CONFERENCE MAP

FREE WI-FI
Free wi-fi is available throughout Bigwood Event Center. Information on how to access it is posted in the meeting rooms, at the hotel front desk and at the MSHS registration desk.

PRESENTERS

Dr. Allen Williams
Dr. Allen Williams is a champion of the grass-fed beef industry as well as a leader in cutting edge grazing methodology. Dr. Williams is a sixth-generation family farmer and holds BS, MS degrees in Agriculture from Clemson University and a Ph.D. from Louisiana State. He spent 15 years in academia in research, teaching, and extension, and has written more than 300 peer-reviewed and popular press articles. In 2000, he left academia and founded LMC, LLC. Since that time, he has worked with more than 3,500 farmers and ranchers in the US, Canada, Mexico, and South America. Dr. Williams currently serves as Chairman of the Association of Family Farms, Co-Chair of the Grasstle Exchange, Co-Project Leader of the Pasture Project, Facilitator in the USDA BF DFP EET program, and lead investigator in soil microbial research as a replacement for chemical fertilizers. This will be his third MSHS appearance; he has also helped lead many SFA field days over the past few years. Read a profile of Allen on Page 6.

Kent Solberg
Kent Solberg, SFA Livestock & Grazing Specialist, and his wife, Linda, have a diversified pasture-based livestock farm near Verdale, Minn., where they raise dairy, pork, eggs and beef. Solberg, who is an expert on livestock fencing, cover crop selection, wintering livestock, and an array of other innovative practice-focused soil health topics, serves as Livestock and Grazing Specialist and Minnesota Dairy Initiative Coordinator through the Sustainable Farming Association. He is also an instructor for SFA’s Deep Roots Farmer Development program and co-founded the Midwest Soil Health Summit in 2014. Kent was recently featured in an instructional video series discussing fencing, livestock watering, and more produced by frequent SFA collaborator The Pasture Project.

Grant & Dawn Breitkreutz
Grant Breitkreutz is the Cow/Calf Chair at the MN State Cattlemen’s Association. Grant, Dawn and Karlie operate Stoney Creek Farm near Redwood Falls, Minn. The operation includes a commercial cow/calf cattle operation with intensive rotational grazing, custom cattle feeding, and no-till row cropping as well as the use of cover crops. The farm has been recognized for conservation efforts by receiving the NCBA 2016 Region III Environmental Stewardship Award, Beef Magazine’s Trailblazer Award for 2016, and the 2010 MN Outstanding Conservationist Award of the Year for Southwest Area 5 by the Minnesota Soil & Water Conservation District. Grant & Dawn were also recognized as the 2015 Cattlemen of the Year by the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association. Read a profile of Grant on Page 7.

Dr. Ryan Stockwell
Ryan Stockwell is the Senior Agriculture Program Manager for the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). In that role, Ryan leads NWF work on cover crops and conducts outreach on Farm Bill conservation issues. The National Wildlife Federation is working with cover crop partners and stakeholders to address barriers to farmer adoption of cover crops, and NWF has taken a lead role in addressing crop insurance issues related to cover crop use. In his spare time, Ryan farms corn, soybeans, and winter wheat in central Wisconsin using no-till and cover crops. This marks Stockwell’s second time appearing at the Midwest Soil Health Summit. Read a profile of Ryan on Page 8.