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FORMAL EDUCATION AND OTHER TRAINING

Dakota County Technical College: Small Business Training and Accounting. 1978-1979
Inver Hills Community College: Courses in Geography and Biology. 1975
Lee's Barber School: State Licensed Master Barber and Vocational-Education Barber Instructor. 1968
Rosemount High School, Rosemount, MN. 1963-1967

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2005-present Organic Farming Works LLC. Co-owner. Organic farming related consulting and education.
1980-present Martin Motor Sales and Service. Owner. Locate, repair, and service small and mid-size vegetable equipment and tractors. Consulting on farm equipment planning and purchases.
1973-2008 Gardens of Eagan. Co-owner/operator. An urban-edge, 120-acre diversified, production-oriented, vegetable farm, certified organic since 1973, serving the Twin Cities area.
1978-1982 Brooks Barber School and Minneapolis Barber School. Vocational Education Barber Instructor.
1968-1988 Barber in Twin Cities metro shops and owned/operated barbershop in Glacier Park, MT.
1976-1980 Organic Certification Inspector with Organic Growers and Buyers Association.
1962-1967 Worked for local vegetable growers, planting, weeding, harvesting, and selling at markets.

AGRICULTURALLY RELATED LIFE EXPERIENCE

1959-1965 Grew and marketed garden produce at home in the community of Eagan MN, and participated in 4-H projects for vegetable production and market sales.

NON-PROFIT BOARDS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

1974-1990 Organic Growers and Buyers Association, served as chair, and head of certification committee. Served on the participatory group that wrote the standards used by OGBA and worked with the state of MN to develop and pass a state organic law in 1985.
1963-65 Dakota County Merry Workers 4-H Club, 4-H president.

ORGANIC FARMING ADVOCACY

2006-2007 Successfully waged a legal and public relations campaign that reached agreement with the Minnesota Pipeline company, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on implementation of a first-of-its-kind, "Organic Appendix for the Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan." Since the implementation of the Organic Appendix to the AIMP in the MinnCan case, organic mitigation has been applied to other projects in Minnesota, including the Enbridge Pipeline, the Northern Natural Gas Pipeline, and the Cap-X transmission line, and other jurisdictions in the U.S. have begun to require that agricultural impact mitigation plans provide protection to organic agriculture.

EDUCATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

1975-present Frequent speaker at sustainable agriculture conferences and through non-profits and universities.
2007-2012 MOSES Organic University. Member of 2-person team developing and presenting "Fresh Market Vegetable Machinery and Equipment," an all-day short course.
1999 "Organic Adventures." Collaboration with the Organic Alliance in production of an educational video about the benefits of organic farming for use in 4th Grade Classrooms.

1990 “Turn Here Sweet Corn.” Collaboration with filmmaker Helen De Michael in the production of a documentary addressing the rural-suburban interface and the loss of agricultural land.

IMMIGRANT SUPPORT

1980-present Supports immigrant Hmong farmers through identification and sourcing of equipment needs, parts, repairs, seeds, land, government resources, and other agricultural information.

BEGINNING FARMER TRAINING

2008-present MOSES Organic Farmer Mentoring Project: Mentor of beginning farmers.

1970s-2008 Developed and implemented 1) The Farm Internship Program at Gardens of Eagan: A hands-on training program for beginning farmers and 2) The Gardens of Eagan Incubator Program: providing land, equipment, training, and mentoring to beginning farmers, who acquire experience and develop markets within the safety net of Gardens of Eagan.

WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES (SELECTED LIST)

Advanced Weed Management

Field Equipment for Vegetable Production

Sourcing Equipment: What You Really Need and How to Locate and Purchase It.

Tillage Innovations

Organic Certification for Retailers: Challenges and Opportunities

Soil Basics: Soil Building and Rotations

Farmers in the Spotlight: Gardens of Eagan

Sweet Corn: Plan, Plant, Grow, and Market

Relationship Marketing: Tell your Farm's Story

Organic Food and Farming: 101

Market Strategies That Works for You

Participatory Seed Breeding: Adapting Seed Varieties to Your Farming System

PRESENTED AT: (SELECTED LIST)

Farm Beginnings Program, Land Stewardship

MOSES Organic Farming Conference

Farmer to Farmer, Saratoga New York

Minnesota Organic Farming Conference

Eco Farm, Assilimar California

Montana Organic Association Conference

Southern Sustainable Agriculture, New Orleans,

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

2008 Successful Farmer of the Year – EcoFarm (California)

2008 Lawsuit of the Year: (Minnesota Law and Politics)

2007 Cooperate for Community Award (National Cooperative Grocer Association Award)

2004 Organic Farmer of the Year (Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Services)

2004 New Initiative Farmer of the Year (Dakota County award)