



APPLICATION FORM CLASS XI 2020-2022

WHO IS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY?

An individual who is committed to agriculture and/or rural Minnesota.

An individual who is committed to the program with time and energy.

An individual who is a resident of Minnesota, 21 years or older.

An individual who has some leadership experience in the community or other organizations.

An individual who demonstrates open-mindedness and willingness to engage with difference.

An individual who brings unique experiences and viewpoints to the cohort.

MARL Class XI Application Form Instructions & Checklist

- Complete all portions of application form and save a digital copy.
- If applicable, have your spouse/significant other and your employer complete and sign the appropriate consent forms.
- Submit your completed and signed application by email to Olga.Reuvekamp@SMSU.edu by the due date of **April 24, 2020**. If you do not receive email verification within three business days after you submit your application please call 507-537-6430 to inquire.
- Forward the Recommendation Form to three people of your choice. This form is also available on the MARL website: www.marlprogram.org. Signed and completed forms must be directly submitted by your reference, via email to Olga.Reuvekamp@SMSU.edu by April 24th, 2020.

Completed forms may be submitted any time between January 1, 2020 and April 24th, 2020. All materials must be received on or before April 24th, 2020.

EMAIL TO: Minnesota Agriculture & Rural Leadership

Olga.Reuvekamp@SMSU.edu

Ph: 507-537-6430

Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership shall provide equal access to and opportunity in its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

Complaints of discrimination may be filed through <https://www.smsu.edu/administration/affirmativeaction/index.html>

Rev. 10/2019

MARL Class XI Application & Selection Timeline

January 1 - April 24th, 2020	Applications Accepted Submit completed application and reference materials via email to Olga.Reuvekamp@SMSU.edu at the MARL office.
April 16, 2020	Nominations are Due
May 29-June 1, 2020	Personal Interviews Personal interviews are conducted with each applicant. Find the tentative schedule for interviews at five regional locations around Minnesota on page 4 of this form
June 30, 2020	Applicants Accept Membership in MARL Class XI, Fee Payment Selected applicants will accept or decline their class membership. If accepting, paying the first half (\$1500) of Year 1 tuition (refundable if membership is forfeited before Class XI begins in November 2020).
October 15, 2020	Fee Payment – The second half (\$1,500) of Year 1 participant tuition is due.
November 23-24, 2020	Kickoff MARL Class XI in St. Cloud (spouses included)
June 30, 2021	Fee Payment – The first half (\$1,500) of Year 2 tuition is due.
October 15, 2021	Fee Payment – The second half (\$1,500) of Year 2 tuition is due.

Please note:

- Please inquire about sponsorship and scholarship opportunities that may be available to offset the cost. Your inquiry will be kept confidential.
- Nominations are not required. Any candidate can apply through the process



I. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name as Listed on Driver's License – Last Name		First Name	Minnesota Resident Since (year)
Preferred First Name		Spouse's/Significant Other's Name	
Number of Children	Names of Children		

Home *

Street Address			
City	State	Zip Code	County
Home Phone	Cell Phone		Fax
Email Address			

Business

Business Name			
Street Address			
City	State	Zip Code	County
Phone	Fax	Email Address	

*Your home contact information will be used for correspondence unless you inform the MARL office of another preference.

Preferred Interview Date and Site:

- Tuesday, May 26 – SW Minnesota – Marshall
- Wednesday, May 27 – SE Minnesota – Rochester
- Thursday, May 28 – Metro Area
- Friday, May 29 – Central Minnesota – St. Cloud
- Monday, June 1 – NW Minnesota – Crookston

Media – Newspapers and Radio Stations serving your home and business

II. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

List all schools attended back to (and including) high school. Also include military and institutions where licensure education was pursued. List the most recent first.

Name/Location of School	Attendance	Completed?	If Yes – Degree	Area of Study
<i>XYZ College – Anytown, USA</i>	Dates <i>08/05 – 05/09</i>	<i>Yes or No</i>	<i>Bachelor’s</i>	<i>Animal Science</i>
	–			
	–			
	–			
	–			
	–			

Describe other education or training such as continuing education, certification and self-improvement.

III. OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION

Occupation	Position/Title
Company or Business Name	
Services Provided and/or Products/Commodities Produced	

Production Agriculture Involvement

Are you involved in production agriculture? No. If no, skip to EMPLOYMENT HISTORY.

Yes. If yes, complete the following questions.

% of personal income from production ag	% of work time spent on production ag		
Rank crops and/or livestock produced in order of importance to you economically:			
1)	2)	3)	4)
5)	6)	7)	8)
Please describe your production agriculture operation and your involvement.			

Employment History: Please detail work experience; list most recent first.

Company <i>Example: XYZ, Inc.</i>	Type of Business <i>Grain Storage</i>	Position <i>VP of Sales</i>	Location <i>City, State</i>	Dates Employed <i>08/2015-present</i>
				-
				-
				-
				-
				-
				-

IV. ORGANIZATIONAL AND COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

List your *current* memberships and offices held in organizations (agricultural, commodity, church, civic, political and fraternal groups).

Organization <i>Example: XYZ County Corn Growers</i>	Leadership Positions Held (past and present) <i>Secretary, Treasurer, Currently VP</i>	Year Membership Began <i>2015</i>

List your *past* memberships in organizations and offices held (school, 4-H, agricultural, church, civic, political and fraternal groups).

Organization <i>Example: XYZ County Corn Growers</i>	Leadership Positions Held <i>Secretary, Treasurer, Currently VP</i>	Dates of Membership <i>2015-2019</i>

V. ESSAY SECTION

Please answer the following questions in the allowed space available. Provide additions in a separate (Word) document.

1.) Please discuss an important issue facing agriculture or rural communities today. What is one specific idea you have in addressing this issue? **(Limit to 250 words or less.)**

2.) What relationships, and values do you deem most important? **(Limit to 250 words or less.)**

3.) Why should you be selected as a participant of this program? **(Limit to 250 words or less.)**

4.) If MARL is investing in your leadership development, how do you plan to use the knowledge, contacts and experience gained? **(Limit to 250 words or less.)**

5.) What are your leadership goals? **(Limit to 400 words or less.)**

VI. ATTENDANCE

Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership (MARL) will provide an excellent educational experience for the benefit of the participants. Tuition is a fraction of the true cost of participation, as each cohort is generously supported by alumni, friends, organizations, foundations, corporations, the University of Minnesota Extension and Southwest Minnesota State University and its Foundation. Due to these investments, as well as the importance of class dynamics, your full participation is very important. Selected candidates are expected to attend all of the seminars. This is estimated at 45 days of training; 21 the first year and 24 the second year.

The following policies are in place to assist in determining eligibility for continued participation and graduation.

Medical Emergency: Personal or Family - If a participant misses a seminar because of a medical emergency, the MARL Board of Directors would allow him/her to complete the seminars and graduate with their class.

Job Demands - If a participant has an unforeseen conflict arise, he/she would need to contact the MARL Executive Director prior to the seminar to allow for adequate adjustments and to request **authorization** of the absence.

Should a participant miss two seminars without authorization, dismissal from the program would be considered by the MARL Board of Directors.

Class XI Program Schedule and Curriculum

(Sites and schedule subject to change)

YEAR 1

Seminar #1

November 23-24, 2020 – St. Cloud

Seminar #2

December 16-18, 2020 – Marshall

Seminar #3

January 19-22, 2021 – St. Paul

Seminar # 4 – National

Study February 28- March 5, 2021 – Washington D.C.

Seminar #5

April 7-9, 2021 – Crookston

Seminar #6

June 23-25, 2021 – Duluth

YEAR 2

Seminar #7

November 15-17, 2021 N MN

Seminar #8

December 15-17, 2021 – SE MN

Seminar #9

January 19, 2022 – Centr. MN

Seminar #10 – International Study Seminar Between February 27-March 19, 2022 – Destination TBD

Seminar #11 – MARL Class XI Graduation April 8-9, 2022 – Mankato

VII. STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

- If selected, I will be able to attend all seminars.
- If selected, my tuition will be covered timely.
- The MARL experience includes a lodging rotation with double occupancy. If selected, I agree to participate in all activities as listed in the schedule including seminars group meals, tours and the lodging rotation.
- I understand that spouses/ significant others of candidates are encouraged to attend the interview.
- I give my permission to allow representatives of MARL to contact the references supplied.
- I also understand that the final selection of applicants is the sole responsibility of the MARL Board of Directors.

Due to the nature of the program tours and travel, a health form will be provided to all accepted candidates for completion. This form will be available only to MARL staff, to be referred to only in the event of illness or emergency, and will be kept confidential.

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I hereby certify that all statements made in this application are true and complete.

Applicant's Signature	Date
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VIII. SUPPORT OF SPOUSE

Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership (MARL) must have the support and commitment of their families and significant others. MARL requires a significant time commitment. As the candidate's spouse, I agree to support him/her to participate in the program.

Spouses and significant others are invited, welcome and encouraged to participate in seminar banquets, the first seminar in November of 2020, the mid-program session in June of 2021, and the final session in April of 2022, but will not be able to take part in other training seminars or tours.

I support _____ as a candidate for this program. We have discussed the benefits, responsibilities and obligations of the program.

Spouse's Signature	Date
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IX. REFERENCES

List below the contact information for the three people you have asked to complete and email or mail a Reference Recommendation Form to MARL. **Their letters of recommendation must be received in the MARL Office no later than April 24, 2020.**

REFERENCE #1

Name			Phone
Company			Position
Street Address			
City	State	Zip Code	Email

REFERENCE #2

Name			Phone
Company			Position
Street Address			
City	State	Zip Code	Email

REFERENCE #3

Name			Phone
Company			Position
Street Address			
City	State	Zip Code	Email