



Above: Conference attendees and sponsors network in the exhibit hall.

Nov 3-4, 2023
Moundsview Event
Center

emerging FARMERS CONFERENCE

"Learning from the Past
& Growing for the
Future"

Attendees

Conference-goers came from 14
states and three countries:

- USA - Minnesota, Wisconsin, Vermont, Kansas, Illinois, Nebraska, Ohio, New York, North Dakota, Missouri, Washington, California, Iowa, Tennessee
- Cameroon
- Ghana

221 farmers
+ 139 sponsors &
community organizers + 34
non-farmer speakers + 22
government officials &
resource room specialists +
21 staff and volunteers =
total 437 attendees

Thank you for your investment in the 18th Annual Emerging Farmers Conference! We are pleased to share this report of how your support made an impact in the lives of hundreds of emerging farmers this past November.

Workshop Highlights

Farmers and presenters shared ideas and expertise via 16 workshops on a variety of topics:

- Policy listening sessions - hosted by Minnesota Department of Agriculture and Midwest Farmers of Color Collective
- Story sharing - farm land, climate resilience, & NCR SARE projects
- Climate smart practices - high tunnels & cover cropping
- Raising animals - chickens & goats
- Specialty crop production - growing mushrooms, cultural crops, & seed saving
- Farm Management - physical resilience, wholesale, decision-making for vegetable production, & cottage food law

"I loved the diversity in topics and conversations that sprung up through the presentation topics."
~ Farmer Attendee



More Conference Highlights

"Lo pasé muy bonito y aprendí mucho."

I had a great time and learned a lot.

~ Farmer Attendee

Two Special Speakers.

Afternoon Keynote Angela Dawson of 40 Acre Co-op shared her story about working with USDA and FSA programs and offered insights on alternative land and business ownership models. Saturday morning opened with an address from Gloria Montaña Greene, Deputy Undersecretary for USDA's Farm Production and Conservation Mission area. She shared her experience as the daughter of an immigrant family, and the work she currently does addressing barriers for emerging farmers.

Intentional spaces to meet diverse needs.

Extensive networking took place in an ongoing exhibit hall; in-depth technical assistance was provided in a 1:1 resource room; and attendees cared for themselves in dedicated wellness, prayer, and mother/baby rooms.

Appreciation & accessibility.

Farmers were recognized with stipends for presenters, scholarships for those traveling long distances, and meaningful raffle prizes.



9 Languages Interpreted

Hmong, Somali, French, Spanish, Kirundi, Karen, Swahili, Arabic, & Burmese



Top right: Leaders from The Food Group and Minnesota Department of Agriculture pose for a pic with keynote speaker, Angela Dawson. Middle right: Two policy workshops were some of the best attended by farmers. Bottom left: Farmers listen in on a fertility workshop.



Thank You!

None of this important work would have been possible without the incredible support from our 64 conference sponsors and partners, 23 committee members, and seven farmer advisory committee members who generously gave their time and resources to support emerging farmers. Thank you for your partnership in sharing resources, building connections, growing knowledge, and promoting empowerment!

"I find it really meaningful to hear voices directly from farmers, especially those that are generally silent in other spaces, and here they can project their voices with powerful messages." ~ Farmer Attendee

www.emergingfarmers.org