**Brenda Cassellius**

Dr. Brenda Cassellius was appointed Minnesota’s Education Commissioner in January 2011. A lifelong educator with experiences as a teacher, principal and superintendent, Commissioner Cassellius’ priority is to improve education outcomes for all students. Working closely with Governor Dayton on the 7-point plan, “Better Schools for a Better Minnesota,” under her leadership the agency is focused on excellence, equity and opportunity; closing Minnesota’s achievement gap; supporting high-quality teaching; and using innovative strategies to improve results.

**Beverly Durgan**

Beverly Durgan, Ph.D., Dean of University of Minnesota Extension, is a weed scientist who researches weed management systems in small grains. She earned her doctorate at the University of North Dakota and has been at the University of Minnesota since 1985.

**John Fisher**

John Fisher, outreach director for Life Lab, has been with the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Systems (CASFS) at the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) since 1998. As outreach coordinator at the CASFS, he created a summer camp program and expanded fieldtrips. In 2000 John came to Life Lab, where he built and maintained the Garden Classroom and developed programming for children and UCSC interns. Currently John is focused on sharing the innovative work of Life Lab through communications, educator professional development, and networking across the state and nation and continues to work with UCSC-CASFS on Farm to School networking and promotion.

**David Frederickson**

Governor Mark Dayton appointed Dave Frederickson Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in January 2011. Frederickson’s family roots in farming go back to 1873, and he and his wife, Kay, operated a farm in Murdock for more than 20 years. Frederickson was elected to the Minnesota State Senate in 1986 and reelected in 1990. From 1991 to 2002, Frederickson served as president of the Minnesota Farmers Union (MFU). He subsequently served as president of the National Farmers Union (NFU) from 2002 to 2006. In both organizations, he worked on federal farm policy and other issues important to farmers and ranchers. From 2007 to 2010, Frederickson worked as agricultural outreach director for U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar. In that capacity, he helped lead listening sessions around the state and talked frequently with Minnesota farmers, ranchers and rural residents about the federal issues that mattered most to them.

**Immanuel Jones**

Immanuel Jones will be a sophomore this fall at Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC), where he is studying business management and liberal arts with a focus on biology and plant life. He has served as the director of sustainability for the MCTC campus, as well as chair of various committees for local boards. As a high school junior, Immanuel founded and operated a 501(c) 3 called Eco-City Minnesota. This venture fed over 100 individuals in its first year and made the gardening tour, partnering with several colleges and local/international business. Immanuel plans to major in agricultural and food business management at the University of Minnesota’s College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.

**Mary H. Meyer**

Dr. Meyer joined the University of Minnesota’s Horticultural Science faculty in 1993 and has primarily an Extension/outreach and research appointment. Her research interests include native and ornamental grasses and sedges, especially Miscanthus, Schizachyrium, Pennisetum and Carex pensylvanica. She has studied propagation and production of grasses, cold hardiness, and low-maintenance sustainable landscaping. In 2007, she released Blue Heaven, a patented little bluestem (Schizachyrium). She also conducts research on alternative low-maintenance turfgrasses. She has studied Miscanthus and where it has escaped in the United States, especially in National Parks, and authored the website Miscanthus: Ornamental and Invasive Grass. She is the author of Ornamental Grasses for Cold Climates.