



2025 WOMEN'S AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

ROOTED IN AGRICULTURE

Cultivating Leadership • Growing Together



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE | WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum | 3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska, MN

7:45-8:30AM

Registration and Networking

8:35AM

Welcome: Allison Deplazes, Minnesota 4-H Agriculture Ambassador and Cora Martensen, Minnesota 4-H State Ambassador

Emcee: Sarah Dornink, Executive Director, Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council (MAELC)

8:45AM

General Session: *Leading and Learning at Every Stage*

Jamie Dreher, Vice President, Business Banking Underwriting Manager, Agriculture Originations, U.S. Bank

Ashley Hagenow, 76th Alice in Dairyland, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Barb Liebenstein, Co-Owner, Wolf Creek Cattle and Farm

Friendly Vang-Johnson, Director of Government Affairs, Minnesota Farmers' Market Association

10:15AM

Break and Networking

10:45AM

Breakout Session I

12:00PM

Luncheon Program

Greeting: Doris Mold, Conference Co-Founder

Remarks: Andrea Vaubel, Deputy Commissioner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Outstanding Agricultural Mentor Award: Emily Krekelberg, WALC Mentoring Committee Chair

Networking Bingo

1:45PM

Break and Networking

2:00PM

Breakout Session II

3:15PM

Mini Sessions: Roundtables on different topics

Learn about a variety of industry issues, new ideas, and other trends by taking part in up to three 14-minute mini-sessions. Multiple sessions occur simultaneously, creating substantial energy.

4:00PM

Closing and Prizes: Join us for a quick wrap up and prizes

4:30PM

Continue the Conversation: Join us for post-conference networking to continue conversations, exchange ideas, and build meaningful connections.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

From Vision to Reality: Supporting Your Change Journey

Monica McConkey, Rural Behavioral Health Counselor & Consultant,
Eyes on the Horizon Consulting

Agritourism: Keeping Your Visitors, Your Animals, and Your Assets Safe

Carrie Klumb, Senior Epidemiologist, Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and
Health Center (UMASH), Minnesota Department of Health

Medicine Soup: Edible and Medicinal Plants for Every Day

Linda Black Elk, Director of Education, North American Traditional
Indigenous Food Systems (NATIFS)

Relationship Building across Agriculture: A Conversation Panel

Moderator: **Jamie Dreher**, Vice President, Business Banking Underwriting
Manager, Agriculture Originations, U.S. Bank

Panelists:

Ann Knudtson, Sr. Credit Manager, U.S. Bank

Shelby Noirfalise, Agricultural Credit Analyst V, U.S. Bank

Jenna Dewitt, Agricultural Credit Portfolio Manager, U.S. Bank

Risk Busters: Uncovering the Hidden Threats to Future-Proof Your Business

Kathleen Roberts, Senior Vice President, CoBank

From Farm to Front Page: Personal Branding for Women in Agriculture

Sara Hewitt, Accounts Supervisor, Ten Acre Marketing

On Farm Resilience: Responding to Changing and Extreme Weather Patterns

Katie Black, Extension Educator, University of Minnesota

The Latest on the Legislature: Agricultural Policy Updates

Amanda Bilek, Senior Public Policy Director, Minnesota Corn Growers Association

Julie Tesch, President & CEO, Center for Rural Policy and Development

Staci Martin, Director of Government Relations, AgriBank

Forever Green Initiative: Creating Market Opportunities for Continuous Living Cover Crops

Katharine Chute, Product and Market Development Specialist, University
of Minnesota Forever Green Initiative

Minnesota Demographic Trends

Dr. Jeff Howison, Senior Research Analyst, Minnesota State Demographic Center

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**A big thank you to our
speakers, volunteers, and
host, Farm at the Arb.**

OPTIONAL PRE-CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES | TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025

The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum | 3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska, MN

Limited to 30 registrations per training

The Women's Agricultural Leadership Program is committed to promoting stress reduction and mental wellness in the agricultural community. Please join us for these valuable pre-conference training opportunities.

9-9:30AM

Registration/Check-in

9:30-11:30AM

COMET Training

Emily Krekelberg, Extension Educator, Farm Safety & Health; University of Minnesota Extension
Meg Moynihan, Senior Advisor; Minnesota Department of Agriculture

COMET (Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory) is a two-hour interactive training that teaches participants how to reach out in a meaningful, respectful, and supportive way to friends, co-workers or acquaintances who seem to be struggling somewhere between wellness and a mental health crisis. While designed for rural and farming communities, it can also be used in urban and suburban settings.

Often, we want to support our friends, neighbors and colleagues in times of need but may not know how. **COMET** empowers us to be more prepared to support others' mental health needs — especially before a crisis. This training doesn't expect community members to "fix it," but instead trains people to feel comfortable initiating a supportive and potentially emotional conversation by using a simple seven-question guide.

The question guide was developed using evidence-based techniques and provides training on:

- An easy way to start a conversation
- How to exit the conversation in a supportive way
- Resources to share with others if they need more than a listening ear

This training is offered through a partnership of the University of Minnesota Extension, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

11:30-12:30PM

Lunch break: Lunch on your own, head to the Rootstock Cafe or enjoy the Arboretum grounds

12:30-1PM

Registration/Check-in

1-5PM

safeTALK Training

Monica McConkey, Rural Mental Health Specialist; Eyes on the Horizon Consulting

Doris Mold, President, Sunrise Agricultural Associates, LLC

safeTALK is a four-hour training that equips people to be more alert to someone thinking of suicide and better able to connect them with further help. Using a simple, yet effective model, LivingWorks **safeTALK** empowers everyone to make a difference. With over 120,000 people attending each year, it's the world's fastest-growing suicide prevention skills training course.

In **safeTALK** you will learn how to reach out to someone thinking about suicide and help them keep safe by promptly connecting them to further support. Your role as a connector is the main focus of this training, which features:

- Trainer presentations, facilitated discussion, and skills practice
- Videos that illustrate what happens when signs of suicide are overlooked, and how you can contribute to safe outcomes when these signs are heard and addressed
- Opportunities to further explore organizational applications of the training
- A community resource person on hand to support your safety and comfort

This training is offered through a partnership of the Farmer Veteran Coalition, the Farmer Veteran Coalition of Minnesota, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

CONFERENCE PRICING

Early-bird conference rate: **\$85**

Student conference rate: **\$50**

Conference registration received after March 28 will increase by **\$25**

Pre-Session Training opportunities on Tuesday, April 8

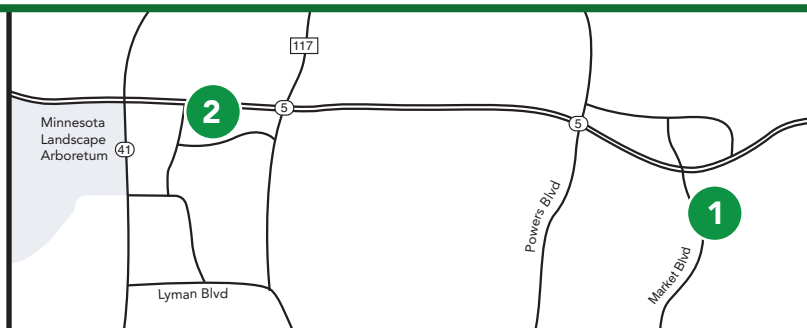
COMET morning training: **\$15**

safeTALK afternoon training: **\$15**

LODGING INFORMATION

1 AmericInn by Wyndham Chanhassen
570 Pond Promenade, Chanhassen, MN 55317
612.293.6930

2 Holiday Inn Express & Suites
7855 Century Blvd, Chanhassen, MN 55317
952.401.8850 (Ask for Arboretum event rate)



REGISTER ONLINE

Register Online

Payments made through Eventbrite
www.womensagleadership.org

Questions?

Call:
612.414.7574

Or email:
doris@sunriseag.net

Conference registration includes meals, conference materials, and Arboretum entrance (regularly \$20). Cancellations received by March 28 are refundable. Cancellations received after March 28 aren't refundable, but registration can be transferred to a different attendee.

LIMITED SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE, PLEASE COMPLETE [THIS SCHOLARSHIP FORM](#) BY MARCH 28.

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