



Food Alliance Certified Axdahl Farms Showcased at MN State Fair

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ST. PAUL - Two St. Croix Valley businesses recently participated in the eighth annual Minnesota Cooks program at the State Fair.



Brian and Linda Axdahl of Axdahl Farms and Shawn Smalley of Smalley's Caribbean Barbeque joined chefs from restaurants around the state, showing how they use Minnesota-grown products from local farmers to prepare meals at their restaurant as the farmers and chefs answered questions about buying local.

At the end of each demonstration, fairgoers and a panel of Minnesota farmers and celebrity tasters had a chance to sample the dishes created onstage. The Axdahls provided products for Smalley's pimento smoked pork belly with sweet corn and tomato.

"The Minnesota Cooks program educates consumers about where food comes from and where to find farm-fresh, local food," said Doug Peterson, Minnesota Farmers Union President and creator of Minnesota Cooks. "The Minnesota State Fair is the perfect place to showcase what Minnesota agriculture has to offer our economy, and we are proud of the great food farmers produce throughout all of Minnesota and the chefs who look to them to provide healthy choices for consumers."

Minnesota Cooks is presented by Minnesota Farmers Union and Food Alliance Midwest and receives major sponsorship from Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (www.auri.org). For more information about Minnesota Cooks, please visit the website at www.minnesotacooks.net.

For more information on Axdahl Farms visit axdahlfarms.com. For more information on Smalley's visit smalleysbbq.com.

Minnesota Farmers Union (www.mfu.org) is a nonprofit membership-based organization working to protect and enhance the economic interests and quality of life of family farmers and ranchers, as well as rural communities.

Food Alliance Midwest (www.foodalliance.org) is an affiliate of Food Alliance in Portland, Ore. Food Alliance is a nonprofit that offers the most comprehensive certification program for sustainably produced food in North America.

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