FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

More than 2,000 local food enthusiasts, makers, and buyers are expected at the third annual Feast! Local Foods Marketplace

WHAT
Feast! Local Foods Marketplace is the largest celebration of local foods in the region, connecting artisan food makers with both buyers and customers.

WHEN
Friday, December 2, 2015, 9 am-6 pm - Tradeshow: Only for vendors and buyers
Saturday, December 3, 2015, 10 am-4 pm - Festival: Open to public

WHERE
Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, MN

WHO
Over 100 artisan food makers, farmers, producers and distributors from Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin - see a map of exhibitors here.
+2,000 customers - event open to the public on Saturday, December 3
Food buyers are invited to tradeshow and workshops on Friday, December 2

ACTIVITIES
Friday, December 2
Tradeshow
Food Entrepreneurs Forum
Support Services Mini-Expo
Private Evening Reception

Saturday, December 3
10 am - Doors open
See, Sample, and Stock Up - Over 100 Local Food Vendors
Fun activities for kids of all ages
Cooking demonstrations throughout the day
Real Food Media popup film festival

WHY
There continues to be a strong and growing demand for local foods in our region. After a successful first Feast! festival in 2014, it was clear that customers, makers, and buyers value this opportunity to connect and support a more robust local foods economy in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Now in its third year, the award-winning Feast! Local Foods Marketplace...
WHY
There continues to be a strong and growing demand for local foods in our region. After a successful first Feast! festival in 2014, it was clear that customers, makers, and buyers value this opportunity to connect and support a more robust local foods economy in Minnesota, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Now in its third year, the award-winning Feast! Local Foods Marketplace festival is a great holiday shopping opportunity for those looking to get a start on holiday shopping for fellow food enthusiasts!

TICKETS
$5/adults with additional fee for beer/wine/hard cider tasting; $2/kids
Available at the door*
*2-for-1 coupons and $10-off alcohol wristband vouchers available at participating restaurants, People’s Food Co-op, and Hy-Vee stores. Details at local-feast.org.

INTERVIEWS
SMIF President & CEO Tim Penny and Renewing the Countryside Executive Director Jan Joannides are available for interviews before and during the event. Contact Kallie at kallier@smifoundation.org to schedule.

LEARN MORE
Visit www.local-feast.org for a full list of vendors, activities, and sponsors.

About Renewing the Countryside
Renewing the Countryside works to bring inspiration, ideas, resources and assistance to those looking for sustainable ways to strengthen their rural communities. For nearly 15 years, they have done this through public education, economic development initiatives and technical assistance. Their main constituencies are current and aspiring sustainable business owners, farmland owners, and the general public. Visit www.renewingthecountryside.org for more information.

About Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation
Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF), a donor-supported foundation, invests for economic growth in 20 Minnesota counties. The Foundation has provided more than $100 million in grants, loans and programming within the region during the past 30 years. SMIF’s key interests include early childhood, community and economic development. To learn more about our work and mission, visit www.smifoundation.org.

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