

## 2025 FARMFEST FORUMS

Located in the Wick Buildings Farmfest Center

### Tuesday, August 5

**8:30 a.m. Hellmuth and Johnson LLP**

**9:30 a.m. How Artificial Intelligence is Reshaping Agriculture**

Moderator: Zach Johnson, “The Millennial Farmer”

Panel Members:

- Ken O’Brien, Agronomy Innovation Leader, Corteva
- Don Scriber, TerraClear

**10:30 a.m. Developing a Reliable Ag Policy Safety Net**

Moderator: Mark Dorenkamp, Brownfield Ag News Anchor/Reporter

Panel Members:

- Rep. Angie Craig, U.S. House Agriculture Comm. Ranking Member
- Rep. Brad Finstad, U.S. House Agriculture Committee
- Rep. Michelle Fischbach, U.S. House Ways & Means Committee
- Rep. Pete Stauber, U.S. House, MN 8<sup>th</sup> District

**12:00 p.m. Linder Farm Network Noon Show**

**1:15 p.m. Building a Sustainable Future for Midwest Agriculture**

Moderator: Jerry Groskruetz, Farm Director, KDHL Radio

Panel Members:

- Senator Amy Klobuchar, U.S. Senate Agriculture Com. Ranking Member
- Thom Peterson, MN Commissioner of Agriculture
- Charlotte Lollar, Director of Sustainable Aviation Fuel, Delta Airlines
- Julia Silvis, Vice President, MN Sustainable Aviation Fuel Hub
- Dan Glessing, MN Farm Bureau President
- Gary Wertish, MN Farmers Union President

**2:30 p.m. (Open Slot)**

**Wednesday, August 6**

**9:15 a.m. Ag Outlook Forum**

Moderator: Kent Thiesse, Farmfest Educational Forum Coordinator

Welcome --- Dan Glessing, MN Farm Bureau President

Panel Members:

- Kurt Blomgren, Minnesota Farm Service Agency Director
- Brian Werner, Executive Director, MN Biofuels
- Mark Schutlz, North Star Commodities
- Dave Nicolai, University of Minnesota Extension Crops Educator

**10:30 a.m. Beyond the Trade Deficit: Rethinking Trade Balance & Opportunities**

Moderator: Don Wick, President & Farm Director, Red River Farm Network

Panel Members:

- Melissa Bekkering, USDA Deputy Under Secretary (Invited)
- Jorge Cicero, Deputy Consul of Mexico in St. Paul
- Randy Spronk, Immediate Past Chair of the U.S. Meat Export Federation
- Chad Willis, Past Chair, U.S. Grains Council
- Darin Johnson, President, MN Soybean Growers Assn.

**12:00 p.m. Linder Farm Network Noon Show**

**1:15 p.m. The Future Outlook of Minnesota's Agricultural Higher Education & Workforce**

Moderator: Blois Olson, WCCO Radio Political Analyst

Panel Members:

- Dr. Hara Charlier, President of Central Lakes College
- Mary Holz-Clause, Chancellor, University of Minnesota Crookston
- Brian Buhr, Dean of the U of M College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Science
- Bev Durgan, Dean of U of M Extension
- Keith Olander, Executive Director of Ag Centric

**2:30 p.m. Governor's Task Force on Broadband, August Meeting**

**Thursday, August 7**

**8:00 a.m. University of Minnesota Manure Applicator Certification Program**

**10:45 a.m. Women in Ag Event and Women Farmer of the Year Award**

**12:00 p.m. Linder Farm Network Noon Show**

**1:15 p.m. University of Minnesota "Farm Family Recognition Program"**

## 2025 LIVESTOCK TENT PROGRAMS

Located in the Farmfest Livestock Tent

### Tuesday, August 5

**11:15 a.m. Strategies to Navigate New World Screwworm and Other Pandemic Livestock Disease Outbreaks**

Moderator: Kelly Schmidt, Minnesota Beef Council

Presenters:

- Thom Peterson, MN Commissioner of Agriculture
- Brian Hoefs, State Veterinarian, MN Board of Animal Health
- Bernt Nelson, American Farm Bureau Federation Economist

### Wednesday, August 6

**11:15 a.m. In the Red or In the Black: Managing Risks and Finding Profit in the Cattle & Hog Markets**

Moderator: Kelly Schmidt, Minnesota Beef Council

Presenters:

- Mark Schultz, North Star Commodities
- Kali Flower, Hurley & Associates
- Bernt Nelson, American Farm Bureau Federation Economist

### Thursday, August 7

**10:00 a.m. Beef Quality Assurance Training and Certification**

Presenter: Kaitlyn Root, BQA Coordinator, Minnesota Beef Council

Sign up at [MNSCA.org](https://MNSCA.org)