



March 9, 2021 9:00a.m.

Dennis Todey

USDA-ARS Midwest Climate Hub



Dr. Dennis Todey is the Director of the USDA Midwest Climate Hub in Ames, IA. He has a 35 year career researching, teaching and talking about a wide range agriculture and climate issues in the Midwest and Plains. Before coming to Ames he was the state climatologist for South Dakota at South Dakota State University.



March 9, 2021 9:00a.m.

Jim Emter

Van Ahn & Company, Inc.



Jim started with Van Ahn and Company, Inc. in 2003. Jim was born and raised in the Alexandria, MN area and attributes much of his hard work ethic and discipline to a great upbringing. Jim attended college at NDSU where he graduated with honors majoring in Business Administration, minoring in Agricultural Economics, and received a concentration in Marketing. Jim is married and has three children (2 girls and a boy). Jim enjoys digging deeper in the Bible, time with his wife, kids, and family. He also enjoys hunting, working out, and spending time on the lake.



March 9, 2021 9:30a.m.

U.S. Representative Tom Emmer

Servicing Minnesota's 6th District

Congressman Tom Emmer was sworn in for his first term in the U.S. House of Representatives on January 6, 2015. He is currently serving his fourth term.

Tom was elected by his fellow Republican colleagues to join the House GOP Leadership team as the Chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee for the 116th Congress and again for the 117th Congress. Currently, he sits on the House Financial Services Committee. He is also a member of the Republican Deputy Whip Team and the House Republican Steering Committee.

Born in 1961, Tom grew up in Minnesota and attended St. Thomas Academy. He received his BA in Political Science from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks and his JD from William Mitchell College of Law.

After practicing law for several years, he opened his own law firm. The next 20 years were spent balancing family, business, coaching hockey, and serving on the city councils in Independence and Delano.

Before coming to Congress, he served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 2004-2008.



March 9, 2021 10:00a.m.

Jim Zwaschka

South Central College



Jim is an alumni of the Service Technician program and previously was employed with Arnold's Implement in Mankato for over two decades. In addition to teaching in the service technician area, Jim has extensive experience teaching in the Fire Training Program. Jim's goals are to raise the bar for student performance, and help them develop all the skills they need to succeed. He places an emphasis on hands-on and experiential learning as many important life skills are learned in the classroom.



March 9, 2021 10:30a.m.

Susan VonBank

MN Department of Agriculture



Susan VonBank is the Special Projects Coordinator in the Agricultural Marketing and Development Division at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. In addition to work on farm safety and health programs, she manages the division's website and records, co-plans two annual statewide conferences, and serves as the division accessibility coordinator. She grew up on a hobby farm in west central Minnesota and has a bachelors degree in Agricultural Education from the University of Minnesota.



March 9, 2021 10:30a.m.

David Traut and Jim Gruenke

Traut Companies



David Traut (Top) is vice president and co owner of Traut Companies. He is recognized nationally as a Master Well Contractor as has over 40 years of experience in the well xxx industry.

Jim Gruenke (Botton) is in his 25th year at Traut Companies as their water treatment specialist and has been in the industry nearly 35 years.



March 9, 2021 11:00a.m.

Kirstin Erickson

Quinlivan & Hughes, P.A.



Kirstin Erickson is an associate attorney at Quinlivan & Hughes, P.A. located in St. Cloud, Minnesota where she practices in the Trust and Estates Practice group. Kirstin's practice includes preparing wills, revocable trusts, health care directives, and powers of attorneys for her clients. Kirstin also assists her clients through probate and guardianship/conservatorship matters.



March 9, 2021 11:30a.m.

Ed Usset

University of MN



Edward Usset serves as a Grain Marketing Economist for the Center for Farm Financial Management at the University of Minnesota, the developers of FINPACK software. Working with his colleagues at CFFM and in extension, Ed developed the award winning “Winning the Game” series of workshops. In addition, he manages Commodity Challenge, an online marketing education game that uses real-time cash and futures data. He teaches "Commodity Markets" at the University and is a regular contributor for Corn and Soybean Digest, and Farm Futures. The 2nd Edition of his book, “Grain Marketing is Simple (it’s just not easy)” was released in 2015.



March 9, 2021 12:00p.m.

Monica Kramer McConkey

Eyes on the Horizon Consulting, LLC



Monica McConkey has 25 years of experience in the behavioral health field as a counselor, program supervisor and administrator. She has a Masters Degree in Counseling and is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the state of Minnesota. Her focus throughout her career has been to increase access to, and remove the stigma often attached to mental health services. She currently works as one of two Rural Mental Health Specialists in Minnesota providing support to farmers and their families through a contract with the MN Ag Centers of Excellence and Farm Business Management. Monica also provides education and training on mental health and resilience through her business Eyes on the Horizon Consulting, LLC.



March 9, 2021 12:00p.m.

Nathan Drewitz

University of MN Extension

Nathan Drewitz is the local Extension Educator in crop production for Stearns, Benton, and Morrison counties. His interests include most topics related to general agronomy and agroecology.



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA  
**EXTENSION**

