

ORGANIC PRODUCE FARMS NEEDED

for on-farm research project*

*Funded by USDA-OREI.

Organic and food safety regulations require a 4-month time lag between the application of raw manure (dairy, chicken, and/or horse) on fields and time of produce harvest to prevent foodborne diseases. However, at this point very little data exists to actually show that this lag time is effective in reducing pathogen numbers in the soil and on produce. **The aim** of our multiregional study is to provide organic farmers with science-based effective strategies that limit food safety risks when using valuable raw manure soil amendments.

Researchers of the University of Minnesota will visit enrolled produce farms 8 times over the growing season. We will collect water, soil, manure and produce samples. All samples will be tested for bacterial indicators such as non-pathogenic *E. coli* and pathogen markers. Manure and soil will be additionally be cultured for food-borne pathogens. Farmers will be asked to complete a short survey about farm management practices. The study is voluntary and all locations and names will be kept **confidential**.

Who are we looking for?



- **Certified organic** farms in Minnesota, Northern Iowa, eastern Dakotas, and western Wisconsin
- Fertilize with **raw or untreated manure** (not compost)
- Produce any of the following:
 - leafy greens (e.g., lettuce, spinach)
 - root vegetables (e.g., carrots, radish, beets) or
 - fruits (e.g., tomatoes, cantaloupe or melons)

Benefits: All farms will receive all test results for their farm as well as a summary report of the overall study, farm specific feedback to help minimize contamination risk of fresh produce and an **incentive of \$700** upon completion of the study.

For more information or to enroll, please contact **Dr. Paulo Pagliari** (Assistant Professor, Southwest Research and Outreach Center (SWROC)) Phone: 507-752-7372, Email: pagli005@umn.edu

