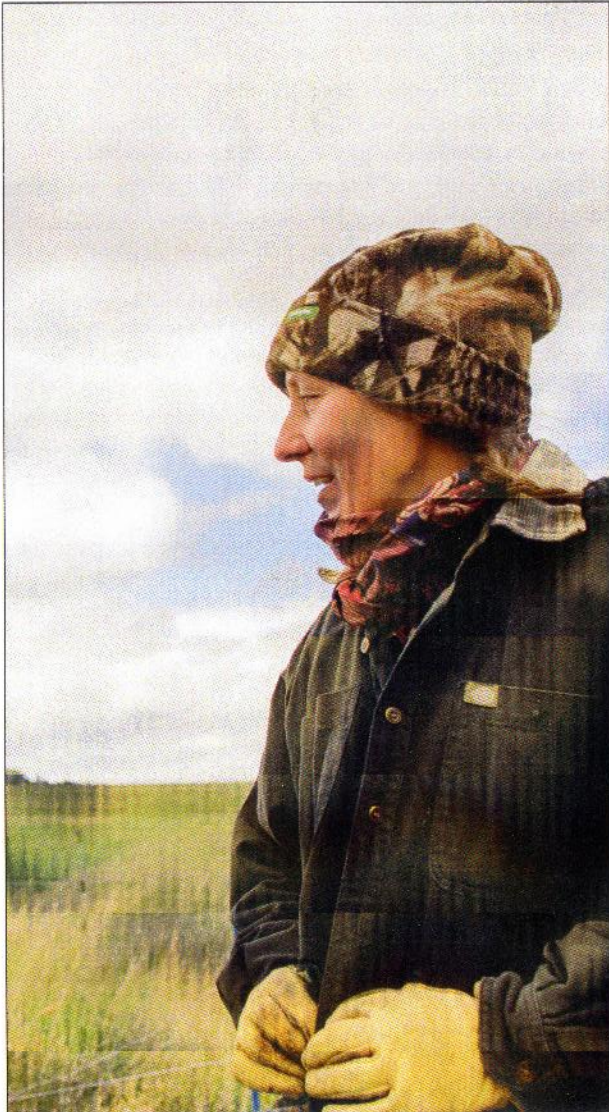


Mission

The Sustainable Farming Association supports the development and enhancement of sustainable farming systems through farmer-to-farmer networking, innovation, demonstration, and education.



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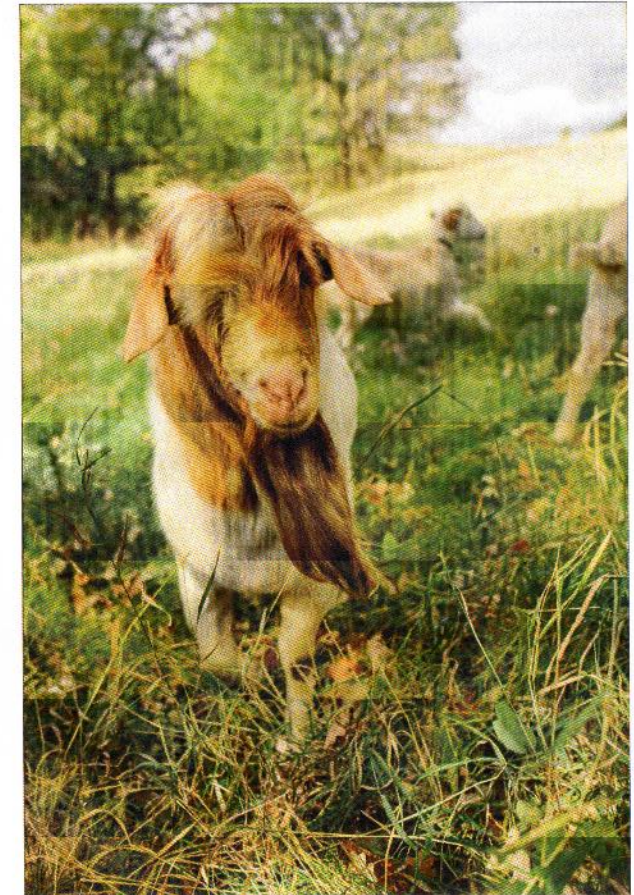
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Sustainable Farming Association

www.sfa-mn.org



What Inspires Us

More new and young farmers are asking us to teach them how to farm with nature, not against it. Our Deep Roots Farmer Development Program teaches beginning farmers three tenets of sustainability and provides hands-on skills training to the next generation of sustainable farmers.

Healthier soil can completely transform agriculture. Our Midwest Soil Health Summit teaches farmers how to improve soil quality, increase production and grow profits—naturally. It draws both conventional and sustainable farmers to standing-room-only sessions.

Another farmer is a farmer's best teacher. Farmers are often isolated and work long hours, making it hard to develop a network of others to learn from and collaborate with. Through our annual conference and local chapters, SFA provides the structure for farmers to meet, share ideas and practices, and expand local markets for the food they produce.

When you make it fun, they will come. Inspiring the public to support sustainable agriculture, local food, and nearby farmers is a universal theme for SFA programs. The Garlic Festival, hosted by the Crow River Chapter, is one of the state's most fun and fragrant events promoting sustainability. SFA chapters across Minnesota are following suit with their own events.

Events



SFA Annual Conference

The **Annual Conference** unites SFA members for informational sessions, conversation, food, drinks, and fun. Held on the second Saturday in February, the event allows members to celebrate SFA, share the wisdom of the community, network, learn, reminisce, and look ahead.



Midwest Soil Health Summit

The **Midwest Soil Health Summit** features soil health experts for two days of education and networking—all geared toward improving soil health. Speakers have included Gabe Brown, Dr. Allen Williams, Rick Bieber, Jay Fuhrer, Jerry Doan, Dr. Wendy Taheri, Dr. Michael Lehman, Ian Cunningham, Kent Solberg, Ryan Stockwell and John Mesko.



Minnesota Garlic Festival

The premier event for lovers of garlic, great local foods and good times, **Minnesota Garlic Festival** is family friendly, fun-filled and fragrant. The festival features fantastic foods, celebrity chefs, music, artisans, games – and lots of garlic – to support a healthy environment, sustainable farms and vital rural communities in Minnesota.



On-Farm Educational Events

We host multiple **on-farm classes, demonstrations and field day events** throughout the year, including walks, cover crop field days, and various Deep Roots short courses on topics such as Small Ruminant Husbandry, Deep Winter Greenhouses and Homestead Dairy.

Also

A project of the Lake Superior chapter, **Harvest Festival** is held at Bayfront Park in Duluth and highlights the sustainable production of food in the Lake Superior coastal region.

Festival of Farms is an opportunity to learn about sustainable agriculture, network within the community, and have fun at farms across the state.

For a complete calendar, visit www.sfa-mn.org/events.

Our Work

Soil Health

SFA works to promote the Five Principles of Soil Health:

1. Keep the soil covered
2. Minimize disturbance
3. Increase crop diversity
4. Keep living roots in the soil
5. Integrate livestock

Our **Soil Health Portal** is a one-stop shop for upcoming events, resources, and much more. If you seek soil health education, start at www.sfa-mn.org/soil.

Our **Soil Health Network** consists of ag professionals, agency employees, and crop consultants who are interested in both learning and sharing soil health-building principles and techniques. We provide resources for these professionals to host events in their area as well as scholarships to the Midwest Soil Health Summit.

Also: Designed to assist the beginning grazer in designing and implementing a grazing system, our **Beginning Grazer Handbook** is a starting place to quickly and easily find pertinent information.

Also: **The Minnesota Dairy Initiative** promotes a healthy and vibrant dairy industry in Minnesota. As a participant, SFA assists dairy farmers interested in sustainable production practices such as intensive grazing, organics and on-farm dairy processing.

Deep Roots Farmer Development Program

A much-needed beginning-farmer curriculum that emphasizes all three tenets of sustainability, Deep Roots courses provide extensive skills training.



A unique aspect of Deep Roots is its commitment to community development and mentorship.

Courses include Farm Skills 101, an intensive semester of skills training, as well as various short courses throughout the year.

Instructors include Sue Wika, Ph.D.; Tom Prieve, DVM; and Kent Solberg, MS.

For more information, visit www.deeprootsfarmer.com.



Find event details, videos, podcasts, calendars, news and more at www.sfa-mn.org