

New Uses Forum: Accelerating Ag Innovation and Investment

March 27th-28th, 2019

Marriott West, St. Louis Park

DAY 1 - Wednesday, March 27th

9:00-10:00 **Registration**

10:00-10:15 **Welcome**

Shannon Schlecht, Executive Director, AURI
Aaron Knewton, VP Food & Agribusiness, Compeer Financial
Matt Mckenna, Executive in Residence, Georgetown's Rural Opportunity Initiative

10:15-11:00 **Keynote Address: Agricultural Innovation**

11:00-12:00 **Finance and International Opportunities Panel**

Moderator: Joanna Schrupp, General Manager, MinnWest Technology Campus
Panelists: Shannen Bornsen, International Sales Manager, Seneca Foods Corp.
 Tim Hamilton, Executive Director, Food Export Association USA
 Rajiv Singh, Former CEO, RaboBank
 Bill Faulkner, Managing Principal, Talmont Holdings

12:00-1:00 **Networking Lunch**

1:00-2:00 **Ag and Food Entrepreneurs & Startups Panel**

Moderator: Zoie Glass, Cofounder & President, Midwest Pantry
Panelists: Stine Aasland, Founder & CEO, Nordic Waffles
 Tom Smude, President, Smude Sunflower Oil
 Jude Conway, Executive Director, Ag Ventures Alliance
 Manoj Sahoo, Chief Commercial Officer, Calyxt
 Tom Stoddard, Grower Relationship Manager, Calyxt

2:20-2:30 **Transition to Breakout Sessions**

2:30-3:30 **Breakout Sessions**

Option A - Ag Opportunities in Feed & Fertilizer Panel

Moderator: Alan Doering, Senior Scientist of Coproducts, AURI
Panelists: James Curren, CEO and Founder, JavaCycle
 Craig Holden, President & Chairman, Sustane Natural Fertilizer, Inc.
 Brent Ratliff, Managing Partner, B&K Nutrition
 James Crook, General Manager, Union Creek Organics

Option B – Resources to Support the MN Food Ecosystem Panel

Moderator: Jen Wagner-Lahr, Director of Innovation and Commercialization, AURI
Panelists: Brian Erickson, Marketing Program Manager, MN Dept. of Agriculture

Esra Kucukciftci, Pricing Innovations LLC
Dave Miller, Food Business Practice Lead, Clutch Performance Inc
Elena Byrne, Renewing the Countryside
Emily Paul, Director of Programs, The Good Acre

Option C -- Renewable Energy Now Panel

Including David Kolsrud, Co-Founder, The Funding Farm

Dennis Egan, Owner & CEO, Epite Energy LLC

Option D – Incubators and Key Milestones for Entrepreneurs

Moderator: Russ Straate, Associate Director Venture Center, Office of Technology and Commercialization, University of MN

Panelists: Jan Bouten, Partner, Innova
Dr. Larry Page, Principal, Lewis and Clark Ventures
Brett Brohl, Managing Director, Techstars Farm to Fork Accelerator
Pete Nelson, President and Executive Director, AgLaunch

3:30-4:00 **Networking Break and Visit Exhibits**

4:00-5:15 **Open Innovation Reverse Pitch Session**

Featuring: Cargill, Ecolab, Hormel Foods, Schwans Food Company, Compeer Financial, General Mills, Land O'Lakes and Syngenta representatives

5:15-7:15 **Reception (*Cash Bar*)**

Featuring: Food entrepreneurs providing tasting samples

Opportunity to speak to open innovation pitch participants in further detail

Visit other exhibitors

General networking

7:15 **End of Day's Programmed Activities**

DAY 2 - Thursday, March 28th

7:30-8:25 **Continental Breakfast and Networking**

8:25-9:25 **Local and Regional Resources for Development and Growth**

Including:

Judy Lundy, Director, The StartUp Factory – Austin MN

Thad Simons, JD, Managing Director, The Yield Lab

& More

9:25-10:10 **Commodity Group Reverse Pitch**

- 10:10-10:35 **Networking Break and Visit Exhibits**
- 10:35-11:20 **Keynote Address: Past USDA Secretary of Agriculture and CEO of US Dairy Export Council Tom Vilsack**
- 11:20-11:30 **Closing Comments and Transition to Breakouts**
- 11:30-12:30 **Breakout Sessions**

Option A – Novel, Perennial and Other Cover Crop Opportunities Panel

Moderator: TBA

Panelists: Dr. Gabe Gusmini, R & D Director, Crop Improvement/Agro Discovery, PepsiCo

Dr. Laura Hansen, Sr. Principal Scientist, General Mills R&D

Dr. Nick Jordan, Professor, Forever Green Initiative, University of MN

Dan Foor, CEO, La Crosse Seed

Option B – Dairy Innovation Opportunities Panel

Moderator: Nancy Huls, VP of Research & Innovation, Midwest Dairy Association

Panelists: More to come!

Option C – Hemp Now and on the Horizon Panel

Moderator: Harold Stanislawski, Project Development Director, AURI

Panelists: Dr. Trey Riddle, Sunstrand LLC

Garth Carlson, CEO, Midwest Hemp Inc.

Margaret Wiatrowski, Industrial Hemp Program Coordinator, Plant Protection Division, MN Department of Agriculture

Other

Option D – What's New in the Industrial Biobased Products and Tech World

Including Manuel Santana, Co-Founder & CEO, Sanos Nutrition

12:30 **Adjourn**