



17TH ANNUAL EMERGING FARMERS CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 12 & 13, 2022

Collaboration & Cooperation: Stronger Together

June 5, 2022

Greetings!

The Emerging Farmers Conference is a two-day event that serves to advance the success and sustainability of farmers who traditionally face barriers to building agricultural businesses. The conference focuses primarily on the education, needs, and interests of immigrant farmers and farmers of color. Sessions are interpreted into over nine languages, and are led primarily by farmers themselves. The EFC is hosted by a collaborative of local and statewide organizations that are run by and/or work with farmers of color. Through sponsorship, you can be part of making this valuable opportunity available to farmers. We are stronger together!

Listening to Farmer Voices

The Emerging Farmers Conference is intentionally working towards a future of empowered farmers. As a starting point, we held a small event last fall, ReRooting the Emerging Farmers Conference. It was a day filled with conversation, reflection, and ideation surrounding the annual conference. We brought nearly 50 farmers and sponsors together at the in-person event, and received survey feedback from another 45 farmers. Major findings include the need for greater conference outreach; an even stronger farmer voice at the event; additional opportunities for farmer network building; and a clear conference mission that establishes farmers as leaders and incorporates food justice principles.

Growth & Change

In response to what we heard from farmers, we are excited to announce new and exciting changes this year.

- **Stronger Farmer Voice:** For the first time, the conference is guided by our newly created Farmer Advisory Committee that advises the Planning Committee on the direction of the conference! Made up of 10 emerging farmers, this committee centers more farmer voices in decision-making for the conference.
- **Increased Outreach:** Last fall, we hired a fulltime Outreach Coordinator who is entirely dedicated to planning the Emerging Farmer's Conference, leading outreach for the event, and incorporating listening session findings.
- **Time to Connect:** We will be working to create more intentional spaces for one-on-one interactions between farmers and sponsors at the conference.

Conference Details: New Era, New Location

Day one of the conference will be hosted at the Shoreview Community Center and features engaging sessions that are rich with discussion, storytelling and physical movement! Day two of the conference will be a field day where farmers and attendees will have opportunities for on-farm learning. This year's field day will enrich the experience by allowing farmers to learn hands-on and engage with community outside of the conference room.



FORMERLY MINNESOTA FOOD ASSOCIATION



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Your contribution will help us make this an impactful event that will equip emerging farmers with new knowledge and resources to pursue their farm dreams.

Would you consider a sponsorship of \$1,000 to help ensure the vital development of our farming community?

Sponsorship Benefits

We know you value supporting our farming community. We are honoring sponsors in a variety of ways this year including exhibit tables at the conference, shoutouts in the monthly EFC newsletter, ads in the conference program, time at the podium, and more. You can find a full list of sponsor benefits on the following pages. We have four levels of sponsorship available ranging from \$250 to \$15,000. You will join 40+ other sponsors who have helped make this conference possible.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO AT THE EFC?

"Full-bodied, full-throated dialogue. A platform that elevates the voices of farmers of color"

-Michael Chaney, Project Sweetie Pie

"Space where people can be themselves and be able to speak in their own language"

-Mallory Mitchell, Yawelyahsi-yo Farm

For inquiries and to confirm your sponsorship as soon as possible (before August 1st), please visit <https://bit.ly/efcsponsor> or return the enclosed sponsorship form. Checks can be made payable and mailed to: The Food Group, Attn: Emerging Farmers Conference, 8501 54th Ave N, New Hope, MN 55428. Sponsorship details and conference logistics will be sent once sponsorship contact person and level are confirmed.

Sponsor Breakfast

We hope you'll also be able to join us in September for a Sponsor Breakfast. Stay tuned for more details. The morning will include conference updates, conversation and connection.

We look forward to partnering with you!

On behalf of the Emerging Farmers Conference Planning Team,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marisa", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marisa Benasutti
Big River Farms Outreach Coordinator, The Food Group
mberasutti@thefoodgroupmn.org | 651-504-8104



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