**Tour 1 Minimum 12 Maximum 36**

**Green Plains, Fergus Falls MN**

Green Plains, based in Omaha, Neb., is the third largest ethanol producer in the world. The company has an ethanol production capacity of nearly 1.5 billion gallons per year at its 17 plants, including the Otter Tail plant near Fergus Falls. At capacity, its plants collectively handle and process 14 million tons of corn and produce more than 4.1 million tons of distillers grain, a byproduct of ethanol production used as a high-protein, high-energy animal fodder and feed supplement. Corn oil, a coproduct of ethanol production, is extracted at all of Green Plains’ plants and sold to biodiesel manufacturers and to feedlot and poultry markets.

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**Tour 2 Maximum 20**

**Proof Artisan Distillers, Fargo ND**

Proof Artisan Distillers opened in 2015 in the heart of downtown Fargo. Owner Joel Kath, who was motivated by his “passion for spirits,” produces vodka, gin, whiskey, bourbon and liquors from local products: potatoes, barley and corn. Production takes place in the distillery, including grain and potato processing, wort production, fermentation, distilling, barreling, bottling and shipping. The distillery occupies the rear three-quarters of the 1928 building that houses the business and is visible from the Tasting Room, where visitors can sample outstanding, locally produced spirits. Proof Artisan Distillers’ spirits are available throughout North Dakota and Minnesota lakes country.

**Prairie Brothers Brewing Company Fargo**

The Prairie Brothers Brewing Company’s story began in 2009 with its first batch of home brew entitled Baby Beer in honor of the birth of owner Don Kenna’s first child. Kenna dabbled in home brewing – even growing hops in his backyard – until he opened the brewery in Fargo in 2015 and the taproom earlier this year. Prairie Brothers runs a 10bbl, steam-heated hot-side house; this recovery heat system allows for minimal energy use. The brewery houses three fermenters with glycol temperature controls to keep the beer at the exact temperature needed for the perfect product.

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**Tour 3 Minimum 15 Maximum 24**

**Kern Laser Systems, Wadena MN**

Kern Laser Systems, founded in 1982 by Gerald Kern and now operated by two generations of the Kern family, is a leading manufacturer of state-of-the-art laser cutting and engraving equipment. Based in Wadena, the company has a 30,000-square-foot facility and 30 full-time employees. Kern initially supplied motion systems for computerized rotary engraving machines and, with advances in the industry, has developed a complete turnkey laser cutting and engraving solution. Its vision is to manufacture laser systems that meet the customer’s needs, at an affordable price and with the versatility to serve a variety of industries.

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**Tour 4 Maximum 30**

**CNH Industrial, Fargo MN**

The renowned Case IH Steiger tractor is manufactured at the Fargo Manufacturing Operations plant. The company launched its world-class manufacturing initiative in the plant in 2008 to improve quality and productivity, and during the ensuing decade has invested more than $50 million in new equipment and new processes, including cutting-edge assembly processes. Both engineering and design staff work together under one roof at the facility, giving them the ability to interact daily on designs, all with the goal of producing the best possible products for their customers.

**John Deere Electronic Solutions Fargo MN**John Deere Electronic Solutions has a strong technological focus and extensive engineering design capabilities, with engineers engaged in more than 80 active projects. The company has broad experience in product design, product testing, manufacturing and support services, enabling John Deere Electronic Solutions to provide solutions for industries that require quality electronics equipped to operate in harsh or extreme environments.

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**Tour 5— maximum 24**

**Microsoft Fargo Campus**
Great Plains Software was started in 1981 by Fargo entrepreneurs Joe Larson and Roger Turner and later purchased by Great Plains partner Doug Burgum. In 2001, Microsoft purchased Great Plains for $1.1 billion, the largest acquisition at that time. Microsoft Fargo now has almost 2,000 employees, a mixture of full-time employees and contracted vendors. Microsoft Fargo’s core campus businesses include Cloud & Enterprise, Commercial Technical Support, World Wide Inside Sales Center, Global Finance Operations, Premier & Enterprise Services, HR & Legal, Global Sales & Marketing, and Corporate Strategy & Operations. Anticipated to have interactive learning environment ready by the conference.

**Swanson Health Products**
Swanson Health Products began as a family-run business in 1969 and has been a high-value leader in the health industry for nearly 50 years. Headquartered in Fargo and with warehouses in Nevada and Pennsylvania, the company ships top-quality products worldwide. Swanson’s selection includes supplements, foods, beauty products, beverages and homeopathic products, all backed with a 365-day money-back guarantee, and customer service is its No. 1 priority. The company believes in contributing to the health and wellness of its communities not just with its products but through participation in local events and donations to charitable organizations.

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**Tour 6**

**Bergen’s Greenhouses, Detroit Lakes**
Bergen's Greenhouses, a fourth-generation family-owned business that has been servicing the upper Midwest since 1921, takes pride in its family history and long-time ties to the region. As a contract grower, its mission is to efficiently produce, market and distribute the finest plant material available, specializing in year-round flowering plants, foliage and holiday plants, plugs and bedding plants. Bergen’s Greenhouses operates two garden centers and three innovative wholesale greenhouses with distribution to Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Minnesota and North and South Dakota. Its Minnesota locations feature the first retractable-roof greenhouses in the Upper Midwest.

**Richwood Winery, Detroit Lakes**
Located 10 miles north of Detroit Lakes on Lake Buffalo, co-owner and founder Penny Aguirre opened Richwood Winery in 2007 to test her belief that grape varietals created by the University of Minnesota could not only survive but thrive in the conditions of northern Minnesota. All grapes are crushed on-site, and wine is made, blended and bottled in a converted garage that combines the quality of a Napa Valley winery with the charm of northern Minnesota. With a log cabin tasting room that overlooks the vineyards, Richwood Winery has become a gathering place and event center for wine lovers, vacationers and visitors who just want to relax and unwind.

**Tour 7 Maximum 20**

**Square One Kitchen, Fargo, North Dakota**

**Artisan Pizza at Square One Kitchens. Learn the secrets behind making artisan style pizza from creating the perfect dough to using a pizza peel. This tour allows participants to assist in making the ingredients for the pizza as well as tossing their own pie using a variety of ingredients.**

**Have a “team building” cooking experience –sign up as a group or an individual.**