

## **ATINA DIFFLEY**

### **ORGANIC FARMING WORKS LLC**

25498 Highview Ave. Farmington, MN 55024

[www.organicfarmingworks.com](http://www.organicfarmingworks.com)

[atina@organicfarmingworks.com](mailto:atina@organicfarmingworks.com)

Phone: 952-469-1855

Cell: 651-454-6188

Fax: 952-469-2504

### FORMAL EDUCATION AND OTHER TRAINING

Minnesota Agricultural Rural Leadership Training Program, (MARL) 2008-2010

Milwaukee Conservatory of Music, 1979

Hartford Union High School, Hartford, WI. 1977

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2005-present Organic Farming Works LLC. Co-owner. Organic farming related consulting and education.

1985-2008 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.

1980-1982 Stevens Point Food Cooperative (WI), Produce Manager

1978-1980 Migrant Farm Worker in Wisconsin and Florida

### NON-PROFIT BOARDS AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEES

2011-present Institute for Local Organic Food Systems Education, Founding Secretary

2010-present Organic Seed Alliance, Vice President

2009-present Minnesota Institute of Sustainable Agriculture, Secretary/Treasurer

2008-present Organic Field School at Gardens of Eagan, Founding President, presently Secretary.

2007-present Midwest Organic and Sustainable Education Services, (MOSES), Vice-President

2009 Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant Panel, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

2008-2009 Citizens Energy Task Force, Vice-Chair and Co-founder, a group of concerned citizens, working within the legal process, for a sustainable energy future.

2006-2007 Eureka Township Strategic Visioning Citizen Advisory Committee, committee member

### PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED LIST)

2012 "Turn Here Sweet Corn: Organic Farming Works. Memoir - University of Minnesota Press.

2008 "Post-Harvest Handling and Packing Manual: Wholesale Success". Contributing author of a post-harvest manual and educator in a national training program.

2005-present Gardens of Eagan blog. A live journal about organic farming.

2009 "Organic Research Funding Gains in the 2008 Farm Bill: Moving Closer to a 'Fair Share.'" The Mix, Twin Cities Natural Foods Co-ops Newsletter, July/August 2009

2008 "The Price of a Good Nights Sleep: Why AGRI-Lite insurance is in the Gardens of Eagan farm budget. Organic Broadcaster Jan/Feb 2008

2007 "Soil Health and Bio-Diversity in Practice: Harnessing Biology, Ecology, and Resiliency on the Farm." Organic Broadcaster. March/April 2007

### 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

- 1995-present Frequent speaker at sustainable ag conferences and through non-profits and universities.  
2012 Wholesale Marketing Success and Post Harvest Handling National Trainings with Sustain.  
2011 Food Safety/GAP Training, collaboration with Iowa State Extension and the Leopold Center.  
2009-2010 "Post-Harvest Handling and Food Safety". with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture  
2007-2012 MOSES Organic University. Member of 3-person team developing and presenting "Introduction to Organic Food and Farming," 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.

## BEGINNING FARMER TRAINING

- 2007-present Land Stewardship Beginning Farmer Program, decision-making, soil fertility, biological diversity, greenhouse management, post harvest handling, food safety and post harvest.  
2008-present MOSES Organic Farmer Mentoring Project: mentoring beginning farmer.  
1970s-2008 Farm Internships at Gardens of Eagan: hands-on training program for beginning farmers and Gardens of Eagan Incubator Program: provided land, equipment, training and mentoring to beginning farmers, who successfully move on to start their own farm.

## WORKSHOPS AND LECTURES (SELECTED LIST)

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| Soil Health and Bio-diversity in Practice  | Broccoli to Kale: Growing Organic Brassicas    |
| Soil Basics: Soil Building and Rotations   | Relationship Marketing: Tell your Farm's Story |
| Decision Making for Beginning Farmers      | Organic Food and Farming:101                   |
| Labor and the Market Farm                  | Deciding What to Plant: Clues from your Soil,  |
| Post-Harvest Handling for the Market Farm  | Market, Equipment, Land and Climate            |
| Food Safety and GAP Training               | Organic Greenhouse Management                  |
| Farmers in the Spotlight: Gardens of Eagan | Market Strategies That Works for You.          |
| Cukes to Zukes: Growing Organic Cucurbits  | Local and Organic: What's It All About         |

## PRESENTED AT: (SELECTED LIST)

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| Farm Beginnings Program, Land Stewardship      | WEI Organic Farm School, Minneapolis, MN. |
| MOSES Organic Farming Conference               | Kickapoo Country Fair, La Farge, WI.      |
| Farmer to Farmer, Saratoga New York            | WI. Dept of Ag – Buy Local Road Show      |
| Minnesota Organic Farming Conference           | WI. Value Added College                   |
| Eco Farm, Assilimar California                 | Minnesota Department of Health            |
| Montana Organic Association Conference         | School of Environmental Studies           |
| Southern Sustainable Agriculture, New Orleans, | Mississippi Market Co-op Annual Meeting   |
| Augsburg College                               | League of Women Voter                     |
| University of Minnesota                        | Iowa State- Leopold Center                |

## 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)