

Small Farms Initiative

Team:

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Beth Nelson, MISA and MN-SARE coordinator
Kent Gustafson, Extension Educator, Community Vitality
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Time frame, COMPLETED

The Small Farms Initiative was originally structured around leadership being provided by a Regional Educator. However, funding for this position was frozen shortly after the RFI was funded for the Small Farms/Rural Living Program Development. As a result, most of the original goals for this program needed to be redefined and new members were added to the team. A planning meeting was held following Fall Conference 2009 with discussion centered on program growth, program components, educational methodologies, and program direction. It was decided that a current course of programming would be to identify EFANS programs that are appropriate for this audience and steer participants to these educational programs already being held. We also conducted a survey of small farms based off of our small farms list serve. In addition, we are developing an EFANS program inventory to identify all programs that are pertinent to this audience. From this inventory we will be able to identify gaps and potentially work with Educators and Specialist to develop programs or information to fill these gaps. The team is also seeking funding to develop curricula for small farms and also funding for Professional Development in priority areas based on the survey and educator feedback. The Small Farms team is continuing to work on web-site development, redefining educational events and activities, and creating new curricula for Minnesota.