

NOVEMBER 7 -8, 2025

Celebrating
20
Years



emerging FARMERS CONFERENCE



IMPACT REPORT

CELEBRATE

As we celebrate 20 years of the Emerging Farmers Conference, we extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsors. Your support has been essential in sustaining this work through challenging times and in strengthening farmers and farming communities.

Since its beginnings in 2005 as the Immigrant and Minority Farmers Conference, this gathering has been rooted in collaboration, equity, and farmer voices. Renamed the Emerging Farmers Conference in 2018, our mission remains the same—supporting Immigrant, Black, Brown, and emerging farmers as they build sustainable livelihoods in agriculture.

Food and land bring us together, and your partnership helps ensure that the land is cared for, food is grown, resources are shared, and communities have access to healthy, nutritious food. Because of you, we continue cultivating food, diversity, and relationships—together—for the past 20 years and into the future.

Thank you for standing with us and investing in the next generation of farmers.





ATTENDEES

ATTENDEES CAME FROM:



CONFERENCE OVERVIEW



EFC convened 360 attendees from 12 states.



Of these attendees, 260 were farmers.



We gave scholarships to over 30 farmers to attend the conference in person.



Volunteers outside the conference building helping to ensure the highest level of safety for conference attendees



“[I] REALLY ENJOYED [IT]. [THERE WAS] GREAT INFORMATION. SO FAR THE CONFERENCE IS BETTER THAN PREVIOUS YEARS AND MORE INFORMATIVE...”

- Farmer attendee from 'Scaling Your Farm for Profitability & Meeting Market Demands' class

HIGHLIGHTS

OF THE CONFERENCE

HANDS ON DEMONSTRATION AND WOKSHOPS

"This was awesome. The hands on Instruction was invaluable. I can see how I can save so much time and money."

AG PROFESSIONAL CLASS

"I really liked that so many aspects of this training had tangible skills taught."

"I will leave knowing I have a whole community of people who care and willing to make good changes and impact."

FARMER WORKSHOPS

"Excellent class. I appreciate it being broken down and [it] feels approachable."



This year's keynote was a three farmer panel, pictured from left to right: Oredola Taylor (Taylor Ventures in Washington County), Hope Flanagan (Community Outreach and Cultural Teacher at Dream of Wild Health) and Rodrigo Cala (Cala Farm "Origenes" in Turtle Lake, WI), and was facilitated by The Food Group's Farm Director, KaZoua Berry, far left.

AND MORE...

- The Drip Irrigation class was one of the most popular sessions of the conference. The class offered hands-on demonstrations including the opportunity for participants to build and take home their own header.
- The Wellness Room also saw record engagement, with more massage therapists available than ever and a steady line of farmers participating throughout the event.

HIGHLIGHTS

CONTINUED



MARKETPLACE

This year, for the very first time, Emerging Farmers Conference offered a marketplace area. The Emerging Farmers Marketplace was part of the Grow Your Green Access to Markets Program, featuring farmers showcasing their stories through unique branding and products. This marketplace offered attendees the chance to connect, learn, and network with growers while exploring opportunities and resources from the Minnesota Farmers' Market Association on programming and market access.



Pictured above and to the right, farmers showcasing their products at the marketplace.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHT

- **Seed Exchange:** Dream of Wild Health hosted the seed exchange this year. Seed exchange space offered farmers the opportunity to exchange their own seeds for others. The exchange of seeds supports local economy, local networks of seed keepers and growers, and supports personalized economy. This is an economy based on mutual respect and care and encourages resilience in our communities.
- **Land Blessing:** We started the conference off by blessing the land, a way of honoring the Earth, led by Elder LeMoine LaPointe. We celebrate the work that indigenous leaders and communities have continued to work and pave the way for us to be better stewards of the land.
- Other highlights included culturally connected meals, prayer room, mother baby room, exhibit hall, resource room, and more.



Participants of the seed exchange.

CULTURALLY CONNECTED & LOCALLY SOURCED



Thank you to our in-kind sponsors who partnered with us to provide culturally connected foods during the conference.

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY THROUGH FOOD

We're grateful for the partnerships we have with our local businesses. We received donations of sausage links, chicken tenders, cheese, snacks, and more. These in-kind donations were interlaced into the food that was served during breakfast, lunch, and dinner.



Pictured above and below, food at the Emerging Farmers Conference

WORKSHOPS

Emerging Farmers Conference offered classes on Friday and Saturday to farmers seeking resources. Additionally, this year was our first year offering an Ag Professional class.

Classes offered included:

- Building Farm Sustainability during Unsustainable Times
- Scaling your farm for profitability and meeting market demands
- Extend your Season, Expand your Sales
- No-Till Farming for high productivity on a small scale
- The Urban Family Pig
- Drip Irrigation: Build a Header & Troubleshoot Leaks
- Farmer Wellness
- Ag Professional Class: Supporting Farmer Resilience During Unstable Times
- and many more!



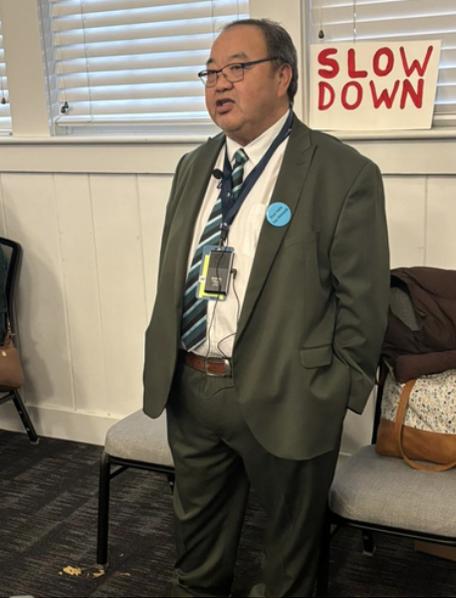
We offered 12 farmer classes, 1 Ag Professional class, and more free-form discussion-style Topic Tables. Classes varied from hands on demonstration to Q&A sessions. Along with these workshops, we had an exhibit hall full of organizations engaging with farmers, providing resources and materials to start or improve their farm businesses.



This conference, especially this class, has been a true blessing. The instructors were the best.

-Farmer attendee from 'Drip Irrigation' class.





INTERPRETER EXPERIENCE

Our interpreting services are unique to the Emerging Farmers Conference and play a key role in making the conference accessible. EFC offered 7 languages that were interpreted by 29 interpreters between Friday and Saturday sessions.

Languages included: Burmese, Hmong, Karen, Spanish, Swahili, Nepali, and Kurundi.

We served 71 people over the course of two days, interpreting our Blessing Ceremony, Workshops, Registration, Networking, Marketplace and Exhibit Hall, Keynote sessions, Topic Tables, and during dinner and Friday celebration.

WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE CONFERENCE

Many of the interpreters reflected on the conference and their time speaking with attendees, highlighting the success and relationships built with one another through the two day conference.

“Comforting”

“Amazing” “Uplifting”

“Encouraging” “Successful”





THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who joined us in celebrating 20 years of cultivating food, diversity, and strong relationships in farming. Your presence made our Friday evening 20th anniversary celebration truly meaningful, highlighted by heartfelt thanks from conference leaders and committee members, shared memories during an open mic, and, of course, anniversary cake.

Thank you for another successful year of Emerging Farmers Conference, see you next year!

