

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

*Twin Cities Campus*

*Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture  
College of Food, Agricultural and Natural  
Resource Sciences and U of MN Extension*

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March 2021 Memorandum

This is a message from the MISA Board of Directors Nominations Committee.

We seek your help in identifying individuals potentially willing to serve on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA). The purpose of MISA is to bring together the diverse interests of the agricultural community with interests from across the University community in a cooperative effort to develop and promote sustainable agriculture in Minnesota and beyond. A term on the MISA Board is three years. You may nominate yourself or someone else to serve on the Board.

Beginning in the Summer of 2021, the following vacancies on the Board will be filled:

One **(1) representative of the sustainable agriculture community** (e.g., non-governmental organizations, business, government and citizen representatives)

Three **(3) representatives of the university community** with a demonstrated interest in sustainable agriculture (e.g. faculty, staff, students, Extension,)

Two **(2) representatives of the farming community** with a demonstrated interest in sustainable agriculture (farmers, ranchers)

We seek to have the board reflect diversity, especially with respect to gender, race, student status, geographic area, and occupation in the membership on the Board.

Attached is detailed information about MISA, an application/nomination form, roles and responsibilities of Board members, and desired characteristics of Board members.

[Please submit the application or nomination form](#) to the MISA office by **4:30 p.m., Friday, April 21, 2021.**

The Search Committee will continue to accept nominations until the vacancies are filled, but will be meeting after April 21<sup>st</sup> to begin identifying candidates for the Board.

Please visit our web site ([www.misa.umn.edu](http://www.misa.umn.edu)) or contact the MISA office if you have any questions. Online application: <https://forms.gle/swZkmZtedCJiQ96B8>

## MISA Board of Directors 2021 Application/Nominations Form

You may nominate yourself or someone else who meets the *Desired Characteristics of Board Members* (see attachment.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ website: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Race:

- American Indian or Native Alaskan
- Asian
- Black or African American
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- White
- More than one race
- Undetermined
- Prefer not to answer

Position you would fill as a MISA Board Member:

Sustainable Agriculture Community \_\_\_\_ University Community \_\_\_\_

Farmer/Rancher \_\_\_\_

Nomination submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide:

**1. A resume, or brief statement of the applicant's or nominee's background.**

**2. A personal statement regarding your interest in serving on the MISA Board. Please address your philosophy, knowledge and interest in citizen involvement and participation in sustainable agriculture and in university - community partnerships. (Not to exceed one page)**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form by mail, fax, in-person or email by **4:30 p.m. April 21, 2021**: Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, U of MN, 411 Borlaug, 1991 Buford Circle, St. Paul, MN 55108 or email: [misamail@umn.edu](mailto:misamail@umn.edu). If you have questions or would like more information call us at 612-625-8235; or toll free at 800-909-MISA (6472)

February 2021

## **About MISA**

The purpose of MISA is to bring together the diverse interests of the agricultural community with interests from across the University community in a cooperative effort to develop and promote sustainable agriculture in Minnesota and beyond.

MISA is an organization of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS), University of Minnesota Extension, and the Sustainers Coalition (SC). The SC consists of the following organizations:

Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy  
Land Stewardship Project  
Big River Farms, a program of The Food Group  
Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota

The Board consists of twelve to fifteen members. Membership on the Board shall reflect a 1/3 balance among: University representatives with a demonstrated interest in sustainable agriculture (e.g. faculty, staff, students, Extension, Regional Partnerships); sustainable agriculture practitioners (e.g. farmers and ranchers); and, representatives of the sustainable agriculture community (e.g., non-governmental organizations, business, government, and citizen representatives.) We seek to have the board reflect diversity, especially with respect to gender, race, student status, geographic area, and occupation in the membership of the Board and its committees.

For more information about serving on the Board of Directors, see the MISA web site ([www.misa.umn.edu](http://www.misa.umn.edu)) or feel free to contact the MISA office at 1-800-909-6472; 612-625-8235; or [misamail@umn.edu](mailto:misamail@umn.edu).

## **Roles and Responsibilities of MISA Board Members**

Serve a three year term. Nominations shall be staggered so that 1/3 of the Directors are nominated annually. Occasionally, shorter terms are available when Board members resign before the end of their term.

Participate in 2-3 Board meetings per year. Typically there are two in-person meetings and conference calls as needed. Expenses for participation - mileage, meals, lodging, and phone bills are reimbursed by MISA

Serve on Board committees and task forces.

Contribute actively to discussion and critical thinking about sustainable agriculture in Minnesota and beyond. Board members participate in activities such as program evaluation, outreach, educational materials planning and review, and stimulating effective partnering between the U of M and citizens outside of the University.

### **Characteristics of Board members:**

Supports philosophy and principles of sustainable agriculture and sustainable development.

Knowledge of sustainable agriculture and of Minnesota agriculture, or a willingness to learn about Minnesota agriculture.

An interest in citizen involvement and participation in sustainable agriculture and development and in university-community partnerships.

The ability to work with diverse groups and diverse viewpoints.

Good interpersonal and communication skills.

Is a systems thinker.

Is concerned about the long-term conservation of the ecosystem.