Speaker Biographies

(In order of presentation)

Friday, February 15

Dr. Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota
Mark Seeley, a professor at the University of Minnesota, relates weather/climate impacts to Minnesota agriculture, transportation, energy, tourism, and natural resources. He edited a series of children’s books on science and authored two books for adults about Minnesota’s weather and climate. He has received numerous awards, including the Sigma Xi Science Communication and Education Award and the University of Minnesota President’s Award for Outstanding Service.

Kent Solberg, Sustainable Farming Association
Kent and his wife, Linda, own and operate a diverse grass-based livestock farm near Verndale, MINN. raising dairy, beef, pork and eggs. Kent also serves as the Livestock and Grazing Specialist and the Minnesota Dairy Initiative Coordinator for SFA, as well as being an instructor for the Sustainable Food Production program at the community college in Fergus Falls, where he teaches what he practices concerning pasture-based livestock, forage and cropping systems.

Dr. Allen Williams, LMC, LLC
Allen Williams is founding partner and President of LMC, LLC, an agriculture and food industry consulting firm specializing in enhanced farm and food company sustainability and profitability through values based value chain product development and marketing. Allen is a sixth-generation family farmer and holds a B.S. and M.S. in agriculture from Clemson University and a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University. He spent 15 years in academia in research, teaching, and extension, and has written more than 300 peer-reviewed and popular-press articles. In 2000, he left academia and founded LMC, LLC. Since that time, he has worked with more than 3,500 farmers and ranchers in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and South America.

Terry Nennich, University of Minnesota Extension
Terry Nennich is a U of M professor who, throughout his career, has specialized in vegetable and small-fruit production and marketing. For the past twelve years he has lead the University of Minnesota high-tunnel research and development team. He is co-author of Minnesota High Tunnel Production Manual for Commercial Growers, both first and second editions. Terry also works with farmers market development and recently co-authored the Minnesota Farmers Market Manual for Management and Vendors.

Terry and his wife, Loralee, own and operate Ter-Lee Gardens, a fruit and vegetable operation that sells its produce pick-your-own and at farmers markets. His lifelong agriculture production experience helps him maintain a strong perspective of the revolutionary changes occurring in direct-to-consumer marketing and the local foods movement.
Michelle Grabowski, University of Minnesota Extension
Michelle Grabowski received an M.S. in plant pathology from North Carolina State University and a B.S. in botany and plant pathology Michigan State University.

Michelle has been working as an Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota Extension since 2006. Her work focuses on common diseases of horticultural crops in Minnesota. She works with home gardeners, commercial fruit and vegetable growers, lawn and landscape professionals, arborists, and other members of the green industry. Michelle shares information through online publications, hands-on workshops, classes, and other educational programs. She focuses on identification and management of current and emerging plant disease problems.

Steve Zenk, Ridgewater College
Steve Zenk holds a degree in agricultural education from the University of Minnesota, and has been a farm business management instructor for Ridgewater College in Olivia for 25 years. During that time he has worked with many farm operators of all types of farms, assisting them to increase productivity and profitability by better understanding their business. He also owns and operates a farm near Danube, Minn., which produces and markets miniature beef and poultry directly to consumers, and grows and sells a number of vegetables from their high tunnel. In 2002 he planted the Prairie Vine Vineyard and has produced and marketed grapes for the last 7 years.

Mike Mastey, Ridgewater College
Mike Mastey has been a farm business management instructor for Ridgewater College in the central Minnesota area for 13 years. He works with organic, traditional and specialty crop and livestock operations. Through the FBM program, Mike helps operations in all phases from start-ups to farm transitions, record keeping, strategic business planning, business structures, farm and enterprise analysis.

Chris Barnier, organic inspector
Chris works as an independent organic farm inspector in Minnesota and Wisconsin. He lives on a small farm near Little Falls, and his crops have been certified organic since 1991. His previous career was with the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, where he worked as a farm loan manager for 25 years with the Farmers Home Administration and Farm Service Agency. He is a former board member and treasurer of the Sustainable Farming Association.

Jerry Januschka, financial planner and organic farmer
Jerry Januschka grew up on a dairy and hog farm near Little Falls. He graduated from North Dakota State University with a degree in agriculture and taught high school agriculture for three years. In addition to owning a financial planning firm in Little Falls, Jerry and his wife have farmed his family’s land and additional acreage for 24 years, and have been certified organic for over 15 years. They employ a full-time farm manager and have two other part-time employees, raising 100 percent grass-fed beef cattle, poultry, pigs, corn, soybeans, forages and other small grains. The grain is stored on the farm, marketed, and trucked to various organic facilities throughout the Midwest. Jerry has done extensive research over the course of years to develop a cattle herd that will thrive in an all-grass-fed environment.

Rebecca Claypool, Midwest Organic Services Association (MOSA)
Rebecca Claypool is a certification specialist at MOSA. She received her master’s degree in agroecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where her research focused on developing farm management tools and record-keeping strategies to improve overall farm management. She’s worked on a variety of certified organic farms from Maine to Minnesota, and currently owns her own vegetable farm in Wisconsin.
Chris Kudrna, Plum Creek Garlic

Chris and his wife, Joanne, own and operate Plum Creek Garlic on a small farm in Fairhaven Township south of St. Cloud. In addition to his garlic fields and a large kitchen garden, 16 acres of the farm are planted in prairie as part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Formerly an executive with American Express, Chris started his own consulting business almost 20 years ago. Chris is also active with nonprofit organizations, including The Sustainable Farming Association at the state and chapter level. He is treasurer of Renewing the Countryside and vice president of the Tri-County Humane Society.

John Brosnan, Minnesota Land Trust

John Brosnan is a project manager with the Minnesota Land Trust and has been active in land conservation and management for more than 10 years. John is the current chair of the Twin Cities Agricultural Land Trust advisory board, the former coordinator of the Urban Agriculture Alliance, and is active on the board of directors for the Kingfield and Fulton Farmers Markets in Minneapolis. John has a B.S. in natural resources from the University of Michigan and an M.P.A. from the University of Minnesota’s Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

David Glenn, Executive Director, The Minnesota Project

Dave is a seasoned nonprofit professional with experience in local government, higher education and the nonprofit sectors for over 30 years. Throughout that period he has also served numerous community organizations and initiatives, including the development of two community/art centers. Dave is drawn to environmental issues through his agricultural roots in Kansas and South Dakota, as well as his respect for the traditions and artwork of indigenous cultures and the importance of wild and undisturbed places. Dave is a potter, sculptor and consummate community volunteer. While some might see them as a contrast to his artistic skills, he brings servant leadership, event, financial and project management expertise to all endeavors he participates in.

Dr. Marla Spivak, University of Minnesota

Dr. Marla Spivak has received national and global attention for her understanding of and the results of her research on honey bees and the critical role they play in our food crop production. She is a MacArthur Fellow and McKnight Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Entomology, University of Minnesota. She directs the University’s Bee Lab and is author and creator of numerous beekeeping manuals and videos. Her scientific articles have appeared in such journals as the Journal of Neurobiology (now Developmental Neurobiology), Evolution, Apidologie, and Animal Behavior.

Dr. John Erwin, University of Minnesota

Dr. Erwin is a professor and widely acclaimed and published horticultural researcher. His primary research activities advance understanding of temperature effects on flowering and photosynthesis to increase high and/or low temperature tolerance. Erwin strives to develop novel methods for plant breeders to screen for high temperature tolerance. He also focuses on how to increase natural plant defenses to decrease pesticide use. Taken together, Erwin’s research aims to enhance temperature tolerance, reduce chemical and pesticide application, identify new floriculture products, and reduce production inputs to allow local growers to compete effectively in a worldwide market.

Chad Hebert, urban farmer

Chad Hebert began his quest for healthy, fresh, sustainable food about six years ago. Besides his everyday on-the-job training at his urban farm which currently houses 10,000 yellow lake perch, he has attended and participated in numerous training sessions and workshops. Chad has recently completed both AIS and Seafood processing H.A.C.C.P. certifications.
Zach Robinson, Spark-Y
Zach Robinson currently is the executive director of Spark-Y, and the VP of business development at a photovoltaic solar development and consulting company he co-owns, Green Circuit. He got his hands on aquaponics while training, designing and installing systems at Spark-Y. He earned his B.S. in business management at Purdue University Indianapolis.

Ayan Hargrove, Spark-Y
Ayan Hargrove is currently the systems engineer at Spark-Y and the sous chef and executive chef of catering at Aviands. Ayan got his training at the French Culinary Institute in New York, and received training in aquaponics and urban agriculture in 2009 in Chicago with Growing Power, a successful urban agriculture organization. He earned his B.S in management from Hamline University.

Dr. Charlie Rohwer, University of Minnesota
Charlie Rohwer has been working with vegetables and phytonutrients at the University of Minnesota’s Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca since 2008. He has horticulture and biochemistry degrees from Iowa State and Michigan State Universities and the University of Minnesota. He has been making beer since 2002, is a certified beer judge, and has been growing hops for research since 2010.

Seitu Kenneth Jones, Afro-Eco
Working on his own or with others, visual artist Seitu Jones has created over 30 large-scale public artworks. Currently, he is integrating artwork into three stations for the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit system.

Seitu has been awarded a Minnesota State Arts Board Fellowship, a McKnight Visual Artist Fellowship, a Bush Artist Fellowship, a Bush Leadershp Fellowship, a NEA/TCG Designer Fellowship and a 2013 Joyce Award. Seitu was awarded a Loeb Fellowship in the Harvard Graduate School of Design and was also artist-in-residence in Harvard’s Ceramic Program. He was millennium artist-in-residence for 651 Arts, in Brooklyn, NY and was the City of Minneapolis’ first Artist-in-Residence.

Seitu has a B.S. in landscape design and an M.L.S. in environmental history, both from the University of Minnesota. For 18 months Seitu was a senior fellow in agricultural systems, in the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Science Resources. He is also on the faculty of Goddard College in Port Townsend, Washington.

Michael Ableman, Foxglove Farm and Center for Arts, Ecology and Agriculture
Michael Ableman is founder and executive director emeritus of the Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens, a nonprofit organization based on one of the oldest and most diverse organic farms in southern California. Author of On Good Land and Fields of Plenty, he currently farms at Foxglove Farm, home of the Center for Arts, Ecology and Agriculture on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. Michael will help lead the initiative to launch the new Twin Cities Urban Ag Alliance.

Pakou Hang, Hmong American Farmers Association
Pakou Hang, a co-founder and the executive director of the Hmong American Farmers Association, has more than 20 years’ experience with farming and vegetable production. She is a former member of the St. Paul Farmers Market Board of Directors as well as a participant in 2011 The White House Project’s Plate-to-Politics Summit. She recently teamed up with Renewing the Countryside to connect Hmong farmers with Twin Cities chefs committed to purchasing local vegetables. Pakou also has worked with the Healthy Foods Healthy Lives Institute at the University of Minnesota to examine traditional Hmong medicinal plants; she developed a curriculum to teach Hmong American elementary students about Hmong traditions in health and healing. In 2010 Pakou worked with the Latino Economic Development Center to spearhead a feasibility study on challenges and opportunities facing immigrant farmers in Minnesota.

Pakou graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2008 with a Masters in Political Science and from
Yale University in 1999 with a B.A. also in Political Science. She is a recipient of the prestigious Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Award, the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans, and the newly inaugurated Bush Leadership Fellowship which was the impetus for the formation of HAFA.

**Collie Graddick, Community Table Cooperative**

Collie Graddick is a specialist in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture and gives community presentations on non-toxic pesticide alternatives. He earned a B.S. in plant science from Fort Valley State College in Georgia and an M.S. in plant and soil science from Tuskegee University in Alabama.

In addition to Community Table, Collie serves on the board of directors of Gardening Matters and has also served on the boards of Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota, Minnesota Environmental Partnership, and continues to serve on the Boards of the Alliance for Sustainability, Preventing Harm Minnesota, and Women's Environmental Institute.

Community Table's mission is to address nutritional, economic, environmental, and social community needs by building a local and sustainable food system that connects the chain between growers and consumers.

**Karlow Pankow, Bossy Acres**  
**Elizabeth Millard, Bossy Acres**

Beginning farmers Karla Pankow and Elizabeth Millard used social media to build up a customer base and sell out their first- and second-year CSA for their farm, Bossy Acres. Karla Pankow has 12 years of experience in sales and marketing. Elizabeth Millard has worked as a freelance journalist for over 20 years, with additional experience in copy writing, editing, and public relations.

**John Knisley, Alternative Roots Farm**

John and Brooke Knisley run a small CSA heirloom vegetable farm and apple orchard near New Ulm, Minn. For financial and personal purposes, they have made the choice to only have one of the partners full time on the farm, while the other works full time in the field of conservation. By farming on a smaller scale it has allowed them to maintain their ideals of land and soil conservation, as well as keep alive some of the passions they held before starting farming (i.e., rock climbing, roller derby), yet they can provide their local communities and themselves with fresh, sustainable food. A majority of the field work on Alternative Roots Farm is done by hand, only being made possible by scaling the farm to fit their goals and needs.

**Adam Cullip, Loon Organics**

Adam and his wife, Laura Frerichs, co-own and operate Loon Organics, a 40-acre certified organic vegetable farm in Hutchinson, Minn. They also manage a 150-member CSA, sell directly to customers at the Mill City Farmers Market, and supply a few wholesale accounts. Loon Organics started their operation on two rented acres and have expanded to eight acres of production.

**Bob Jones, The Farm on St. Mathias**

The Farm on St. Mathias is owned and operated by Bob and Arlene Jones. The Farm's mission is to bring fresh, locally and organically grown good food to good people. Education on sustainable farming and farming practices is key. We believe that it is important to know where your food comes from and who your farmer is.

Bob has bachelor degrees in chemistry and biology and a doctorate in medicine, practicing both clinical psychiatry and healthcare system administration. He is a certified and active Master Gardener with the University of Minnesota Extension Service, Crow Wing County, and serves as a Clinical (Adjunct) Professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School, Department of Psychiatry.

Come to The Farm on St. Mathias and see who your farmer is. We grow “seriously local food.”
Matt Hall, Lift Bridge Brewing Company
Matt Hall has over 15 years professional experience in the brewing industry. After completing his undergraduate work at the University of Montana, he returned to Minnesota to join on with the former Stroh Brewing Co. From there, he attended the Siebel Institute of Brewing Technology and has worked for regional/micro breweries in Wisconsin, Hawaii, and California. He is now the brewmaster at Lift Bridge and happy to be back in Minnesota. He will admit, though, that once having a backyard with citrus, avocado, and bananas was pretty cool, but it’s tough to grow hops.

Saturday, February 16

Michael Ableman, Foxglove Farm and Center for Arts, Ecology and Agriculture
Michael Ableman is founder and executive director emeritus of the Center for Urban Agriculture at Fairview Gardens, a nonprofit organization based on one of the oldest and most diverse organic farms in southern California. Author of On Good Land and Fields of Plenty, he currently farms at Foxglove Farm, home of the Center for Arts, Ecology and Agriculture on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. Michael will help lead the initiative to launch the new Twin Cities Urban Ag Alliance.

Mary Jane Miller
Mary Jane is a home economist, chef, organic gardener, food scientist, cooking teacher, food stylist, recipe developer, food writer, recipe tester, food editor, menu consultant, mom, caterer, wife, good eater, brewer, cheese maker, baker, pickler, church kitchen lady, product developer, copy writer, package instruction writer, tolerance tester, canner, chef wrangler & maven of mmm.

Shannon Carmody, Seed Savers Exchange
Shannon Carmody has been at Seed Savers Exchange since 2009. As the public programs manager, she runs outreach and educational programming, events, tours and SSE’s annual conference and campout. She is also the editor of SSE’s membership publication, The Heritage Farm Companion. After graduating from Beloit College, Shannon worked as a naturalist and environmental educator. Last fall she pressed her first batch of cider from russet apples grown in SSE’s historic orchard.

Steven Read, Shepherd’s Way Farms
Steven Read is co-owner and operator of Shepherd’s Way Farms, a family-based sheep dairy in Nerstrand, Minn., where they produce award-winning artisan sheep milk cheeses, wool products and lamb and pork. Following a 2005 farm fire, Steven sought innovative ways to raise capital to fund rebuilding. As part of that effort, he began one of the nations first cheese CSAs. Later, as an alternative to traditional bank funding, Steven founded Farm Haven LLC to bring together individuals who wanted to invest in local food.

Jan Joannides, Renewing the Countryside, MISA
Jan Joannides is the co-founder and executive director of Renewing the Countryside, an organization that works to strengthen rural communities by building awareness and support for endeavors in sustainable agriculture, tourism and the arts. She is also a senior fellow at the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA), University of Minnesota. For the past year and a half, Jan has been exploring opportunities to better support and finance sustainable farmers and local foods businesses.
Ana Micka, On the Commons
Ana Micka is the co-director of On the Commons (OTC), a national organization focused on catalyzing and amplifying ways to protect and promote our commons. As part of OTC’s farmland and food systems work, Ana has been researching and working to help create broader access to capital for farmers and food businesses, pathways for sustainably oriented investments from middle class and accredited investors. Ana is also an avid canner and author of the *Fresh Girl’s Guide to Easy Canning* guidebook. She lives with her husband and daughter on a small farm in Waverly, Minnesota.

Jerry Hurrle, USDA Farm Service Agency
Jerry Hurrle is the farm loan manager for the Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Waite Park. FSA services the Farm Loan Programs for Stearns, Benton and Sherburne Counties. Jerry has been a farm loan manager with FSA for approximately 18 years and has worked for FSA for nearly 23 years. FSA has many loan programs for farmers, including their recently established microloan program.

Wayne Martin, University of Minnesota Extension
Wayne Martin was raised on a diversified family farm in Iowa. He served in Peace Corps in Ecuador 1984-86, and is still fairly fluent in Spanish. Currently with University of Minnesota Extension, as an alternative livestock systems specialist, Wayne is interested in helping local foods movement expand, and feels that processing regulations is an important issue.

Jane Grimsbo Jewett, MISA
Jane Grimsbo Jewett was raised on a beef cattle farm in northern Minnesota, and currently owns and operates a small-scale diversified livestock farm with meat sales at the Grand Rapids Farmers’ Market. She is the information exchange program associate with Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA), and is also involved with Minnesota Grown program and Minnesota NCR-SARE.

Eve Cohen, Animal Welfare Approved
Eve Cohen developed an interest in food, sustainability, and agriculture at an early age after spending her summers on a Northern California farm. After graduating from Macalester College in St. Paul, she spent over 6 years in marketing and consumer education for organic, natural, and sustainable food companies. Eve now works with Animal Welfare Approved to help increase farmer participation in the program, build consumer awareness of the label, and provide farmers in the Northwest and Central regions with the highest level of service and support.

Brett Olson, Renewing the Countryside
Brett grew up in small rural communities throughout the Midwest. Summers were often spent at the wheel of a windrower on neighbors’ farms. Brett works for Renewing the Countryside, whose mission is to find active strategies for building sustainable rural economies and enhancing the quality of places for the people who live in them.

Brett has presented on sustainable tourism, family farms and local food both locally and nationally. He has worked directly with farmers in designing business strategies and discovering direct markets for their products. As one of the founders of Renewing the Countryside, Brett has been involved in much of the development, planning and organizing since its inception. Brett and his family recently moved on to a former dairy farm in Zumbro Falls, Minnesota.

Brian Schoenborn, Leonard, Street and Deinard’s
Attorney Brian Schoenborn is managing partner of Leonard, Street and Deinard’s St. Cloud, Minnesota, office, where he focuses his practice on family and closely held businesses, including farms. Brian’s experience includes business acquisitions and sales, business succession planning, and estate planning.
Dr. Maggi Adamek, Terra Soma, LLC
Margaret Adamek, founder and principle of Terra Soma Consulting, has two decades of work in sustainable food systems, social movements and systems change, and building effective multicultural collaborations. Her work has included developing new methodologies for analyzing current and potential food sheds; building capacity of local communities to make systems change associated with local food systems; and creating innovative strategies for urban and rural communities to transform their food environments.

Betsy Wieland, University of Minnesota Extension
Betsy Wieland has served as the agriculture extension educator for the University of Minnesota in Hennepin County since September of 2004. She is also co-coordinator for the SARE Program in Minnesota. She has a B.S. in animal science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Masters Degree in applied plant sciences. As a county-based Extension educator, she is knowledgeable about a wide variety of farming operations, from urban vegetable farms, to livestock and row crop farms.

Peter Hemstad, University of Minnesota, St. Croix Vineyards & Winery
A graduate of St. Olaf College and Cornell University, Peter Hemstad has been the grape breeder at the University of Minnesota since 1985 and was largely responsible for the introduction of Frontenac, La Crescent, Frontenac Gris, and Marquette. These exciting new cultivars combine extreme cold hardiness with high wine quality and have revolutionized grape growing in colder areas of North America.

In addition, Peter has been one of the owners and winemakers of Saint Croix Vineyards winery in Stillwater, Minn., since 1992. Saint Croix Vineyards is widely regarded as one of Minnesota’s finest wineries and has won numerous awards in national and international wine competitions. Peter also counsels numerous other cold-climate vineyards.

Aric Koenen, Hinterland Vineyard & Winery
Aric is one of the sons of Ron and Karin Koenen, who founded Hinterland Vineyard in Clara City, Minn. – the first winery in Chippewa County. In 2004 they began planting cold-climate grape varieties developed by the University of Minnesota or other growers; the Koenens now have 9 acres planted. With a 2000-acre farm, they are more constrained by soil conditions and the Minnesota prairie's wind and wide temperature swings than by a lack of land. The vines at Hinterland are on VSP trellising, which keeps the vines from breaking better than other trellis systems. Aric now works full-time on the farm, helping with the vineyard, winery and other farm projects, while his brother, Ethan is still in college.

Emily Tepe, University of Minnesota
Author, blogger and edible landscaper Emily Tepe makes her living as a research associate in the U of M’s Department of Horticultural Science. Since 2007 she has been doing field research on strawberries, raspberries, apples and is now happily engrossed in plums, cherries and apricots. (Yes, these do grow in Minnesota!)

In 2009, the Horticulture Department provided a large and very visible plot of ground on the St. Paul campus for Emily to try her hand at edible landscaping. She designed the garden, which she maintained for a couple of years, but now lets that task fall to enthusiastic horticulture students. Currently, Emily makes presentations about edible landscaping to Twin Cities area garden clubs, master gardener groups, landscaping organizations, and even had the chance (dream come true!) to speak on the topic at the Minnesota State Fair.

Chris Kudrna, Plum Creek Garlic
Chris and his wife, Joanne, own and operate Plum Creek Garlic on a small farm in Fairhaven Township south of St. Cloud. In addition to his garlic fields and a large kitchen garden, 16 acres of the farm are planted in prairie as part of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Formerly an executive with American Express, Chris started his own consulting business almost 20 years ago. Chris is also active with nonprofit organizations, including The
Sustainable Farming Association at the state and chapter level. He is treasurer of Renewing the Countryside and vice president of the Tri-County Humane Society.

**Dr. Dimitre Mollov, University of Minnesota**

Dimitre Mollov is a senior scientist at the Department of Plant Pathology, University of Minnesota, and the director of the Plant Disease Clinic. Dimitre holds degrees from U of M departments of Horticultural Science and Plant Pathology. In his role as head diagnostian at the Plant Disease Clinic, Dimitre has worked with several hundred plant species and their associated health problems. In the last couple of years he has identified three garlic-health problems that are new to the state of Minnesota. His research interests are identifying, characterizing and developing diagnostic protocols to new and emerging plant pathogens.

**Michelle Grabowski, University of Minnesota Extension**

Michelle Grabowski received an M.S. in plant pathology from North Carolina State University and a B.S. in botany and plant pathology Michigan State University.

Michelle has been working as an Extension Educator with the University of Minnesota Extension since 2006. Her work focuses on common diseases of horticultural crops in Minnesota. She works with home gardeners, commercial fruit and vegetable growers, lawn and landscape professionals, arborists, and other members of the green industry. Michelle shares information through online publications, hands-on workshops, classes, and other educational programs. She focuses on identification and management of current and emerging plant disease problems.

**Dr. Carl Rosen, University of Minnesota**

Carl Rosen has a B.S. and an M.S. in horticulture from Penn State University and a Ph.D. in soil science from the University of California at Davis. Since 1983, he has held a joint appointment at the University of Minnesota in the Departments of Soil, Water and Climate and Horticultural Science as an Extension soil scientist. He was appointed head of the Department of Soil, Water, and Climate in June 2010.

Dr. Rosen's research involves improving nutrient management for crop production in Minnesota, with specific emphasis on fruits and vegetables. He has worked extensively on irrigated potato production to develop diagnostic criteria for assessing nitrogen needs through the growing season. He was also one of the first to conduct research on garlic in the state and is the primary author of the web-based bulletin: Growing Garlic in Minnesota.

**Brandon Wiarda, Sleepy Root Farm**

Brandon Wiarda started Sleepy Root Farm in 2011, renting land for two seasons. One of the challenges he confronted was finding temporary rural housing during the summers, then securing temporary winter housing and work in the Twin Cities to make his start-up operation viable. He is currently in the process of acquiring land in partnership with a Twin Cities restaurant for a permanent home for Sleepy Root Farm.

**Josh Reinitz, Farmer**

Josh Reinitz farms with his wife Sally and their three children near Henderson, Minn. They grow 5 acres of certified organic produce for a 50-member CSA, a food coop, and restaurants. They also raise chickens and cattle and make maple syrup. Josh and Sally homesteaded and began their farm business on the remnants of his family’s dairy farm, and they have worked hard to preserve a strong family farming tradition, as well as the native ecology of their Minnesota River bluff terrain. They have faced many challenges farming with small children and have worked hard to find the right scale and balance to fit their family lifestyle.

**Nick and Amelia Neation, Sweet Beet Farm**

Sweet Beet Farm is a diverse vegetable CSA in Watertown, Minn. Owners Nick and Amelia Neaton are entering their fourth year of CSA farming, and are planning for 60 members in 2013. Nick and Amelia are renting land on Nick’s parents’ farm, and they are the fourth generation of Neatons farming on that site. Some challenges
they have faced in farming include: capital investments – knowing what to buy and when; time management – balancing off-farm income with on-farm time; and issues concerning transitioning the family farm – working with family towards a common vision.

For the Sustainable Farming Association

John Mesko, Executive Director
The Sustainable Farming Association’s Farmer-to-Farmer Network™ is designed to enhance and promote sustainable agriculture. In his role as executive director, John develops local food networks, helps beginning farmers succeed, and expands the capacity of farmer networks. He and his family also own and operate Light-house Farm, producing grass-fed beef and pastured pork.

Jerry Ford, Events Coordinator
Jerry Ford and his wife, Mariénne Kreitlow, operate Living Song Farm on land that has been in her family for four generations. The entire farm is a model of soil and water conservation practices, and Living Song is currently transitioning 70 of the 288 acres to certified organic. Garlic and other root vegetables, rotational grazing, and hay are part of this diversified operation.

Jason Walker, Communications Coordinator
After a decade in the newspaper business, Jason joined SFA in summer 2011 and handles social media, newsletters, website and member management for the organization. He works with the Farm Transitions project in several aspects of communications and outreach. Jason is also a staff writer for the Heavy Table and he contributes to Growler magazine. He lives with his family in Minneapolis where he likes to can, build things in his shop, and attempt to play and sing classic country songs.

For the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Dr. Edward Schneider, Director
Ed Schneider is the director of the Arboretum and also serves as a professor in the Department of Horticultural Science at the University of Minnesota. Dr. Schneider became director in summer 2010 following his previous position as president and CEO of the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden in Santa Barbara, Calif. He also served as an adjunct professor at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Prior to that, Schneider held faculty appointments at Texas State University, including as dean of the College of Science for more than eight years.

Tim Kenny, Director, Education Department
Tim Kenny has a background in the horticulture industry and extensive experience as an educator of all ages, from early elementary through adult learners, and in a wide range of settings, including public schools, urban neighborhood gardens, and at the Arboretum, where he and a staff of educators work to connect people with plants through real-life, hands-on learning experiences. Tim holds a B.S. in horticulture, an M.S. in education, and an M.P.A. from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.