



Risk Management Strategies for Beginning and Small Farmers and Ranchers Conference

September 12–15, 2007 ~ Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Registration Materials Enclosed

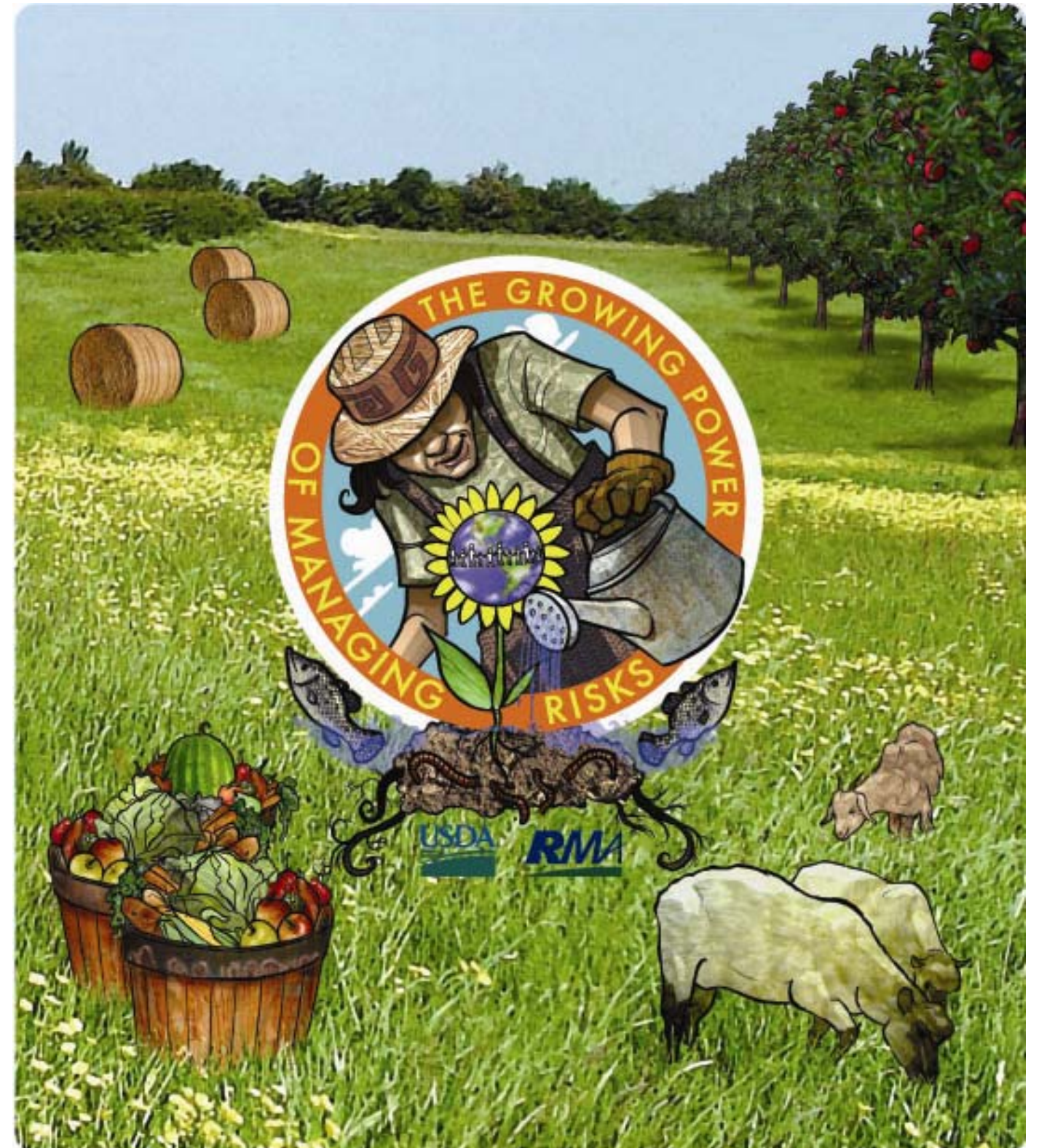
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Hosted by Growing Power, Inc.
In cooperation with
US Department of Agriculture



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Introduction

Beginning farmers and those who farm small acreages cope with additional challenges compared with established, conventional farmers. America's small farms make up 92.4% of all farms in the US, but receive only 23.9% of the value of total agriculture production. In addition, the average age of today's farmer is 55.3 years old. To ensure the health of local, regional and national food systems and the character of rural America, we need to provide the resources and tools beginning and small farmers need to develop and maintain their operations.

Challenges of bioterrorism, contaminated produce, livestock disease and high costs of

transportation contribute to the desire of consumers to purchase food as close to their home as possible. Many consumers are turning to small producers; with whom they can develop relationships, gain an understanding about the production and handling of their food, establish trust, and strengthen their local economies.

This Conference has been developed to provide education on managing risks associated with farming, so these small operations will be economically viable and beginning farmers and ranchers acquire the knowledge, skills and abilities to earn a living wage, gain wealth and obtain economic prosperity.

Purpose

The goal of this Conference is to promote the success and viability of beginning and small farmers and ranchers. This Conference will provide a forum to exchange ideas to identify, develop and promote successful strategies that small and beginning farmers and ranchers can utilize to be sustainable in their local community and the larger agricultural, and global economy. In addition, we will disseminate information on USDA programs—including the Farm Bill, university research and development, and innovative techniques in the agriculture industry.

Workshop sessions and tours will provide informative strategies on selecting appropriate enterprises, acquiring and retaining land, identifying financial resources and management strategies, discovering marketing options, utilizing alternative energy sources, and other issues that contribute to the success of small farms and beginning farmers and ranchers. This information will assist small farmers, rural communities, and beginning farmers and ranchers to survive and thrive in today's global economy.

Who should attend

This Conference is open to all stakeholders, including national, federal, state, tribal, and local governments, technical advisors, land grant university partners, community and faith-based organizations, foundations, private agricultural organizations, farmers, and ranchers.

Producers and potential farmers and ranchers, and people who work with these individuals are invited to attend and participate in this exciting Conference and learn the latest strategies that contribute to the success of America's small farms.

Conference Hotel

Hilton Milwaukee City Center

Located in the heart of downtown, the Hilton Milwaukee City Center is a true Milwaukee landmark. An elegant, refined hotel that has been extensively renovated to reflect its original 1920s grandeur, the Hilton is famous for its impeccable service. Their extraordinary guest amenities include the dazzling new Paradise Landing™, America's first urban indoor waterpark.

The Hilton Milwaukee City Center is ideally located in the center of the city's business, entertainment and cultural districts. Guests are within easy walking distance of many of the city's attractions, restaurants, shopping centers, sporting events, and museums, including:

- Lake Michigan's shoreline
- Bradley Center Sports Complex, home to Milwaukee Bucks NBA basketball, National Champion Milwaukee Wave Indoor Soccer, Milwaukee Admirals IHL Hockey, Milwaukee Mustangs Arena League Football, plus numerous

concerts and special events.

- The Shops of Grand Avenue
- Milwaukee's Historic Third Ward, featuring antique shops, restaurants, galleries and boutiques
- Water Street entertainment area
- Milwaukee's Theater District, consisting of the Pabst Theater, Milwaukee Repertory Theater and the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts
- The Museum Center, which includes the Milwaukee Public Museum, Discovery World and the IMAX Theater.
- The Milwaukee Art Museum, Betty Brinn Children's Museum and America's Black Holocaust Museum are also nearby.

Single and Double Rooms \$105/night
Reservation Code: Growing Power/RMA
1-800-Hiltons or 414-271-7250
www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/mkemhhf_rmssf/index.jhtml

Transportation

Airport

Milwaukee's principal airport is General Mitchell International Airport.
www.mitchellairport.com

Connection for the discounted rate of \$20/roundtrip.
Reservation code: GROWPOW
1-800-236-5450 or 414-769-2444
www.mkelimo.com

Shuttle Service

Shuttle Service between the airport and the Hilton City Center will be provided by Airport

Parking

Parking is available at the Hilton for \$20/night.

Contact Information

If you have any questions, please let us know!

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Risk Management Strategies for Beginning and Small Farmers and Ranchers Conference

Reception

The reception will feature locally and attendee sourced food artistically prepared by the James Nowak, Executive Chef at Hilton Milwaukee City Center. Sample a variety of dishes and Wisconsin wines as you develop and renew friendships.

Also, plan to spend some time viewing the exhibits and meeting the exhibitors. Be sure to stay for the great music and dancing!

Local Food

All of the food served at the conference will be sourced by Growing Power's Rainbow Farmer's Cooperative or by conference attendees. Executive Chef James Nowak is working with us to develop menus that highlight our great food. If

you have a product that you would like to have featured at the conference, please contact Heather Ryan.

Interpreters

We will attempt to provide interpreters at the conference. On the registration form, please indicate the language you need translated. For those groups who can provide their own

interpreters, we will offer complementary registration for the interpreter.

Child Care

On-site childcare will be available for a reasonable fee during the conference. This service is provided by licensed child-care providers from Marquette University.

If you are interested in this service, please indicate your interest on the registration form. More information will then be forwarded.

Exhibiting & Sponsoring

Businesses, organizations, agencies and universities are encouraged to exhibit and sponsor the conference. Information about

exhibiting and sponsoring can be found at www.growingpower.org/rma_conference.htm.

About Growing Power

Growing Power, Inc. is a non-profit organization and land trust that supports people from diverse backgrounds and their environments by helping provide equal access to healthy, high-quality, safe and affordable food. They implement this by providing hands-on training, demonstrations, outreach and technical assistance through the

development of community food systems that help people grow, process, market and distribute food in a sustainable manner. Growing Power's vision is to inspire communities to build sustainable food systems that are equitable and ecologically sound, creating a just world, one food-secure community at a time.

About United States Department of Agriculture

USDA provides leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, and related issues based on sound public policy, best available science, and efficient management. USDA's vision is to be a dynamic organization, able to efficiently provide integrated program delivery to lead a rapidly evolving food and agriculture system. USDA's strategic plan to implement depends on these key activities: expanding markets for agricultural products and support international economic development, further developing alternative

markets for agricultural products and activities, providing financing needed to help expand job opportunities and improve housing, utilities and infrastructure in rural America, enhancing food safety by taking steps to reduce the prevalence of foodborne hazards from farm to table, improving nutrition and health by providing food assistance and nutrition education and promotion, and managing and protecting America's public and private lands working cooperatively with other levels of government and the private sector.

About USDA Risk Management Agency

The role of USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) is to help producers manage their business risks through effective, market-based risk management solutions. RMA's mission is to promote, support and regulate sound risk

management solutions to preserve and strengthen the economic stability of America's agricultural producers. As part of this mission, RMA operates and manages the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC).

About Milwaukee

Milwaukeeans have long been known for their pride in their diversity and Milwaukee is now a "majority-minority" community with African Americans, Hispanics and Asians making up more than 50 percent of the population. "We celebrate our diversity and rich ethnic heritage everyday in Milwaukee," said Doug Neilson, president and CEO of VISIT Milwaukee. "The city is alive with entertainment, celebration and fun."

A richly woven fabric of culturally diverse communities makes the lovely lakefront city of

Milwaukee what it is today—lively, progressive, and welcoming. Nowhere is the city's diversity more easily evidenced than in the varied culinary experiences offered. Dozens of opportunities to explore world cuisine are spread across the city, offering an abundance of culinary flavors that celebrate our multicultural roots. The classic tastes of Milwaukee reach back to the time of some of its first European settlers, honoring German, French, Italian and Irish roots. Modern attitude balances out tradition with flavors exploring everything from Brazilian churrasco and Asian fusion to African cuisine.

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Risk Management Strategies for Beginning and Small Farmers and Ranchers Conference

Keynote Speakers

Eldon Gould, Administrator USDA Risk Management Agency

Eldon Gould will speak on the 2007 Farm Bill, focusing on the opportunities and programs that will benefit beginning and small farmers.

Gould is Administrator of the Risk Management Agency (RMA), U.S. Department of Agriculture, which provides economic protection and risk management tools to America's farmers and ranchers primarily through federally sponsored crop insurance delivered and serviced by private insurance companies. In this capacity, he is also Manager of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC), and a non-voting member of the FCIC Board of Directors.

Gould is a life-long Illinois grain and livestock producer with a 1300-acre crop operation as well as a 700-sow farrow to wean swine operation. He has held a variety of leadership roles for agriculture organizations. These include Chairman of the U.S. Grains Council Board, and Chairman of the Illinois Corn Marketing Board.

Gould has also served on the Illinois Farm Bureau Board of Directors, Illinois Governor's Advisory Board of Livestock Commissioners, University of Illinois Advisory Board for Department of Agriculture Entomology, University of Illinois Advisory Board for Department of Crop Sciences, Kane County Farmland Protection Commission, and as a member of the U.S. Grains Council Foundation.

A native of Illinois, Gould holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from the University of Illinois, Champaign, and is a graduate of Top Executive producers' Agricultural Program at Texas A&M University. He and his wife Sandra have three children, Richard, Christopher and Lynda.



Chuck Hassebrook, Executive Director Center for Rural Affairs

Chuck Hassebrook will speak on the development of the new Farm Bill, particularly provisions designed to strengthen small and beginning farmers.

Hassebrook is Executive Director of the Center for Rural Affairs of Lyons, Nebraska. The Center is a nationally recognized research, advocacy and rural development organization that promotes family farming and ranching, small business and entrepreneurial rural development.

Hassebrook serves on the University of Nebraska Board of Regents and is its vice chair. He formerly served on the US Department of Agriculture National Commission on Small

Farms and was vice chair of the USDA Agricultural Science and Technology Review Board. He currently serves on the Nebraska Rural Development Commission.

Hassebrook is a University of Nebraska graduate and a native of Platte Center Nebraska, where his family is engaged in farming. He lives in Lyons, Nebraska with his wife Kate and sons Anton and Peter.



Tours continued

Milwaukee Garden & Market Tour continued

Continued from page 12

Milwaukee Public Market

The Milwaukee Public Market is proud to offer visitors the best of Wisconsin's agricultural heritage while expanding the availability of gourmet, specialty and organic foods. This year-round daily Market features 20 specialty food vendors. Each merchant is owner and operator and, in many instances, producer of the products they sell. They give customers the opportunity to purchase direct from the hands that nurtured these quality goods.

Within the Market, Madame Kuony's Kitchen is a state-of-the-art demonstration kitchen dedicated in loving memory to a Wisconsin culinary icon. In the kitchen they offer an on-going selection of diverse cooking classes. The classes are taught by many of the market vendors and some of the area's top chefs and instructors.

Walnut Way Garden

Walnut Way Conservation Corp. is a grassroots Central City Milwaukee neighborhood organization. Their mission is to sustain an

economically diverse and neighborly community through civic engagement, environmental stewardship, and economic enterprise.

Walnut Way residents have been turning dreams into action. Over the years, neighbors have transformed vacant city lots into productive gardens, planted an urban fruit orchard, hosted community meetings addressing concerns and dreams, restored a 97-year-old Milwaukee home slated for demolition into an active Neighborhood Center, offered programming to local youth, and welcomed international and local tour groups interested in learning about community revitalization.

Their Gardens to Market Program (G2M) engages local teens in gardening while gaining valuable life skills. The goals of the urban agriculture programs are to demonstrate how to live healthy and active lives, how to reap the intrinsic and financial benefits of environmental stewardship, and how to value community space. To learn more, visit their website at www.walnutway.org.

Milwaukee Tour

On this half-day tour, a local historian will guide you through history and culture of our vibrant city. The tour will include a stop at America's Black Holocaust Museum.

America's Black Holocaust Museum

America's Black Holocaust Museum was founded to educate the general public of the injustices

suffered by people of African heritage in America and to provide visitors with an opportunity to rethink their assumptions about race and racism. It is America's only memorial to the victims of the Black Holocaust. Visitors leave with a deeper understanding of history as it relates to racial injustice and the African American experience.





Risk Management Strategies for Beginning and Small Farmers and Ranchers Conference

Tours continued

Michael Fields Agricultural Institute

Since 1984, Michael Fields Agricultural Institute has been dedicated to developing an agriculture that can sustain the land and its resources locally, nationally and internationally. Our mission manifests in five program areas: Farming Systems Outreach and Education; Crop Research; Garden Student Education and Agriculture based Enterprise Development; Food Systems; and Public Policy. Program constituents include farmers, school children, researcher, educators, government agencies, distributors, agricultural entrepreneurs and young adult garden students.

This vast body of activity is unified by the mission to serve as an educational and research organization committed to coordinating grassroots efforts in resource-conserving, ecologically sustainable and economically viable food and farm systems in order to help both urban and rural populations meet common problems. Located on 1,000 acres housing 7 leased farms, the East Troy site offers education programs and tours.

The Quinney Farm

This 160-acre Centennial Farm has been in the Quinney family since first settled by Irish immigrants fleeing the potato famine in 1868. The farm, managed by Michael Fields Agricultural Institute, is currently looking at ways to make a small farm self-sustaining. A former dairy farm, the Quinney Farm is being transformed into an integrated landscape with the objective of evaluating systems that can provide opportunities for small farms to generate increased income while improving resource conservation and providing eco-system benefits for the public. In this effort, the farm is collaborating with larger dairy operations in the area for manure and feed exchanges. In the fall of 2004/ 2005, research and demonstration plots were established to evaluate the potential of crop rotations that include short-term forages to provide winter and early spring cover, enhance opportunities for efficient nutrient cycling of animal manures, and provide emergency feeds for dairy graziers during drought cycles.

Milwaukee Garden & Market Tour

Tour many of Milwaukee's garden projects and farmers markets.

Fondy Food Center

The Fondy Food Center (FCC) was established as a response to Northside Milwaukee's "food desert" – an area underserved by grocery stores and overpopulated with fast food restaurants, corner convenience stores and free food pantries. The FCC's Farm-to-Fork strategy provides the tools to Milwaukee's Northside residents to stretch their food dollars and take control of their food, their diets, and their health. These programs include:

Fondy Farmers Market - Open six days a week

during the growing season and home to 35 local farmers, it is one of the largest producer-only markets in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Taste the Season - Live and televised cooking workshops introduce new fruits and vegetables to market customers, using simple recipes that highlight the best that our farmers have to offer.

Girls Chef Academy - is a new cooking-based food system and nutrition education program for middle school-aged girls, who are frequently left in charge of preparing meals and snacks for the whole family.

GrowRight - strengthens farmer relationships by providing agricultural education and marketing assistance.

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Keynote Speakers continued

Winona LaDuke, Founding Director White Earth Land Recovery Project

Winona LaDuke will speak on food sovereignty and the role of beginning and small farmers in creating safe and culturally appropriate local food systems.

Winona LaDuke is an Anishinaabeg (Ojibwe) enrolled member of the Mississippi Band. LaDuke was a founding member of Anishinaabeg Akiing, the land rights organization which litigated cases to protect Anishinaabeg rights on the White Earth Reservation during the 1980's. In 1989, she received the Reebok Human Rights Award, which she used in part to develop the White Earth Land Recovery Project. In 1994, Time Magazine nominated LaDuke as one of America's fifty most promising leaders less than forty years of age. She has been the recipient of numerous awards since, including two of her most valued, the Thomas Merton Award in 1996

and the Ann Bancroft Award.

LaDuke is a former board member of Green Peace USA, serves as a co-chair of the Indigenous Women's Network and is the Executive Director of Honor the Earth. A graduate of Harvard and Antioch Universities, Winona has written extensively on Native American and environmental issues. She has five books: Last Standing Woman (fiction), All Our Relations (non-fiction), In the Sugarbush (children's), the Winona LaDuke Reader and Recovering the Sacred. The mother of three children, LaDuke lives and works on the White Earth Reservation in northwestern Minnesota. She travels extensively for public appearances.



Conference Schedule

Wednesday, September 12th

9:00-6:30 Registration
9:00-2:30 Exhibit Set-up
1:00-3:00 Welcome & Opening Remarks
Keynote Address: Eldon Gould, USDA Risk Management Agency
Keynote Address: Winona LaDuke, White Earth Land Recovery Project
3:00-8:00 Exhibit Hall Open
3:30-5:00 Breakout Sessions
6:30 Reception

Thursday, September 13th

7:00-8:00 Breakfast
7:30-8:30 Registration
8:00-5:00 Tours (box lunches provided)

Friday, September 14th

7:00-8:30 Breakfast
7:30-3:30 Registration
8:00-5:00 Exhibit Hall Open
8:30-10:00 Welcome & Announcements
Keynote Address: Chuck Hassebrook, Center for Rural Affairs
10:30-12:00 Breakout Sessions
12:00 Lunch
1:30-3:00 Breakout Sessions
3:30-5:00 Breakout Sessions

Saturday, September 15th

7:30-8:30 Breakfast
8:00-10:30 Registration
8:00-11:00 Exhibit Hall Open
8:30-10:00 Breakout Sessions
10:30-12:00 Closing Plenary
11:00-12:00 Exhibit take-down

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Conference Tracts

The Conference tracts address many topics to help beginning and small farmers and ranchers reduce risk and become more successful. At least one session per tract will be presented during

each breakout for a total of 5–8 sessions per tract. Some sessions will be repeated for greater flexibility.

Alternative Marketing

The days when small and beginning farmers and ranchers could effectively sustain themselves by simply selling farm products as general commodities are rapidly fading. Today, many small and beginning farmers and ranchers have to market their farm products as providing greater value to the buyer, and better profit opportunities for their enterprises. Alternative marketing is one way small and beginning farmers and ranchers can create increased value in their niche products while enhancing the profitability of their farms.

The goal of the Alternative Marketing Track is to assist small and beginning farmers and ranchers learn how to improve the marketability of their products and enhance their knowledge of the risk management tools, techniques and resources available to them so they can have successful and profitable enterprises. This track will provide information on: Community Supported Agriculture (CSA's); Cooperatives; Niche marketing; Processing and Handling; Farm to School Programs; International markets; Organics Certification; and Agri-Tourism.

Beginning Farmers

Providing assistance to the next generation of farmers and ranchers is one of the Secretary of Agriculture's program priorities. To this end, we are creating a separate track for beginning farmers and ranchers at this conference. Topics

will include: new and alternative enterprises; mentoring; strategies for passing on and acquiring land; and development and evaluation of beginning farmer programs.

Current Issues

While this Conference has identified tracts that will provide strategies to address risks associated with being successful in the agricultural industry, there are issues affecting beginning and small farmers and ranchers that extend beyond the identified topics. This tract will identify strategies to address issues that continue to be at

the forefront and will have community impact when implemented. The issues will include workshops on: grant writing; elected office and committee participation; funding opportunities; Farm Bill and policy development; good farming practices; certification processes and the importance of diversity.

Tours continued

Local Farms Tour continued

Continued from page 10
agricultural business. No antibiotics or hormones are used on the animals, and biological farming principles are practiced in crop production.

At R-Farm, they take pride in growing and blending all of their own feedstuffs for the animals. Steers and chickens have access to

pasture during the warmer months. They offer beef, pork and pastured chickens in amounts manageable for their customers. This includes individual cuts available at the farm, and whole, halves and quarters which customers can have cut to their liking.

Mac Reimenschneider has been farming for the past 15 years, and transitioned to full-time on the

Madison Tour

Troy Gardens
Troy Gardens was born of a community vision for a unique parcel of state-owned surplus land. The mission of the Friends of Troy Gardens is to inspire people to love, care for, and steward the land. Troy Gardens consists of a housing development, community gardens, an urban farm, and other community programs.

The community gardens are at the heart of Troy Gardens. Community gardeners use the land to grow their own food, which has a positive impact on their household food security.

Madison's first urban farm, Troy Community Farm occupies 5 acres of the Troy site. The core of the farm is the CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). Anyone can enjoy Troy Farm's locally-grown produce by visiting the Troy Farm Stand. Troy Farm produce can also be found at the Northside Farmers Market.

South Madison Farmers Market
The South Madison Farmers' Market is a great asset to its community. The diverse population of the south side of Madison is reflected in their products—fresh, organic produce, flower bouquets, and baked goods. The market takes pride in pleasing a wide range of culinary tastes at fair market prices! This newly formed market

provides safe and healthy produce at a reasonable price, along with an enduring focus on community, diversity, and friendship.

Carandale Farm
Carandale Farm is the largest and longest established "Pick-Your-Own" farm in Dane County specializing in fruits. The farm is located on the beautiful and picturesque terminal glacial moraine. They are committed to an integrated cropping system that incorporates all available management tools to maximize production and food safety, while minimizing environmental impact. With over 30 years of experience, they have been able to greatly reduce, and even eliminate, pesticide use on many crops.

In their ongoing effort to push the limits of innovation and diversity, they have established a 2-acre on-farm trial for screening more than 30 types of unknown, little known and overlooked fruit crops. They are being evaluated for adaptability, sustainability and economic potential. The goal of this project is to introduce new choices, diversify the agricultural base, create profitable niche markets, maintain open space in urbanizing areas, and benefit public health by introducing fresh and processed fruit products with high nutraceutical value.





Risk Management Strategies for Beginning and Small Farmers and Ranchers Conference

Tours continued

Chicago Tour continued

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facilitate the Chicago Avenue Community Garden. As the neighborhood transitions from low-income “projects” to mixed-income housing, the overarching goal of this community garden is to help facilitate a thriving diverse community while ensuring that present residents are not cast aside in this process of transformation.

The garden is a traditional community garden with free plots allocated to individual gardeners. The garden’s 36 biological worm system raised beds were built on top of concrete and have been

abundantly producing fresh veggies for four years running. Additional beds have been constructed for produce production, youth gardens and ornamental/butterfly habitats. Art, recreation and community meals are key components in this innovative garden space. This garden is designed to create dialogue, community engagement and empowerment as well as to introduce a source for fresh, safe, healthy, homegrown produce to the community. Community and church members are receiving training in how to run the space so they may take over in the coming years.

Local Farms Tour

Visit area farms to find out how Wisconsin beginning and small farmers are managing risk and building successful operations. Tour dairy, grazing, livestock and produce operations.

Growing Power’s Rural Farm

Growing Power is restoring a nutrient poor hay and row crop farm to a nutrient-rich produce operation. Through commercial-scale composting, the Growing Power team is building the soil of this 30-acre farm without chemical pesticides or fertilizers.

On the farm, Growing Power raises produce for their store market, CSA customers, and restaurants. Chickens and hay are also raised and harvested onsite. In addition to the commercial-scale production, growing space is provided for youth groups and a community of Bantu refugees.

Krusen Grass Farms

Krusen Grass Farms is a 340 acre Dairy Farm in Southeast Wisconsin. This certified organic milk

producer also raises grass-fed beef and all their replacements for the dairy herd.

On the farm, comprised of pasture and hayfields, they grow some annual forage crops, and a large family garden. They milk 120 cows in a modern 16-unit swing over parlor. The cows are grazed in a management intensive grazing system, and house all animals outside. A loafing shed is used for the milking string in bad weather.

Krusen Grass Farms helps farmers start dairying through sharemilking. Sharemilkers run their own business within the Krusen Grass Farm. The Sharemilker provides all labor and most management for all livestock. In return, the Sharemilker get a share of the milk (a separate check) and a share of all female calves, which the Sharemilker is allowed to raise on the farm. This is a great way for beginning farmers to build equity while greatly reducing risk.

R-Farm

The objective of R-Farm is to be a community active and environmentally conscious

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Conference Tracts continued

Energy & Renewable Fuels

Several challenges are raising new risk management issues while providing opportunities for innovative energy-efficient technologies. They are: reducing dependency on imported oil; making clean energy alternatives affordable and available in agriculture; and improving the environment. Rapidly rising and volatile energy prices are causing farmers, ranchers, and particularly limited resource producers to rethink using traditional risk

management tools when dealing with these new sources of risk. This tract will provide information on various strategies and programs for agricultural producers and rural small businesses to support sustainable agricultural operations, increase economic viability, reduce greenhouse gasses through renewable energy opportunities, develop value-added agricultural business ventures, and make energy efficient improvements to operations.

Financial Management

Farming is an inherently risky business. When small or beginning farmers borrow money, they are obligated to repay the debt. Uncertain weather conditions, changes to markets, rising interest rates, credit availability, changes to the Farm Bill, and many other events beyond a small and beginning farmer and rancher's control— can affect crop prices and can profoundly affect farm

finances and ability to pay back farm loans. This tract will provide information on various financial risk management tools available: record keeping skills, debt reconstruction, farm management planning, estate planning and wills, agricultural credit, micro-loans, and tax management.

USDA Programs

Enhancing the viability and economic livelihood of America’s small farms and beginning farmers and ranchers is one of the USDA’s top priorities. This tract provides an opportunity for USDA agencies to discuss the programs and services they administer. Agency representatives will

explain the benefits of their programs for small and beginning farmers and ranchers and how to apply and participate in their programs. Understanding and utilizing USDA resources should be an important strategy of any producer's risk management plan.

Urban Agriculture

Urban agriculture contributes nutritious, flavorful food to communities through year-round local food production of fruits, vegetables, fish, soil, and other plants. The ability to produce and distribute food throughout local neighborhoods is important in urban areas and rural towns as the demand for nutritional, good-tasting food continues to grow throughout the

country. Urban farmers and residents both benefit as the economic and social impacts strengthen individuals and communities. Growing Power will lead tours that demonstrate urban and year-round growing techniques while the sessions will cover urban land issues and an urban agriculture roundtable discussion.





Risk Management Strategies for Beginning and Small Farmers and Ranchers Conference

Tours

Growing Power has developed tours to a variety of farms, gardens, markets, and organizations in the region to complement the conference tracts and sessions. All of the tours will run simultaneously on Thursday, September 13th. Lunch will be provided for tour participants. Unless otherwise noted, all tour fees are included with conference registration. Indicate your tour preference on the registration form. All tours are subject to change.

Growing Power Workshop

The Growing Power workshop is an intensive, hands on, training workshop at the Milwaukee facility. This workshop offers diverse groups the opportunity to learn, plan, develop, operate, and sustain community food projects. Project participants leave the workshop with improved skills that they can take to their communities and pass on to others. This workshop is appropriate for both rural and urban projects.

We encourage several members of your group or operation to attend this workshop if you are interested in multiple topics. This is especially helpful if you are a member of a training or outreach organization.

Please come prepared to get your hands dirty! Leave your dress shoes at home and wear your farmer duds. Bring work shoes and layers of clothing – the greenhouses are very warm and it can be cold outside. Workshops often take place in both settings.

Meals are an important aspect of this workshop, and will include breakfast and lunch. Sustainable, small family farmers produce the food we serve. Vegetarian dishes will be served and Vegan or special dietary needs can be accommodated.

Workshops Topics:

Aquaponics—Learn how to build indoor fish and plant systems for food production. Participants

will set up a small scale Aquaponics system and learn how to maintain and monitor tilapia fish production in a closed loop/natural system.

Beekeeping—Learn the ABC's of urban or rural beekeeping without the use of chemicals. Participants will leave with a solid understanding of the materials, suppliers and environment to keep these amazing animals content and productive.

Living Biological Worm Systems—An Innovative Approach to Sustainable Production. Learn how to develop a comprehensive and sustainable system for growing food year-round without heat.

Vermiculture—Learn how to construct and maintain a worm bin, how to use vermicompost for fertilizer and making money, and how plants and vermicompost remediate the soil.

Composting—Learn how to build indoor/small scale compost systems, and design and maintain outdoor/small and large scale systems. Discuss collection of waste streams in the city or on the farm.

Year-round Greenhouse Production—Learn the basics in seed starting, propagation and how to grow year-round greens of all types, herbs and micro greens. This is a great way to round out your farm operation and bring in profit and food security all year.

Additional Fee—The additional fee for this workshop is \$100/person. This is reduced from the regular rate of \$300/person for a two-day workshop.

Tours continued

Angelic Organics Learning Center

Urban and rural people building a healthy local food system

Get an insider's look at Angelic Organics, one of the largest Community Supported Agriculture farms in the nation, and how its partner nonprofit Learning Center helps urban and rural people to train new farmers and build the local food system in the greater Chicago and Rockford area.

Angelic Organics is a biodynamic Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm that grows vegetables and herbs for over 1,300 member households from the greater Chicago and Rockford areas. Members, known as shareholders, receive a 3/4-bushel box of fresh produce delivered weekly to more than 20 Chicago and Rockford sites from June to

December. Farmer John Peterson and Angelic Organics are the subjects of the recent award-winning film "The Real Dirt on Farmer John." For more info, visit www.AngelicOrganics.com.

The Angelic Organics Learning Center offers opportunities to grow healthy food and a better quality of life, connect with farmers and the land, and learn agricultural and leadership skills. The Learning Center, a nonprofit organization, reaches more than 4,000 people each year through their programs at partner farms and urban growing sites in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. They coordinate the farmer-led Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training (CRAFT) and the Stateline Farm Beginnings program that prepare beginning farmers for sustainable agriculture. To visit their webpage go to www.csalearningcenter.org.

Chicago Tour

The Chicago tour will consist of three stops at community gardens that Growing Power supports.

The Art on the Farm, Urban Agriculture Potager Visit an edible, traditional potager garden located in Grant Park in partnership with the Chicago Park District. In addition to the benefits of local food and food security, this urban agriculture project improves youth economic development, bio-diversity, and a measurable production of organic vegetables, herbs and other edibles in a city space.

A program goal is to effectively prepare young people for future jobs and higher education. Farm interns work together to cultivate and harvest vegetables, herbs and flowers. The project seeks to quantify the commercial viability of urban agriculture to impact the City of Chicago's urban agriculture policy.

Jackson Park

Growing Power runs programs out of the Jackson Park Urban Farm and Education Center. These include training and education for community residents who use allotment plots, and youth development through urban farming. The produce raised on-site increases the availability of locally grown, fresh, healthy, and safe food that exceeds certified organic standards. Growing Power's comprehensive training and marketing resources provide residents, youth, and their communities many avenues to access and reshape their local food system. Intensive training and supervision is a component of all programs at this site to ensure high quality and consistent products.

The Chicago Avenue Community Garden Partnership, At Cabrini Green

Growing Power works in collaboration with Chicago's Fourth Presbyterian Church to

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