



Meeting Minutes, Friday, August 11, 2023 – Virtual TEAMS Meeting. 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Emerging Farmers' Working Group

Open, Call to Order

Attending Members: Shelly Woods, Hannah Bernhardt, Ben Dossman, Kyle Huneke, Kelsey Zaavedra, Nikki Crowe, Alexandra Diemer, Caliton Ntahompagaze, Jane Windsperger, Celeste Verhelst, Murugi Mutiga, Michael Birchard, Tamara Mansun, Lillian Otieno EFO Coordinator. Absent: Patrice Bailey, Ian Oundo, Lisa Schutz, Ngozi Akubuike

Welcome

Assistant Commissioner and EFWG Chair, Patrice Bailey

From the Commissioner's Office

Commissioner Thom Petersen, Deputy Commissioner Andrea Vaubel and Director of Government Affairs, Michelle Medina ask for this community to provide their input at the open portal prior to the start of the next legislative session (2/12/24). The MDA has an online [form](#) available for written submissions through September 1, 2023.

PORTAL [2024 Legislative Ideas | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Emerging Farmer Office Updates

Emerging Farmer Working Group Application is live. Apply by Sept. 23rd. [Emerging Farmers Working Group Application | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](#). Eight new members will be selected with orientation (virtual meetings) held in October. The schedule for this new co-hort will be: Nov. 10, 2023, Jan. 12, Mar 8, May 10, June 14 and Aug. 9 2024.

Business Development, Loans and Grants: [View all Funding | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](#)
Stay informed on available / open application dates. For information, contact jenny.heck@state.mn.us

Larry VanLieshout with the MDA FieldWatch program presented on herbicide and pesticide drift and how to improve communication between producers and applicators. Learn more at: [FieldWatch | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](#) larry.vanlieshout@state.mn.us

Tribal Relations Update

Shannon.kesner@state.mn.us (MDA) Tribal Liaison & Outreach Coordinator is a band member of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Shannon is working on offering a condensed version of Tribal Training to the emerging farmer working group members. The following link is the full training offered to MN State Agency staff. More information to come as this process develops. [Tribes and Training TSRT Home - MnDOT \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Announcements

Are you a farmer looking to sell to schools? [Farm to School Grants | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](#). Contact kate.seybold@state.mn.us

Lillian Otieno has been in conversation with the MN Zoo on transitioning livestock animals to emerging farmers. If you are interested, contact Lillian.otieno@state.mn.us

State Fair Booth Sign up:

[Emerging Farmers Office: 2023 Emerging Farmers at the Minnesota State Fair \(signupgenius.com\)](https://signupgenius.com)

[Farm to School and Early Care Grants | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us)

[AGRI Livestock Investment Grant | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us)

[AGRI Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Processing Grant | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us)

[Soil Health Financial Assistance Program Grants | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us)

<https://www.sare.org/grants>

Midwest Climate Resilience Conference, Oct. 25-27 in Duluth. Learn more [here](#)

[2023 Conference | Native American Nutrition \(umn.edu\)](https://umn.edu)

Michael's phone 612 963 3556

[Application for Greener Pastures 2023-2024 Farm Feature Program \(google.com\)](https://google.com)

Quick announcement for free media/marketing... by Alexandra Diemer Alexandra: an opportunity to apply to through Greener Pastures' Farm Feature Program

[Regulation of Native Produced Agricultural Products Under the Indian Arts and Crafts Act | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us)

Lillian toured farms on 8/10. Urban Roots- Urban Gardens, Kilimo and HAFA Farm. [Home - Sharing Our Roots \(sharing-our-roots.org\)](https://sharing-our-roots.org)

Public Comment. None

Adjourn meeting 3:00 pm

Next public EFWG Meeting is Oct. 13, 2023, at 1:00 pm. Look for the TEAMS link on our web page: [Emerging Farmers Working Group | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](https://state.mn.us)

Email: MDA.Emerging.Farmers@state.mn.us | Call the Emerging Farmer Line # 651-201-6200