnesota Livestock Industry" on Wednesday, Aug. 2, and "Battling Livestock Diseases in Minnesota" on Thursday, Aug. 3.

For more details on the Farmfest forums and presentations, contact me at (507) 381-7960 or kent.thiesse@ minnstarbank.com.

Other information on the exhibits, plots, activities and other details at Farmfest can be found at http://www. ideaggroup.com/.

Kent Thiesse is a government farm programs analyst and a vice president at MinnStar Bank in Lake Crystal, Minn. He may be reached at (507) 726-2137 or kent.thiesse@minnstarbank.



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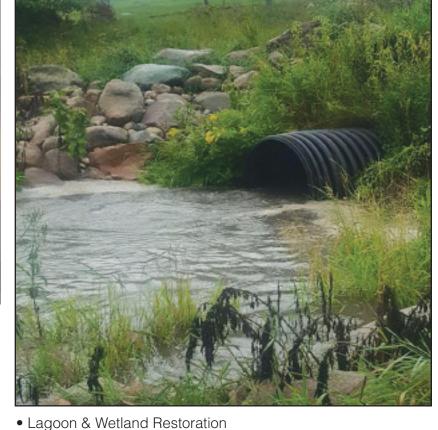












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RedRiver Valley, July7th-16th Redwood County Fair, July 13th-16th Grant County Fair, July 20th-23rd FarmFest, August 1st-3rd, Booth #1016 Meeker County Fair, August 2nd-6th Sibley County Fair, August 2nd-6th Renville County Fair, August 9th-11th Kandiyohi County Fair, August 9th-12th Brown County Fair, August 9th-13th McLeod County Fair, August 17th-20th Big Iron, September 12th-14th

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