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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Central Minnesota Farm Show set for February 2019, St. Cloud**

The Central Minnesota Farm Show, coordinated by the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce, continues for the 52 year, and is the largest indoor farm show in the Upper Midwest. The three-day agricultural experience is February 26-28, 2019 at River's Edge Convention Center, 10 Fourth Avenue South, St. Cloud, Minnesota.

The Farm Show is dedicated to educating the next generation of farmers. Six scholarships are to be awarded for high school and college students enrolled in an agricultural related field of study. Find out more about scholarships at the Farm Show website.

[centralmnfarmshow.com](http://centralmnfarmshow.com)

“Agriculture has always been at the heart of our state’s economy and its way of life. Ranking in the top ten among all states, Minnesota serves as a world-class provider of many top-quality agricultural products for consumers around the globe. Minnesota’s agriculture industry supports many other industries as well, such as manufacturing, transportation, wholesale and retail trade, services, construction, banking, insurance and real estate,” said Margaret Hart, Communication Director, Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

“Minnesota farmers have faced many challenges this growing season. Agriculture commodity prices remain low - with corn and soybeans prices below the cost of production for the past three years. Ongoing trade negotiations have left farmers uncertain about markets. Weather has impacted all parts of the state throughout the growing season, and now many crops ready for harvest have been blanketed with a layer of snow. These stressors, combined with the fact that farming can be a very isolating endeavor, have contributed to an increase in mental health concerns among farmers and their families. Minnesota’s dairy farmers, in particular, are facing hardships due to low milk pricing,” said Hart.

“The Central Minnesota Farm Show Scholarship Fund awards offer financial support to area high school students and college students pursuing a career in an agricultural related field. By awarding educational scholarships, the Central Minnesota Farm Show is helping to ensure the future of rural America for generations to come,” said Bernie Quist, Committee Vice Chair and Scholarship Selection Member, Farm Show.

“I believe the Central Minnesota Farm Show is important to our community as it brings together the backbone of our economic community with so many of our businesses relying either directly or indirectly on the Agri-business works. By doing this it is also able to bring awareness to so many businesses and individuals that may not be aware of the impact that agriculture has on their business,” said Andy Noble, Chair of the Farm Show.

“The Farm Show Scholarship has helped me pursue my ultimate dream finding a degree in agriculture that will lead me to a sales and marketing career in the future. I feel pride in knowing my community values agriculture, and they will support youth who find their passion in farming and other related fields,” said Rebecca Schubert, past scholarship winner and student at North Dakota State University.

Since 1967, the Central Minnesota Farm Show attracts farmers and vendor alike, establishing meaningful relationships in the agricultural community. The Farm Show is hosted by the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce, <https://www.stcloudareachamber.com>. If you need additional information, please contact Sheri Wegner, Special Events Coordinator at the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce at 320-656-3831 or [swegner@StCloudAreaChamber.com](mailto:swegner@StCloudAreaChamber.com)



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