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## **Midwest CSA Conference set for Dec. 7-8**

### *Farmers from throughout the Midwest to gather in Wisconsin Dells*

CHIPPEWA FALLS – Registration is now open for the Midwest CSA Conference, which is expected to draw hundreds of farmers and Community Supported Agriculture advocates to Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells Dec. 7-8. This interactive event will provide a forum for discussing the shared values of the growing CSA movement – along with emerging opportunities and challenges.

The conference is being organized by Wisconsin Farmers Union (WFU), in partnership with organizations from throughout the Midwest. Community Supported Agriculture is a direct relationship between farmers and consumers that provides unique opportunities. Consumers commit to support a farm by buying a share or membership in the farm. In exchange the consumer receives regularly (usually weekly) a portion of the vegetables and produce from the farm. This structure provides upfront money for the farmer to operate and builds mutual support, sharing the risks and benefits of food production.

This year's event will highlight the big issues impacting the CSA movement and work to build a shared vision for the region. The general sessions of the conference will provide time for facilitated discussion and dialogue, led by panels of farmers. Member voices will also be part of the discussion. The conference will feature four workshop tracks focusing on Production, Logistics & Technology; Building Community; and Financial Management & Business Planning, as well as workshops specifically geared towards Beginning CSA Farmers. Attendees will learn first-hand from both beginning and experienced farmers. They'll also hear about the latest research and resources available to CSA farms. An exhibition hall will feature organizations and products relevant to CSA farmers and the CSA movement.

“The Midwest CSA Conference is planned to really focus on farmers and give them a space to reflect on their past season, come together with other farmers and advocates, and to inspire and build energy for the growing season ahead,” said Sarah Lloyd, special projects coordinator for Wisconsin Farmers Union.

To register or for more details about the conference, visit [www.MidwestCSA.com](http://www.MidwestCSA.com).

**Cutline: “The CSA conference is always worth the time,” say returning attendees Stacey and Tenzin Botsford of Red Door Family Farm in Athens. “The conference really focuses on the unique challenges and rewards of CSA farming.”**

*Wisconsin Farmers Union, a member-driven organization, is committed to enhancing the quality of life for family farmers, rural communities, and all people through educational opportunities, cooperative endeavors, and civic engagement. For more information visit [www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com](http://www.wisconsinfarmersunion.com).*

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