



2025
annual
REPORT



Farm in the Dell of the Red River Valley

transforming disabilities into abilities

welcome to the farm!

Since 2012, Farm in the Dell has provided meaningful employment and volunteer opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities in a beautiful farm and garden setting.



We don't just grow produce - we cultivate people.

Farm in the Dell serves individuals with developmental disabilities - including Autism, Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, and more. We strive to offer our community a chance to experience a life that is **joyful, productive, meaningful - and ever marginalized.**

Every day, we strive to ensure that each person feels **seen, heard, valued, accepted, and celebrated** - rooted in their true identity as beloved children of God.



Dave Sigler, Board President

It has been a huge privilege to serve in the role of Board President - and step back and watch God transform our work. It is incredible to witness the farm continue to grow into a place where individuals of all abilities can learn, grow, and uncover their potential, and I can't wait to see where God will lead Farm in the Dell next



Matt Larson, Executive Director

2025 was my first full year at Farm in the Dell. I am in awe of our amazing volunteers and employees. My desire is to see more and more people come out to the farm and experience what I get to see every day. This is a place of community, care, hard work and beauty.

At the farm, we put in a hard day of work, and we get to see the very tangible results grow and produce fruit. We try new and difficult things and learn how to be joyful in hardships. We see God at work in the fields around us, and in the people that work here everyday. Farm in the Dell is a good place. Come out and be a part of what we do!



Our Mission

Our mission is “transforming disabilities into abilities” through purposeful work, life experiences, and a supportive community on the farm.

Our Garden Engineers discover their abilities in community with each other - engaging in meaningful work that gives them purpose and helps them learn life skills.

Our Core Values

ROOTED IN PURPOSE

Everyone has the opportunity to make a positive impact in their own life and the lives of others. We commit to providing a strong foundation to help our community make a meaningful contribution to society while pursuing skill development, independence, fulfillment, and joy.

ROOTED IN FAITH

We are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ and we are empowered to live our His teachings by serving and loving others as Jesus would. We commit to treating others as God’s children and providing a space where everyone is invited to enjoy His Creation.

ROOTED IN RESPECT

We believe that everyone should experiences a life that is productive, joyful, meaningful - and never marginalized. We commit to creating an environment of respect, kindness, dignity, and inclusion, where individuals are valued not on their productivity, but rather on their identity as beloved children of God.

ROOTED IN NATURE

We believe that working in God’s Creation provides peace, joy, and health. We recognize that the Earth is God’s gift to His people, and we commit to being good stewards of Creation through sustainable farming practices.

ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

We believe that supportive relationships enhance our quality of life, build confidence, and ignite a sense of belonging. We commit to being a catalyst for creating opportunities for togetherness and community.

About Farm in the Dell

Whether you're already involved or are just learning about us for the first time, we invite you to come out to the farm and experience our mission first-hand.



Farm in the Dell of the Red River Valley is nestled on a **25-acre plot of land, just north of Moorhead, MN.** We primarily serve individuals with developmental disabilities - like Autism, Down Syndrome, and more.



As a faith-based organization, **everything we do is rooted in the love of Jesus Christ.** Every day, we are reminded that our worth does not come from our productivity - but is rooted in our identity as beloved children of God.



Each year on the farm, **we grow dozens of varieties of vegetables, fruits, herbs, and flowers.** We sell the produce through our CSA program, at farmers markets, and through "u-pick" events on the farm.



Our Garden Engineers, ages 16 and up, work part-time during the growing season. They spend their time in the garden **planting, weeding, watering, harvesting, preparing CSA shares, and hosting the community.**



LEARN MORE

Our Impact

The community that we serve - individuals with disabilities - were born with differing abilities that often lead them to be **forgotten, devalued, or marginalized** in our society.

Farm in the Dell exists to change that. While we acknowledge that no amount of money or boxfuls of produce will ever erase their struggles, **we choose to define our community through their abilities rather than their limitations,** to treat them with dignity, to celebrate their uniqueness, and to show them the **respect, love, and kindness** that they deserve.

“ **God sees not as man sees: man sees the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.** - 1 Samuel 16:7b

2025: Our Year in Review

2025 was such a blessing at Farm in the Dell! Below are just a few of the things that we had the opportunity to do.



PROVIDED EMPLOYMENT

From mid-April to mid-October, our team of 30 Garden Engineers worked hard to provide our community with fresh produce.



SERVED FAMILIES THROUGH OUR CSA

We provided community-supported agriculture - or CSA - shares to nearly 100 local families, providing them with fresh produce, helping them experience the bounty of the harvest.



ENGAGED OUR COMMUNITY

Whether volunteering, touring, or attending an event - we are grateful to continue to welcome over 2,500 individuals seasonally to learn, grow, and experience the joy of God's Creation on the farm.



WELCOMED VOLUNTEERS

Each week, dozens of volunteers - whether individually or in a group - generously donated their time and talents to help us tend to the garden and conduct special events.



DUG NEW WELLS

With the addition of our first-ever on-site bathroom constructed in 2024, along with new irrigation needs in our ever-growing garden, we underwent a multi-month well-digging project, including two remote hydrants.



EXPANDED OUR MISSION REACH

In an effort to bring our mission further into the community, we participated in more local markets - like the Arthur Market, where we sold pumpkins and fresh vegetables!



BUILT PARTNERSHIPS TO FEED MORE FAMILIES

Using resources from CNH, and also volunteers from both CNH and the Great Plains Food Bank, we were able to plant acres of corn and potatoes. Because of the partnership, we were able to donate 10,000 pounds of fresh, local produce to the Great Plains Food Bank.



LAUNCHED INTO NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

The Leadership Team and Board of Directors set in motion our newly created Strategic Plan, providing a more structured roadmap that defines our long-term direction and goals.



KICKED OFF YEAR-ROUND ENGAGEMENT

As part of our Strategic Plan of offering year-round employment and opportunities for our Garden Engineers, we hosted our first-ever soup event, prepared for and served by our team!

Our History

Farm in the Dell of the Red River Valley was formed in 2012 by a group of parents who each had a teen with a developmental disability. Their kids were about to enter a time with many unknowns, including their employment journey.

After much research, the parents found Farm in the Dell International - the original “Farm in the Dell” organization, operating in Montana since 1986. Here, disabled individuals worked in community with each other - leading fulfilling lives in a self-sufficient environment, despite their disabilities.

The Moorhead parents gathered resources, found a small plot of land in south Fargo, and - within a few months - Farm in the Dell of the Red River Valley was born: a non-profit organization with a mission of “transforming disabilities into abilities”. The group of parents - along with their families, supporters, and a handful of employees - cultivated a special place to learn and grow.

In 2015, Farm in the Dell moved to its current location: a 25-acre plot in north Moorhead, MN - allowing us to grow our operation, expand the garden, and impact more lives. Today, Farm in the Dell continues to be a place where people of all abilities can find purpose together, enjoy God’s Creation, and experience a community where each individual is respected, valued, and celebrated.



Our Community

As one of our core values, community is at the heart of everything we do. We are only able to fulfill our mission of “transforming disabilities into abilities” through the support of hundreds of donors, volunteers, community partners, cheerleaders, and prayer warriors - and we are filled with gratitude every day to have our community share in our work and champion our cause.

Matthew's Story

Matthew started working at the farm in 2023, spending three growing seasons working in the fields. Prior to working at the farm, Matthew worked briefly for Goldmark deep-cleaning rooms and for Meals on Wheels delivering meals. When he started working at Farm in the Dell, he was nervous, as he knew that he would be in an environment that he had never been in before while doing tasks that he had never done before. But he also had friends who had worked there during previous seasons and were planning to return, so he had a level of comfort that friendship can provide.



Matthew did not have much experience gardening prior to working at the farm. We learned very quickly that he does not like dirt, and he is uncomfortable around bugs and inclement weather, so we questioned initially if he would enjoy working at the farm. However, **each day Matthew came out to the farm, as scheduled, for his shifts with a smile on his face.** Little by little, his demeanor

softened around the prospect of dirty hands and flying bugs. In the spring, he worked hard to meticulously dig holes in the rows for the seeds of corn, and pumpkins, and peas. In the summer and fall, he harvested, washed, and sorted the produce.

Matthew loves Disney music. Team members and volunteers who are stationed within 100 feet of Matthew in the field are sure to get a dose of “We Know the Way” and “Hakuna Matata”, while picking strawberries and thinning carrots.



Knowing his love for Disney, his job coaches pre-load playlists onto their devices, so it's all set to hit “play” after the morning huddle, while heading out to the field.

Matthew has also become the “official time keeper” at the farm. Each morning, he checks in with his support staff to figure out what time to set his alarm for the team's mid-morning break and clean up time at the end of the shift. He diligently sets his alarms, and without hesitation after it rings, he starts picking up his gardening gloves and tools, and he starts heading through the section to gather his co-workers. When you see Matthew marching quickly through the rows, you can assume that he's coming to get you for break time. His attention to time and detail come in handy when we make decisions on the farm about when to prune the tomatoes and harvest the sweet corn!

Matthew has grown immensely during his time working at the farm. He has become a beloved member of the team, and a cherished Garden Engineer to talk to for guests and volunteers who stop by for a visit – the first two questions he asks each new person is he meets is “What is your name?” and “How old are you??. Though Matt still occasionally squirms at bugs, dirt, and rain clouds, his God-given gifts shine at the farm, especially when he is problem solving or working alongside friends.

Did you know?



According to the U.S. Census Bureau, **66% of individuals** with “independent living disabilities” between the ages of 18 and 64 living in Minnesota are unemployed.



Farm in the Dell exists to change that, providing **meaningful employment, a steady paycheck, and a place to belong.**



Our Garden Engineers also receive free produce, skill development, team bonding, and most importantly, **a community that supports and prays for them.**



Farm in the Dell offers a non-competitive setting where our Garden Engineers are not valued on their efficiency - but instead are reminded of their **true dignity and identity as beloved children of God.**



Why our mission matters

We strive to provide meaningful job opportunities where employees are given a steady paycheck - helping to give them confidence and fulfillment. Every day at the farm brings a new chance to provide purposeful employment that fills our employee's spirits, sharpens their minds, and cultivates joy.



Engaging our community



At our core, Farm in the Dell exists to serve our community - and that goes beyond providing employment to individuals with disabilities. We love getting involved with local events, speaking engagements, schools, churches, and more!

Get involved at the farm!



PRAY

Pray that our mission positively impacts lives in our community.



GIVE

Make a financial gift to support our mission, or donate much-needed farm supplies.



PURCHASE

Purchase our produce at our weekly market, through our CSA, and at Farm in the Dell events!



VOLUNTEER

Help out on the farm with our one-time or ongoing volunteer opportunities.



ATTEND

Come to Farm in the Dell events and other happenings at the farm.



SPREAD THE WORD

Refer volunteers, employees, partners, and more!

2025 Financials



EXPENSES

- PROGRAMMING: 82%
- ADMINISTRATIVE: 18%



REVENUE

- PRIVATE & BUSINESS DONATIONS: 50%
- GRANTS: 26%
- PRODUCE: 14%
- EVENTS: 5%
- OTHER: 5%

Event Sponsors

TABLE TO FARM

SEED SPONSORS - \$1,500
Cargill
Fredrickson Law Firm

SOIL SPONSORS - \$750
Marvin Windows
NorthStar Safety

IN-KIND
Bernies Liquor
CNH
Cows & Co.
Heart N Soul Community Cafe
Sandhill Farms

FALL FESTIVAL

SPROUT SPONSOR - \$2,500
American Crystal Sugar

SOIL SPONSOR - \$750
Ron D. Offutt Company

We are deeply thankful for the support of all of our amazing donors, sponsors, and volunteers. We could truly not do this work without you!

Our Staff & Board

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Matt Larson	Executive Director
Nathan Dalager	Farm Manager
Anna Sather	Fund Development Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Zach Bartsch	President
Reuben Viland	Vice President
David Tibbals	Secretary
Kim Vannett	Treasurer
Tara Bujold	Board Member
David Jensen	Board Member
Jane Nelson	Board Member
David Sigler	Board Member
Jaden Wieland	Board Member

Connect with us!

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farm IN THE **dell**
OF THE RED RIVER VALLEY

We have the opportunity every day to change the way people accept other people – how they love, respect, support and value them. We work hard to make sure that the farm is a place where the inclusion of all abilities is appreciated and celebrated.