

19TH ANNUAL

emerging FARMERS

CONFERENCE

IMPACT REPORT

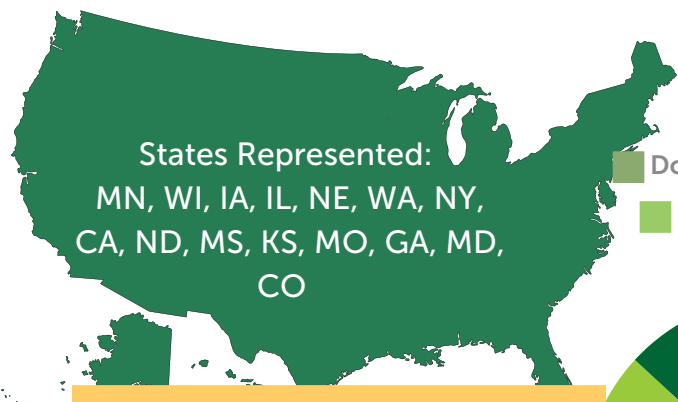
NOVEMBER
1ST & 2ND, 2024

MCNAMARA ALUMNI
CENTER,
MINNEAPOLIS

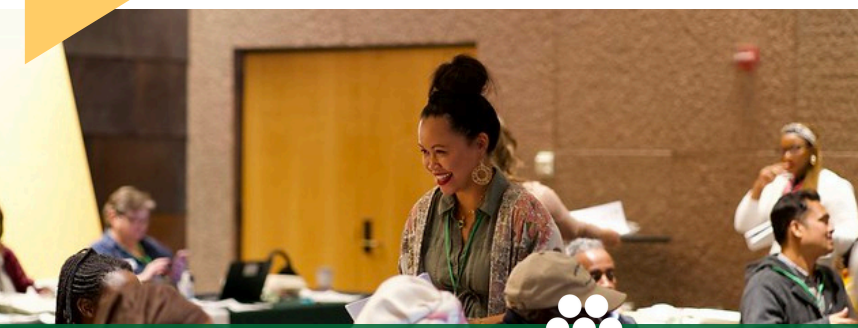
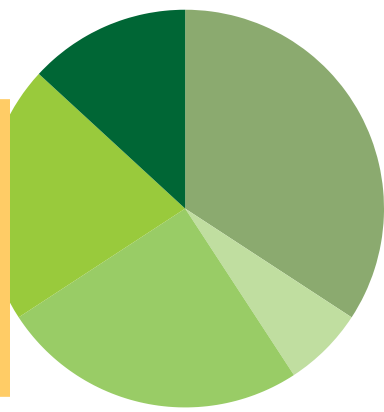
ROOTED RESILIENCE: CULTIVATING STRENGTH THROUGH DIVERSITY

Who came?

- Farmers came from 15 states and 41 Minnesota counties
- 64 farmers received scholarships for registration
- 29 farmers received travel stipends
- Half of farmers said it was their first time attending
- 66% do not own the land they farm
- 90% produce primarily specialty crops, i.e. fruits & vegetables



7 languages were interpreted:
Burmese, Burmese chin, Hmong,
Karen, Spanish, Swahili, & Kirundi;
in addition, a total of 22 languages
were spoken at the conference as
self-identified by attendees



250 Farmers + 24 Interpreters + 146 Service Providers /
Community Members = 420 Attendees

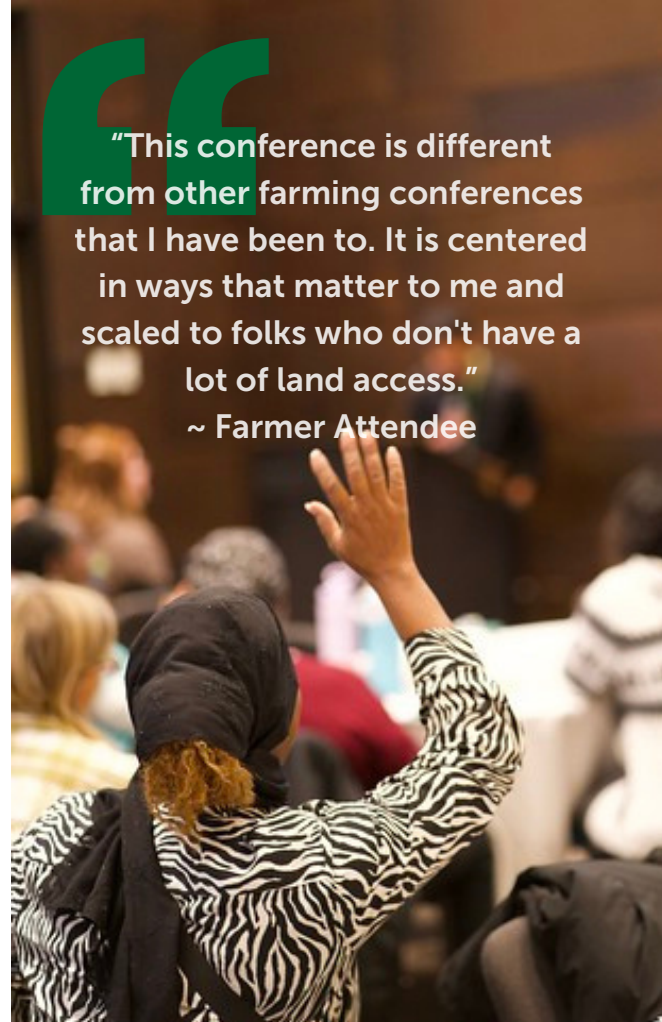


What were the highlights?

- **More Farmer Voice** - we increased the diversity of farmers who informed conference decisions by hosting a large focus group after our call for proposals. 30 farmers participated, including immigrant, first-gen, African, Southeast Asian, Native American, African American, Latine/x, and white farmers.
- **Intensive Friday Night Workshops** - longer sessions allowed farmers to take a hands-on deep dive into topics like climate, soil, policy, and finance.
- **Standing Room Only** - top attended workshops included "Small Farm Tools" and "Seed Sourcing for a Resilient Food System," each with over 85 attendees.
- **Wellness Room** - this room featured massage, meditation, mental health consultations, and more. As one farmer put it, "it's something I didn't realize was missing from other conferences!"

"This conference is different from other farming conferences that I have been to. It is centered in ways that matter to me and scaled to folks who don't have a lot of land access."

~ Farmer Attendee



 Of farmers surveyed, 100% learned something new, 88% will use what they learned, and 78% met someone new. Overall, farmers gave the conference a rating of 4.4 out of 5.



"It is an amazing opportunity to be able to meet other emerging farmers, build connections, and get access to resources." ~ Farmer Attendee



More highlights!

- **Seed Exchange** - MN SEEDS hosted this space and sourced seeds from companies owned by small businesses and farmers of color. One farmer from Buffalo, NY, contributed a unique type of eggplant seed to share. His dream is to someday see this culturally connected crop in stores so his community can access it and others can learn about it.
- **The Soil & The Story** - Tiffany LaShae, EFC Keynote in 2021, shared her research project on the soils of African American farmers in the southern US and how it ties back to history.
- **Keynote** - Erika Allen, founder of Urban Growers Collective in Chicago, spoke about addressing social and racial inequities in the environment and economy through multi-generational urban farming, inspiring us to change how we think about how to tackle climate change and systemic inequities for a sustainable future.
- **Voter Registration** - taking place days before the election, this year's conference featured its first voter registration and support table, co-hosted by Midwest Farmers of Color Collective, Land Stewardship Project, and The Food Group.
- **Other highlights** included culturally connected meals, prayer room, mother baby room, exhibit hall, resource room, and more.

2025 will mark the 20th year of the Emerging Farmers Conference! Save the date for November 7-8, 2025 in Brooklyn Park, MN. Stay tuned for more updates!



Thank You!

This event is made possible each year by the work and dedication of an extensive network of farmers, sponsors, committee members, and partners. Thank you for your commitment to emerging farmers!



Credit Kriss Marion for report photos