



LOCAL FOODS MARKETPLACE | Rochester, MN | Nov 30 - Dec 1, 2018

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Local food tradeshow open to wholesale buyers, service businesses, and aspiring entrepreneurs—apply by Oct. 31 for early bird pricing

**Rochester, MN (Oct. 15, 2018)** – FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace will host its fifth annual tradeshow at Mayo Civic Center Friday, Nov. 30, including a Makers' Forum, a Buyers' Expo, and an awards ceremony.

Buyers for grocery and specialty stores, restaurants, food service and more are invited to discover on-trend products from businesses from across Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. The 2018 vendor list is [available online](#).

Brian Erickson, New Markets Program Manager at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, said, "FEAST! is a great way to interface with nearly 100 growing food companies. Many are operating at a distributor-ready scale and utilizing locally grown ingredients in their supply chains."

Businesses and organizations that provide technical assistance for entrepreneurs are encouraged to sign up by Oct. 31 for early bird pricing on a booth in the Support Services area. General admission is also an option, and a special discount applies for aspiring entrepreneurs who wish to come and learn.

Sai Thao, Senior Lending Officer at Compeer Financial stated that "FEAST! provides a great environment for emerging food producers to exchange ideas and connect with buyers of local food products and the public."

Apply here: <http://www.local-feast.org/tradeshow2018>

FEAST! vendors include national award-winners, and represent trends like pro-biotic and gluten-free, as well as environmentally and socially responsible. The new awards ceremony, beginning at 4:30pm and finishing off the day, will feature invited presenters.

Guest speakers include Jamie Pfuhl of Minnesota Grocers Association, John Monson, Chief Mission and Marketing Officer at Compeer Financial, Jamie Sundsbak of the Rochester Collider, and Kathy Zeman of Minnesota Farmers Market Association.

Awards will be presented for Most innovative local sourcing, Most inspiring social benefit, and Most engaging booth, plus Ready to Grow awards from MDA and Something Special *from Wisconsin*™.

For more information, visit [www.local-feast.org](http://www.local-feast.org). Follow *FEAST! Local Foods Network* on [Facebook](#), [@Local\\_Feast](#) on [Twitter](#), localfeast on Instagram, and use #localFEAST to join the conversation.

*FEAST! Local Foods Marketplace* is co-hosted by the [Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation](#) and [Renewing the Countryside](#) non-profit organizations and is supported with premier sponsorship by the [Minnesota Department of Agriculture](#).

## CONTACT

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