



Food Hub | Growers & Makers Marketplace

NEWSLETTER

March 2016



The Sprout Growers & Makers Marketplace and the Sprout Food Hub are pleased to share with you our first newsletter, providing organizational updates, event and training information, a vendor spotlight, and more.

In this newsletter, you will find information about our grand opening celebration on April 1 and 2nd, updates on construction of the food hub, and a bit about one of our Marketplace vendors, Chop Finely.



GRAND OPENING

You are cordially invited to the grand opening of the Sprout Food Hub and Growers & Makers Marketplace on April 1st and 2nd, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This two-day celebration of rural Central Minnesota culture will include the facility's ribbon cutting, presentations, and lunch with honored guests on Friday. Speakers and guests will include Senator Amy Klobuchar, USDA Rural Development Under Secretary Lisa Mensah, MDA Commissioner Dave Fredrickson, USDA Rural Development MN State Director Colleen Landkamer, and Rural Policy Research Institute President & CEO Chuck Fluharty.

A ticket is required for lunch – please visit our website at www.sproutMN.com/marketplace for details.

On both Friday and Saturday, visitors can also tour the newly licensed processing facility and demonstration kitchen, shop from an array of local food and original creations art vendors, and enjoy live music and

delicious food catered by Prairie Bay. Over 50 marketplace vendors are expected to sell their locally produced food and art, including produce, dairy, and meat products; jams and preserves; and pottery, wood items, jewelry and more.

We are excited to share this monumental day with you and hope to see you there.

MARKETPLACE HOURS

Market dates and hours for the full 2016 calendar have not yet been set. We will be working with the other farmers' markets in the area to provide unique shopping experiences in an indoor environment which complement the success of our numerous regional outdoor markets.

MARKETPLACE VENDORS WANTED

Growers and makers interested in selling their local food and original creations art are encouraged to apply and become a vendor at the Marketplace. Application materials are available on our website www.sproutmn.com/marketplace/vendor-forms/.



VENDOR SPOTLIGHT

Who: Chop Finely by Vince Cook and Jess Wilson

What: Handcrafted Cutting and Serving Boards

When: Established in 2015

Where: Proudly located in the Brainerd Lakes Area

Why: Vince is a furniture maker and enjoys applying his well-honed craftsmanship techniques to create quality wooden kitchenware.

Contact: www.chopfinely.com and www.facebook.com/chopfinely



Chop Finely's serving and cutting boards are handcrafted from select hardwoods with a focus on locally salvaged Black Walnut. All of our boards are original designs incorporating the natural shape of the wood. Our most popular pieces are the "live-edge" serving boards which have the tree bark incorporated into the design.



Our boards are hand-made in our Lakes-Area woodshop and finished with tung oil, a natural tree oil that is food safe. An occasional application of oil easily keep the boards like new with a deep patina.

"It has been a real pleasure being a part of the Sprout Growers & Makers Marketplace. We've enjoyed sharing our work with a community that values the artistry and sustainability of our work. Whether given as a gift or used in your own kitchen, a Chop Finely board is a beautiful piece of functional art that will last a lifetime," said Vince Cook.



ABOUT SPROUT

Sprout aims to offer the aggregation, distribution, storage, processing, marketing and sales channels our region's growers and makers need to meet the challenges they face in today's competitive marketplace along the farm-to-fork continuum.

Sprout ✦ 609 13th Ave NE
Little Falls, MN 56345