



LOCAL FOODS MARKETPLACE • Rochester, MN • Dec. 2&3, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Feast!* Offers Technical Assistance and Networking for Food and Beverage Businesses**

Rochester, MN (Aug. 9, 2016) – The third annual *Feast!* festival and tradeshow is filling up, but still has room for more food and beverage businesses to apply to attend the event Dec. 2-3, 2016 at the Mayo Civic Center.

A combination tradeshow and festival, the award-winning *Feast! Local Foods Marketplace* hosts more than 100 vendors from Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota who show, sample and sell their artisan food products to wholesale buyers (Friday) and consumers (Saturday). The jury-selected exhibitors also have a half day of networking and sharing about best practices for growing their small food businesses. Businesses selected to attend and exhibit are operating at a distributor-ready scale and utilizing locally-grown ingredients in their supply chains. (See 2016 exhibitors [here](#).)

After *Feast!* 2015, 64% of exhibitors surveyed reported that the event helped them find wholesale buyers for their products. Additional benefits of the event reported were onsite sales, strengthening relationships, meeting new buyers, networking, and boosting brand awareness. One exhibitor said, “Gaining exposure for my products and networking with potential clients and other vendors makes *Feast!* worthwhile to me.”

The two-day event offers entrepreneurs the ability to focus on growing their business and meeting buyers on day one, and making direct connections with consumers on day two.

For more information about attending as a consumer, an exhibitor, or food-buying professional, please visit www.local-feast.org or email Eli at eli@local-feast.org. To keep in touch with the latest updates, ‘like’ us at *FEAST Local Food Network* on [Facebook](#), follow @Local_Feast on [Twitter](#), and use #localFEAST to make sure your voice is heard.

Feast! Local Foods Marketplace is co-hosted by the [Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation](#) and [Renewing the Countryside](#) non-profit organizations and is supported with premiere sponsorship by [Mayo Clinic](#), [the McKnight Foundation](#) and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. FEAST Local Food Network received the 2016 Environmental Initiative Food Stewardship Award in May for its impact on the region's food businesses and support of sustainable practices (see <http://environmental-initiative.org>).

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