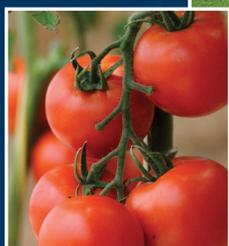


# AGRICULTURAL GROWTH, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION

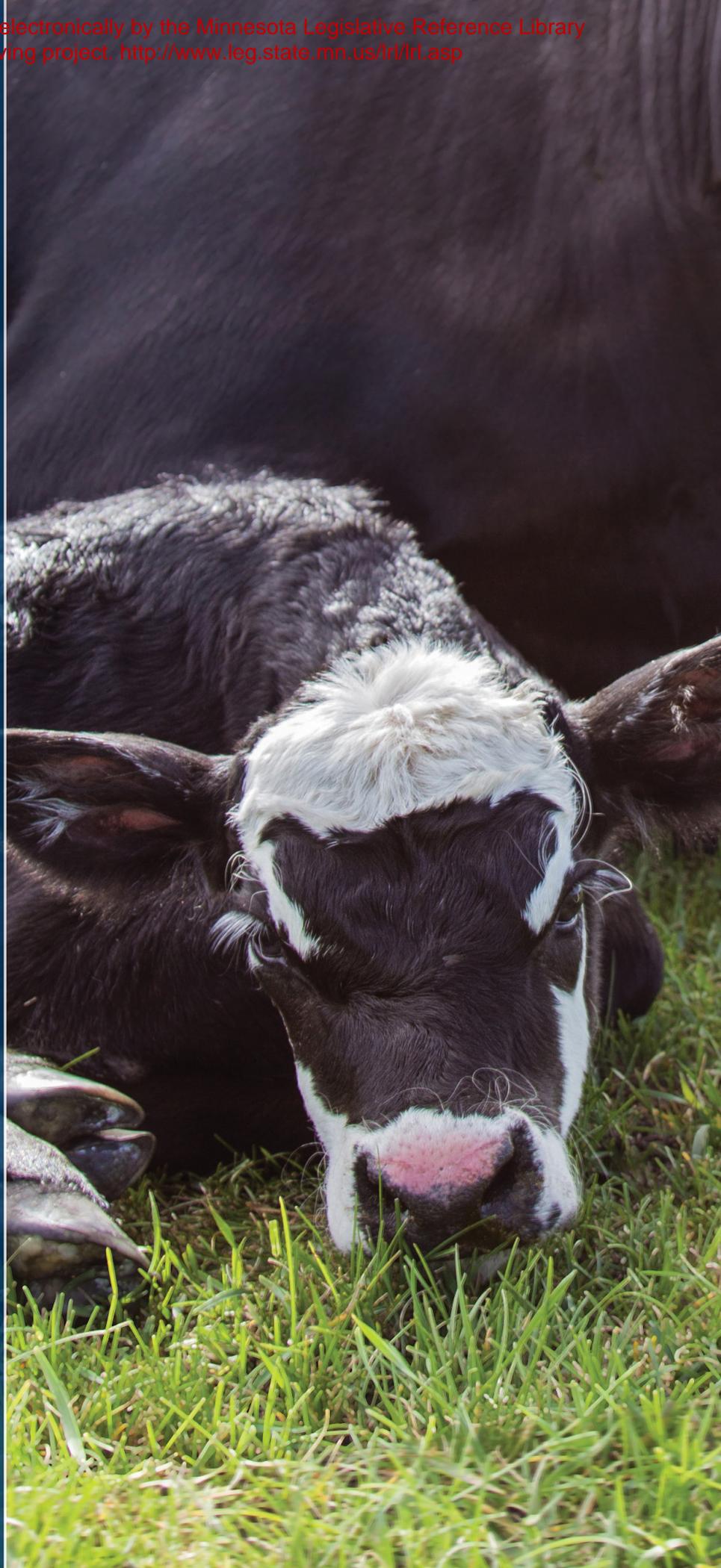
FISCAL YEAR 2017



## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

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February 1, 2018



AGRICULTURAL  
GROWTH,  
RESEARCH, AND  
INNOVATION

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*Thank you to Minnesota ag photo contributors Pete Bouman (cover calf), Lori Ende (cover farm field), Rose Wurtzberger (Contents soybeans), and Kabao Her (Executive Summary girl and pig)*

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# AGRICULTURAL GROWTH, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Program, established at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in Minn. Stat. 41A.12, advances Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy industries. In FY17, the fifth year of the program, we awarded \$10 million to farmers, agricultural businesses, and schools through Livestock Investment Grants, Value Added Agriculture Grants, Farm to School Grants, Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) Certification Cost Share, New Market Development, Minnesota Biofuels Infrastructure Partnership Cost Share, Crop Research Grants, Beginning Farmer Assistance, County Fair Grants, Food Hub Grants and Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grants. Significant immediate economic impacts have been realized in increased production and new products for sale, increased employment, entry into new markets, and increases in efficiency of production and processing.

FY17 investments resulted in:

- \$78 million of non-state investment leveraging \$6.93 for every \$1 of state investment;
- 254 new full- or part-time jobs on livestock farms;
- 91 new full-time jobs and 70 new part-time jobs in value added businesses;
- 20 schools increasing their purchases of Minnesota grown food for school food service; and
- 20 meat processors improving efficiency and/or increasing the number of livestock they process.

The AGRI Program appropriation for FY16 and FY17 was \$20.47 million; \$694,000 of unspent funds appropriated for AGRI and designated for the bioeconomy incentive payments were canceled to the general fund by the 2017 Legislature. Of the appropriated amount, \$8 million was awarded in FY16 and \$10 million was awarded in FY17. Funding was also used for administration, biofuel producer payments, and other programs.

For FY18, the AGRI Program was appropriated \$13.26 million, and for FY19, \$13.31 million was appropriated. As of January 1, \$3.13 million has been awarded in FY18. Requests for proposals remain open for applications to the Value Added Grants, County Fair Grants, Farm Business Management Scholarship, Urban Agriculture Grants, and GAP/GHP Certification Cost Share programs. Livestock Investment and Crop Research proposals have been received and are under review.

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. 3.197, the cost of preparing this report was approximately \$3000.

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## Introduction

The Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation (AGRI) Program was established at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) in Minn. Stat. 41A.12 in 2009. Funds for this program were made available after the state fulfilled its ten year commitment to support the ethanol industry. The Commissioner of Agriculture is authorized to issue grants, loans, and other forms of financial assistance for activities including, but not limited to, grants to livestock producers under the Livestock Investment Grant Program (Minn. Stat. 17.118), bioenergy awards made by the NextGen Energy Board (Minn. Stat. 41A.105), cost share grants for the installation of biofuel blender pumps, and financial assistance to support other rural economic infrastructure activities.<sup>1</sup>

Funds were first available to the AGRI Program in FY13 when \$641,422 in excess funds from the FY12 ethanol producer payments appropriation were combined with \$2.30 million appropriated by the Legislature for FY13 (Laws of Minnesota 2011 Ch. 14 sec. 3 subd. 4). Beginning in FY14 the AGRI Program's annual authorization grew to \$10.235 million.

The goal of the AGRI Program is to generate agricultural jobs and profitable businesses by focusing on areas of opportunity and potential economic impact. In FY17, the Commissioner implemented programs in the following areas:

- Livestock Investment Grants – to initiate or expand livestock production and processing;
- Value Added Equipment Grants – to purchase equipment in order to create, upgrade, or modernize value added businesses, including meat processing;
- Value Added Feasibility Study Grants – to assist the development of profitable businesses that add value to Minnesota agricultural products;
- Farm to School Grants – to help schools and early care and education organizations purchase more Minnesota grown food by investing in processing equipment and storage;
- Crop Research Grants – to catalyze research that will improve quality, quantity, and value of crops grown in Minnesota;
- Minnesota Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership Cost Share – to increase availability of renewable liquid fuels;
- New Market Development – to help Minnesota's small- to medium-sized food businesses and value added agriculture producers explore new markets and expand their market reach;
- Beginning Farmer Assistance – to support beginning farmers and facilitate the intergenerational transfer of farmland;
- Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grants – to enhance the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of Minnesota farms through farmer-led on-farm research;
- GAP/GHP Certification Cost Share – to increase the number of GAP/GHP certified farms and food processors;
- County Fair Grants – to support development and activities at county fairs; and
- Food Hub Grants – to assist food hubs and other alternative community-based food distribution systems increase sales of Minnesota agricultural products.

Each program is described in the following sections. Details about recipients are provided in the appendices.

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<sup>1</sup> The NextGen Energy statute, Minn. Stat. 41A.105 that created the NextGen Energy Board and authorized NextGen grants expired on June 30, 2015.

## Livestock Investment Grants

The Livestock Investment Grant (LIG) Program's goal is to increase the competitiveness and long-term development of Minnesota's livestock sector. Minnesota livestock farmers may apply for grants to purchase, construct, or improve buildings or facilities, or purchase fencing, feeding, and waste management equipment. Awards cover 10 percent of qualifying purchases with a maximum award of \$25,000 and a lifetime cap of \$50,000 per operation.

Grants are awarded competitively. A panel of MDA and external reviewers evaluated applications based on the entry or transition of an operation to the next generation, impact on the environment, number of employment opportunities, natural disaster consequences, and improvements in efficiency or profitability of the operation.

The FY17 target for LIG awards was \$2 million. We received 180 grant applications requesting \$2.9 million and awarded 105 grants totaling \$2.1 million. Participating farmers invested \$51 million in private funding, a 24.3 to 1 return on the state's investment. Awards were made across many livestock species and ranged from \$791 to \$25,000, with an average award of \$20,000. A list of awardees and a map of their locations are available in Appendices 1 and 2, respectively.

Livestock producers made improvements such as building barns and fences, purchasing robotic milking equipment, waterbeds, and trailers, and improving biosecurity through improved ventilation. For example, Shawn Olson, a farmer from Blue Earth, is building a new wean to finish swine barn in an effort to offer opportunities for his children to return to the farm after attending college. Manure generated from the hogs in the new barn and used as fertilizer will allow for the family to meet all their crop nutrient needs and reduce input costs.

Of the grants awarded:

- 99 percent addressed an environmental issue;
- 88 percent of the farmers had a conservation plan;
- 96 percent were awarded to applicants who were either entering farming or helping to transition the operation to the next generation; and
- 86 percent of recipients had ten years of farming experience or less.

We estimate that 1,325 construction jobs and 254 full- or part-time jobs on the farm were created as a result of LIG.

Proposals for FY18 grants were due on December 15, 2017. We received 196 applications requesting \$3.6 million with approximately \$1.9 million available for funding of new projects. Grants are set to be awarded in late February.

## Value Added Equipment Grants

The Value Added Grant Program (VAG) aims to increase sales of Minnesota agricultural products by diversifying markets, increasing market access and improving food safety. Eligible businesses or individuals must be involved in the production, processing or marketing of Minnesota agricultural products.

Grants are available for equipment or physical improvements (25 percent of the cost up to \$150,000). In FY17, priority was given to projects involving meat processing, farm to school (or other institution) market access, or implementing components of a food safety plan. The target for the FY17 VAG was \$2 million. We received 100 applications requesting a total of \$5.37 million. Grants were awarded competitively and applications were ranked by a panel of MDA and external reviewers. The evaluation criteria focused on the project's potential to increase sales of Minnesota agricultural products and measurable outcomes.

A total of \$2 million was awarded for 49 projects. The range of awards was \$1,250 to \$150,000 with an average of \$41,231. Private investment of \$18.6 million resulted in a 9.21 to 1 return on the state's investment.

A list of awardees and a map of their locations are available in Appendices 3 and 5, respectively.

Anticipated results from FY17 grants include:

- increased value added sales of \$42 million;
- increased processing of Minnesota livestock by 1.1 million head;
- increased processing of Minnesota grown agricultural products by 260 million pounds;
- increased production of value added businesses by 118 million pounds; and
- increased access to 6,460 additional markets for value added businesses, including retail establishments, schools and institutions, wholesalers or distributors, and direct sales.

A survey was sent to the FY15 and FY16 grantees with completed projects. The 32 respondents reported that, of their completely projects:

- 84 percent improved food safety;
- 72 percent were able to sell more than baseline projections, increasing annual sales by more than \$1 million;
- 81 percent were able to increase production of value added products by 5.5 million pounds;
- 78 percent were able to hire new employees (39 full-time and 43 part-time);
- 69 percent were able to increase the use of Minnesota agricultural products above baseline projections by a total of 650,000 pounds; and
- 91 percent were able to expand into one or more new markets, including retail establishments, wholesale and distributor accounts, direct marketing, schools and institutions, out of state markets, and restaurants.

The FY18 target for VAG is \$3.5 million. Two requests for proposals are issued each fiscal year. In the first round, applicants could apply for up to \$200,000 in funding. We received 23 applications requesting \$1.2 million and are in the process of awarding \$608,498 to 16 applicants. Those grant recipients will invest \$2.2 million in matching funds – a 3.65 to 1 return on the state's investment. During the second round, two levels of grants will be offered. Level 1 projects may request between \$1,000 and \$200,000, and Level 2 projects may request between \$200,001 and \$1 million. Up to \$1 million will be reserved for Level 1 projects, and up to \$1.5 million will be reserved for Level 2 projects.



Stony Creek Dairy of Melrose used grant funding to update their truck fleet, allowing them to make longer delivery runs while keeping their products cool.

## Value Added Feasibility Study Grants

Value Added Feasibility Study Grants assist the development of profitable businesses that add value to Minnesota agricultural products. Minnesota residents and businesses may apply for funds to conduct a feasibility study for a new business, or for expansion or diversification of an existing business. Awards cover up to 50 percent of costs, with a maximum award of \$35,000.

Letters of Interest are reviewed by MDA staff and external partners on a rolling basis throughout the year until all funds are expended. Approved applicants are offered free consulting services from the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI) to help them refine project goals, develop a scope of work, and identify a third-party consultant to generate a quote for the feasibility study. After selecting a consultant, the applicant submits a final application to the MDA for review.

In FY16 and FY17, we received 24 letters of interest and contributed a total of \$164,000 towards nine feasibility studies. Grantees examined business ventures related to advanced biofuels, dairy processing, organic dried distillers grains, buckwheat and sugar beets. For a full list of funded applications, and project locations and descriptions, see Appendices 4 and 5.

In FY18, the MDA has allocated \$250,000 for feasibility studies. As of January 1, 2018, five businesses are working towards selecting a contractor.

## Farm to School Grants

The Farm to School (F2S) Grant Program's goal is to increase the sales of Minnesota agricultural products by enhancing the ability of schools and other institutions to purchase, store and serve Minnesota grown products. Public and private schools that are a part of the National School Lunch Program and certain early care and education organizations that participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program were eligible applicants. Two types of projects were eligible for awards:

- Equipment purchases or physical improvements to allow schools to purchase, prepare, and serve more Minnesota grown food. Awards cover up to 50 percent of expenditures, with a maximum award of \$50,000.
- Feasibility studies to determine product availability and cost of the specific equipment, tools, training, or policies that a school or school district needs to increase the purchase of Minnesota grown food. Awards cover up to 75 percent of the cost of the study, with a maximum award of \$30,000.

Grants were awarded competitively. A panel of MDA and external reviewers evaluated the applications based on the capacity to increase the amount of Minnesota grown food used.

The FY17 target for the Farm to School Grant was \$500,000. We received 23 applications totaling \$453,835 and awarded \$364,505 for 20 projects. Awards ranged from \$3,750 to \$50,000, with an average of \$18,225. The Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross) contributed \$125,000 to help schools meet matching requirements. This funding is part of Blue Cross' long-term commitment to improve the health of all Minnesotans by tackling the leading root causes of preventable disease: tobacco use, lack of physical activity, and unhealthy eating. A list of awards and a map are located in Appendices 6 and 7, respectively.

Schools purchased coolers and freezers, combi ovens, salad bars, food processors, steamers, rotisserie ovens, and more. For example, Northfield Public Schools purchased a combination oven/steamer and a countertop freezer. The countertop freezer is primarily used at the high school to offer frozen products from Minnesota companies such as mixmi Brands and JonnyPops. Both mixmi and JonnyPops have benefited from AGRI Value Added Grants that focused on increasing their abilities to access the Farm to School market. The combi oven/



Hill City School purchased a tilting skillet and convection steamer to help jumpstart their Farm to School program. They aim to offer one meal each month that uses entirely Minnesota grown ingredients.

steamer will enable the school to more efficiently prepare vegetables from local gardeners and farmers.

We conducted a follow-up survey of all FY16 and FY17 grantees. All recipients reported that the grant funds helped make their project possible. Most of them agreed that the project would not have been possible at all without the grant funding, and the rest reported that the project would have been done on a more limited scale.

Schools that received a grant in FY16 are anticipating a \$2 million increase in local purchases between School Year 2015-2016 and School Year 2017-2018. FY17 recipients are expecting an additional \$2.3 million in local purchases this school year. It often takes schools a full year to implement their projects because of the demanding nature of the school year; equipment is typically installed during the following spring break, summer break, or MEA weekend. Note that some schools received grants in both years.

A growing number of schools are moving beyond local fruits and vegetables to also incorporate local meat products into their meals. For example, in FY17, Holdingford Public Schools purchased a meat slicer which is making it easier for them to purchase local ham and roast beef from St. Joseph Meat Market. Similarly, Eden Prairie Public Schools purchased rotisserie ovens,

enabling them to offer whole roast local chickens. Many schools are using equipment received through the grant to prepare turkey products from Ferndale Market.

The Farm to School Grant is enabling schools to strengthen connections between students and farmers. For example, the nutrition director at Lewiston-Altura has led student field trips to an organic produce farm and a bison farm after connecting with the farmers through the Farm to School Program.

In FY18, we received 32 proposals requesting \$697,589 and we are in the process of awarding about \$380,000 through 23 grants to 22 applicants. Blue Cross committed funds again in FY18 to help schools and early care and education providers meet their matching fund requirement.

## New Market Development

The New Market Development Program helps Minnesota food and beverage companies explore new markets and expand their market reach. The program assists startups and entrepreneurs with business development advice and resources, and helps companies gain a competitive advantage in regional, national and international markets. In FY17, 125 food and beverage companies headquartered in 36 Minnesota counties participated in either a Minnesota Pavilion at a trade event, or benefitted from cost sharing provided by the Tradeshow and Demonstration Support Program (TSP).

Those 125 companies projected \$26.3 million in new sales as a result of their participation in AGRI supported New Market Development programs.

### Minnesota Pavilions

The MDA hosted Minnesota Pavilions (gatherings of Minnesota companies) at eleven food and feed ingredient trade events in FY17, including: Anuga (Germany), SIAL Canada (Montreal), VIV China (Beijing), Winter Fancy Food Show (San Francisco), Gulfood (Dubai), Natural Products Expo West (Anaheim), National Restaurant Association/ American Food Fair Pavilion (Chicago), BAR 17 @ NRA (Chicago), Sweets and Snacks Expo (Chicago), SIAL China (Shanghai), and at the Summer Fancy Food Show (New York City). Approximately \$171,000 in AGRI funds were used to help fund these events. A list of participating companies and their locations can be found in Appendices 8 and 9, respectively.

Overall, the MDA helped manage 71 booths that were purchased at a reduced cost by food companies at Minnesota Pavilions in FY17. Participating companies reported:

- \$20.3 million in projected sales over the next 6-12 months;
- A 41:1 return on investment (based on projects sales versus companies' event expenses); and
- 4,818 new sales contacts and 290 new distributor relationships.

### Growth in projected sales and ROI reported by Minnesota Pavilion participants

| State Fiscal Year | Projected Sales | Expense Totals | Average ROI | Projected Sales Per Event Per Company |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2014              | \$2,096,500     | \$170,600      | \$22.67     | \$80,634                              |
| 2015              | \$2,896,000     | \$161,100      | \$17.31     | \$72,400                              |
| 2016              | \$6,704,600     | \$378,579      | \$19.77     | \$115,596                             |
| 2017              | \$20,310,000    | \$489,720      | \$41.47     | \$286,056                             |



Thousand Hills Cattle Company participated in a Minnesota Pavilion at Natural Products Expo West in Anaheim, California. Based in Cannon Falls, they market 100 percent grass-fed beef.

In FY18, we anticipate hosting Minnesota Pavilions at Anuga (Germany), Winter Fancy Food Show (San Francisco), Gulfood (Dubai), Natural Products Expo West (Anaheim), National Restaurant Association/American Food Fair (Chicago), Sweets and Snacks Expo (Chicago), and Summer Fancy Food Show (New York City). The Minnesota Pavilions at the Winter Fancy Food Show and Natural Products Expo West will be the largest state organized pavilions at the shows. Fewer events will be held in FY18, but the Minnesota companies will have more opportunities for booth spaces at these events.

Further, we are partnering with Grow North MN (University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management) and other sponsors to offer Minnesota Mingle receptions at each of the domestic trade show events. The first Minnesota Mingle, hosted at Natural Products Expo West, resulted in more than 200 Minnesotans gathering to network and work together to develop businesses in Minnesota.

## Tradeshow Support Program (TSP)

TSP helps small- to medium-sized companies exhibit at wholesale food events where there is not a Minnesota Pavilion option, and shares some of the high cost for them to execute in-store demos, where they can introduce products to new markets and stores. Costs eligible for reimbursement include mileage and labor for in-store demos, and items such as booth space rental, shipping, and new signage at wholesale food shows. A list of participating companies and their locations can be found in Appendices 10 and 11, respectively.

We used approximately \$165,000 in FY17 funds to reimburse Minnesota companies. As a result of their participation, these companies collectively reported the following outcomes:

- \$5.9 million in projected sales over the next 6-12 months;
- 291 new markets were explored (2.8 per company);
- 6,755 new stores were added (66 per company); and 156 new distributor relationships were initiated (1.5 per company).

In FY18, we have allocated \$260,000 for TSP cost sharing. As of January 1, we have reimbursed approximately \$105,000 to 54 Minnesota food and beverage companies.

## Crop Research Grants

Crop Research Grants were intended to improve the quality, quantity and/or value of crops grown in Minnesota. Awards of up to \$250,000 were made on a competitive basis for applied crop research that will result in near term benefits to farmers. Projects create public, transferable information and include a robust outreach component.

One researcher is creating a structural model of oat stalks that will be used to study lodging. Once the model has been tested in lab and field conditions, researchers will be able to screen new University of Minnesota oat lines. If successful, this will expedite the release of lodging resistant varieties to producers. Another research project is looking at planter technologies for canola. This new technology will be able to precisely plant one seed at a time, which will reduce seed costs and reduce inter-plant competition allowing optimum yield conditions. A third project will develop new winter barley and soybean varieties that are better adapted to a rotational cropping system in Minnesota, adding new opportunities for regional malting and brewing industries to source locally grown barley.

In FY17, we received 31 applications totaling \$5.9 million. A panel of MDA and external evaluators reviewed the applications and 11 projects were awarded a total of \$2.1 million. A list of projects is provided in Appendix 12.

In FY18, we received 43 applications totaling \$8.9 million and expect to award \$1.5 million.

## Minnesota Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership Cost Share

In September 2015, we were awarded \$8 million through the United States Department of Agriculture's Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership (BIP). Funding is intended to promote infrastructure for stores that dispense renewable liquid fuels such as E15 and Flex-Fuel blends such as E30 and E85, with the goal of increasing the use of ethanol in Minnesota. These funds were leveraged by \$3.05 million in FY16 and FY17 AGRI funding. An additional \$3.06 million was contributed by the Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council, 17 of Minnesota's ethanol plants, and a separate fund for E15 infrastructure created by the Minnesota Legislature. Projects were solicited through competitive RFPs. A team comprised of MDA and American Lung Association in Minnesota staff evaluated grant proposals and recommended awards based on projects' scope and potential to meet the goal of BIP.

In FY16 and FY17, a total of 122 stations were awarded contracts. Of these, 99 stations benefited from AGRI funds, 88 of which are now open and selling E15 and Flex-Fuel blends.

As of January 1, 2018, in FY18, contracts have been awarded for 59 sites, including \$1.56 million in AGRI funding.

## Beginning and Transitioning Farmer Assistance

The MDA and numerous public and nonprofit partners recognize that support for beginning farmers is critical to the future of Minnesota's agricultural sector. The AGRI Program provided important funds for a number of activities, including the creation of Minnesota FarmLink, a web-based tool designed to link farmers with farmland. Minnesota FarmLink includes all types of farming – ranging from small fruit and vegetable farms to large grain and livestock operations. The goal of Minnesota FarmLink is to connect farmers through mentoring and employment opportunities and farmland for rent or purchase. In addition, we created an online directory for beginning and transitioning farmers that functions as a clearinghouse of programs and services. The website includes a database of available land and farmers, financial assistance and loans, farmer education programs, legal services, multi-cultural resources, networking and mentoring opportunities, and transitioning and succession planning tools.

Another major beginning farmer initiative at the MDA is the continuation of the Farm Business Management (FBM) Scholarship Program. FBM helps farm operators learn profitable business management strategies. The program teaches farmers how to use their own farm records to make sound business decisions. Instruction is offered by Minnesota State Colleges and University campuses statewide. Instructors meet with students 1:1 and/or in small group settings.

The program defines a beginning farmer as a person who has owned or operated a farm or ranch, wholly or in partnership with others, for ten years or fewer. As owner/operator, a person must have a financial interest in the farm, must participate in making some or all management decisions, and must participate in the operation of the farm on a regular basis.

The FBM Scholarship Program pays 50 percent of the cost for beginning farmers to enroll in up to ten credits of FBM education per year until the student earns 40 credits. In FY17, we awarded scholarships to 571 beginning farmers, for a total of \$467,000.

As of January 1, 2018, the MDA had awarded scholarships to 451 beginning farmers, for a total of \$368,438 in FY18.

## Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grants

Since 1989, the Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Program (Minn. Stat. 17.116) has encouraged farmers, nonprofit groups, agricultural researchers and educators to explore ways to enhance the sustainability of a wide range of farming systems. The program was originally funded through a dedicated biennial appropriation with funding shifting to the AGRI program in FY13.

Projects can last two to three years and receive a maximum award of \$25,000. Projects must research or demonstrate the energy efficiency, environmental benefit, and/or profitability of sustainable agriculture techniques or systems from production through marketing on Minnesota farms. Grantees are required to provide information on their research projects for the *Greenbook*. The *Greenbook*, published annually by the MDA, features the description, results, and management tips from all funded projects.

The FY17 target for Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grants was \$250,000. We received 16 applications requesting \$300,000 and made seven awards totaling \$108,569. Grants were awarded competitively and applications were ranked by MDA and external reviewers. Appendix 13 contains a list of the projects funded.

Proposals for FY18 grants were due on December 13, 2017. We received 19 applications requesting \$416,115 with \$250,000 available for funding of new projects. Grants are set to be awarded in late February.

## GAP/GHP Certification Cost Share

The Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)/Good Handling Practices (GHP) Certification Cost Share program defrays farmer and processor costs for GAP/GHP certification for food safety, a certification that is increasingly required to sell produce to schools and institutions, and through retail markets.

GAP/GHP certification focuses on improving the safety and quality of produce in the field and during handling. It requires a food safety plan and independent audits to verify that farmers and processors are producing, packing, handling, and storing fruits and vegetables in the safest manner possible.

Farmers and handlers who meet USDA standards by an accredited certifier were eligible to receive a reimbursement of 75 percent of their certification costs up to \$2,500.

For FY17, we received and funded 31 applications and funded all of them, disbursing a total of \$22,072. On average, farmers and processors spent \$949 on certification costs, and we reimbursed 75 percent of these expenses.

According to the USDA, there are currently 57 Minnesota GAP/GHP certified entities, an increase of two compared to the previous year. As of January 1, 2018, we have received 18 applications for the \$25,000 available again this year.

## County Fair Grants

The AGRI County Fair Grant enhances access to the preservation and promotion of Minnesota's agriculture at county fairs. In FY17, \$1 million was available to Minnesota's 94 county fairs. Each fair was eligible for up to \$10,638. The program distributed \$977,172 to 89 county fairs. Fairs used the funding in a variety of ways, such as purchasing sound equipment for judging in their livestock barns, making structural repairs or updating outdated electrical in livestock barns, and creating displays for agricultural education.

For FY18, this AGRI grant opportunity will continue to focus on the preservation and promotion of Minnesota agriculture. A total of \$1 million is available in equal amounts to the 94 active county fairs. Minnesota's Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund will allocate an additional \$150,000 to provide access to the arts, or to the state's agricultural historical, and cultural heritage.

## Food Hub Grants

Exclusive to FY17, the AGRI Food Hub Grant Program assisted food hubs and other alternative community-based food distribution systems to increase sales of Minnesota agricultural products. Grants were intended to stimulate purchases of locally grown and raised foods. Both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations were eligible to apply. Two types of projects were eligible for awards:

- Business Planning, Feasibility Study, and Marketing Plan: These grants covered up to 75 percent of total project costs, with a maximum award of \$50,000 and a minimum grant award of \$2,500.
- Equipment Purchase and Physical Improvements: Grants covered up to 25 percent of total project costs, with a maximum award of \$50,000 and a minimum grant award of \$1,000.

Grants were awarded competitively. A panel of MDA and external reviewers evaluated the applications based on long-term sustainability, capacity to implement the project, and commitment to increasing purchases from Minnesota farmers.

The target for the Food Hub Grant was \$200,000. We received 15 proposals (seven for equipment/physical improvements and eight for planning) for requests totaling nearly \$374,000. We awarded ten grants totaling \$165,000 to seven organizations. See Appendix 14 for detailed descriptions of each project.

## Livestock Investment Grant Recipients

| Producer           | City        | County          | Species     |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Haley Ammann       | Truman      | Martin          | Swine       |
| Dustin Arndt       | Owatonna    | Steele          | Swine       |
| Alan Barka         | Grove City  | Meeker          | Dairy       |
| Robert Bents       | Bigelow     | Nobles          | Swine       |
| Brian Boser        | Pierz       | Morrison        | Swine       |
| Glenn Brambrink    | Saint Cloud | Sherburne       | Poultry     |
| Sarah Brouwer      | Raymond     | Kandiyohi       | Poultry     |
| David Buttenhoff   | Howard Lake | Wright          | Sheep/Goats |
| Mark Chamberlain   | Pine Island | Goodhue         | Dairy       |
| Kyle Chirpich      | Fairmont    | Martin          | Swine       |
| Trey Cranston      | Heron Lake  | Jackson         | Swine       |
| Brent Czech        | Rice        | Benton          | Dairy       |
| Luke Daninger      | Forest Lake | Washington      | Dairy       |
| Jordon Daugherty   | Raymond     | Kandiyohi       | Sheep/Goats |
| Jordan Dean        | Lakefield   | Jackson         | Beef        |
| Jim Dieball        | Green Isle  | Sibley          | Dairy       |
| Paul Dobis         | Avon        | Stearns         | Dairy       |
| Sean Driessen      | Canby       | Yellow Medicine | Dairy       |
| Quinton Eaton      | Waseca      | Waseca          | Swine       |
| Anthony Eilers     | Clear Lake  | Sherburne       | Beef        |
| Matthew Eischen    | Comfrey     | Brown           | Swine       |
| Christian Erickson | Viking      | Marshall        | Beef        |
| Florian Euteneuer  | Paynesville | Stearns         | Dairy       |
| Daniel Fick        | Hills       | Rock            | Beef        |
| Jacob Fick         | Luverne     | Rock            | Swine       |
| Cory Forcelle      | Faribault   | Rice            | Swine       |
| Ryan Franta        | Lafayette   | Nicollet        | Swine       |
| Jayden R. Garlick  | Fairmont    | Martin          | Swine       |
| Connor Garry       | Blue Earth  | Faribault       | Swine       |
| Kurt Goebel        | Burtrum     | Morrison        | Poultry     |
| John Gottwald      | Paynesville | Stearns         | Beef        |
| Matthew Green      | Greenbush   | Roseau          | Dairy       |
| Patrick Gregor     | Waseca      | Waseca          | Beef        |
| Isaac J Griebel    | New Ulm     | Brown           | Dairy       |
| Joe Grote          | Kenyon      | Rice            | Beef        |

## Livestock Investment Grant Recipients

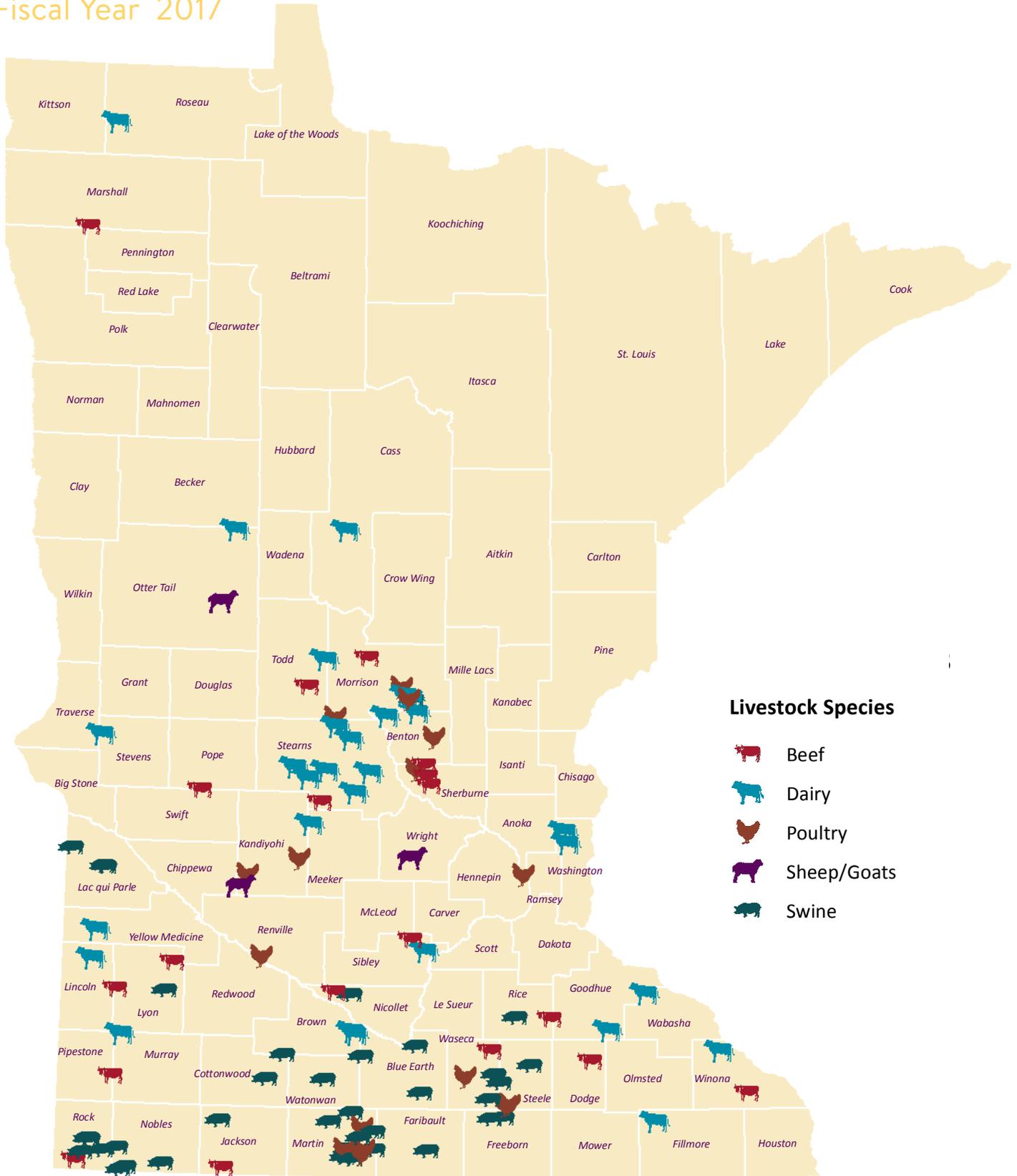
| Producer          | City          | County        | Species |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------|
| Seth Haas         | Madison       | Lac qui Parle | Swine   |
| Samuel Haas       | Madison       | Lac qui Parle | Swine   |
| Brad Hagen        | Saint Cloud   | Sherburne     | Beef    |
| Nicholas Harris   | Granada       | Martin        | Swine   |
| Frederick Hartung | Freeport      | Stearns       | Dairy   |
| Abe Hauge         | Winona        | Winona        | Beef    |
| Daniel Helvig     | Truman        | Martin        | Swine   |
| Joseph Hemmesch   | Paynesville   | Stearns       | Dairy   |
| Joseph Hoffman    | New Ulm       | Brown         | Dairy   |
| Erin Holland      | Ellendale     | Steele        | Poultry |
| Paige Holland     | Ellendale     | Steele        | Poultry |
| Brady Jensen      | Hartland      | Freeborn      | Swine   |
| Lucas Johnson     | Fairmont      | Martin        | Poultry |
| Travis Johnson    | Gibbon        | Nicollet      | Beef    |
| Matthew Jones     | Mankato       | Blue Earth    | Swine   |
| Riley Jones       | Waseca        | Waseca        | Poultry |
| Andrew Jorgensen  | Fairmont      | Martin        | Swine   |
| Adam Kalthoff     | Melrose       | Stearns       | Dairy   |
| Brian Kas         | Woodstock     | Pipestone     | Beef    |
| Michael Koltes    | Saint Cloud   | Stearns       | Dairy   |
| Larry Lahr        | Cold Spring   | Stearns       | Dairy   |
| Sean Maday        | Granada       | Martin        | Poultry |
| Lucas Maday       | Granada       | Martin        | Poultry |
| Timothy Marquardt | Mantorville   | Dodge         | Beef    |
| Brandon Marshik   | Rice          | Benton        | Dairy   |
| Rick Meisch       | Altura        | Winona        | Dairy   |
| Jon C. Meyer      | Lake City     | Wabasha       | Dairy   |
| Elijah J. Miller  | Spring Valley | Fillmore      | Dairy   |
| Andrew Miron      | Hugo          | Washington    | Dairy   |
| Alex Moer         | Ellendale     | Waseca        | Swine   |
| Troy Nelson       | Benson        | Pope          | Beef    |
| James Nelson      | Ruthton       | Murray        | Dairy   |
| Brian Nickel      | Mountain Lake | Cottonwood    | Swine   |
| Brent Niznik      | Pierz         | Morrison      | Poultry |
| Joseph Norman     | Pine River    | Cass          | Dairy   |
| Bryan Nowicki     | Granada       | Martin        | Poultry |

## Livestock Investment Grant Recipients

| Producer               | City          | County        | Species     |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| Chad Olsen             | Canby         | Lincoln       | Dairy       |
| Shawn Olson            | Blue Earth    | Faribault     | Swine       |
| Erik Peeters           | Menahga       | Otter Tail    | Dairy       |
| John Peterson          | Atwater       | Kandiyohi     | Poultry     |
| Ryan Peterson          | Clear Lake    | Sherburne     | Beef        |
| Carrie Redden          | Chokio        | Stevens       | Dairy       |
| Nick Richison          | Granada       | Martin        | Swine       |
| Daniel Roberts         | Madelia       | Blue Earth    | Swine       |
| Casey Schilling        | Ellsworth     | Nobles        | Swine       |
| Curtis Schilling       | Ellsworth     | Nobles        | Swine       |
| Colton Schlaak         | Hartland      | Freeborn      | Swine       |
| Keith Schlaak          | New Richland  | Waseca        | Swine       |
| John Snyder            | Little Falls  | Morrison      | Beef        |
| Juan Solorzano         | Saint James   | Watonwan      | Swine       |
| Brittany Springer      | Henning       | Otter Tail    | Sheep/Goats |
| Craig Stangl           | Pierz         | Morrison      | Dairy       |
| Shane Stangl           | Pierz         | Morrison      | Dairy       |
| Micah Stensland-Bos    | Luverne       | Rock          | Swine       |
| Nathan Thompson        | Luverne       | Rock          | Swine       |
| Matthew Thooft         | Arco          | Lyon          | Beef        |
| Nickolas Tonne         | Granada       | Martin        | Swine       |
| Bradley Trapp          | Pierz         | Morrison      | Poultry     |
| Richard Traugott       | Foley         | Benton        | Poultry     |
| Aric Uithoven          | Luverne       | Rock          | Swine       |
| Jeremy Vandelanote     | Cottonwood    | Lyon          | Beef        |
| Ryan Vandendriessche   | Marshall      | Lyon          | Swine       |
| Loren Vetsch           | Browerville   | Todd          | Dairy       |
| Dylan Wacek            | Redwood Falls | Renville      | Poultry     |
| Samuel Wede            | Mapleton      | Blue Earth    | Swine       |
| Anthony Wells          | Minneapolis   | Hennepin      | Poultry     |
| Christopher Westerberg | Long Prairie  | Todd          | Beef        |
| Ryan Wittnebel         | Bellingham    | Lac Qui Parle | Swine       |
| Philip Wolf            | Adrian        | Nobles        | Swine       |
| Jeff Ziegler           | Green Isle    | Sibley        | Beef        |

# Livestock Investment Grants by County

## Fiscal Year 2017



### Livestock Species

- Beef
- Dairy
- Poultry
- Sheep/Goats
- Swine

## Value Added Equipment Grant Recipients

| Business Name                               | County   | Summary   |
|---|----------|---|
| Al-Corn Clean Fuel, LTD                     | Dodge    | Overhaul corn processing facility and construction of dried distillers grain with solubles (DDGS) storage silos to improve efficiency and profitability of production of value-added products, including DDGS.  |
| Alexis Bailly Vineyard, Inc.                | Dakota   | Purchase of a bladder press to increase sales and profitability of the business by improving quality of the wine.   |
| Ann River Vineyard, LLC                     | Kanabec  | Construction of a winery facility and purchase of grape and wine processing equipment to diversify their market channels and increase economic sustainability of their farm.  |
| Belgrade Meat Center, LTD                   | Stearns  | Purchase of two Pro Smoker Smokehouses increasing production to expand sales in on-site retail store to meet demand.  |
| Big Steer Meats                             | Ramsey   | Purchase of dual printing scales, walk-in freezer, ball former and knee lever stainless steel sinks to address food safety and increase efficiency and number of meat products and thereby expand sales.  |
| Bolton Bees                                 | Ramsey   | Facility improvements to a new honey house to improve efficiency, increase production and improve food safety.  |
| Buckwheat Growers Association of Minnesota  | Wadena   | Purchase of equipment to modernize facility to increase processing efficiency and capacity, shelf life, and increase sales.   |
| Carl's Lefse, Inc.                          | Clay     | Purchase of several pieces of equipment to increase food safety, production capacity and efficiency to meet increased demand and expand markets.  |
| City Foods Studio, LLC                      | Hennepin | Install and purchase walk-in cooler/freezer unit, exhaust hood, sink and upgraded electrical service to increase production, storage capacity and number of start-up food production businesses that can utilize this incubator kitchen.                |
| Conger Meat Market, LLC                     | Freeborn | Build new walk-in cooler, knock boxes, rails and racking and purchase equipment to increase efficiencies, expand number of value-added meat products, and enter new wholesale markets.  |
| Country Blossom Farm, LLC                   | Douglas  | Purchase of several pieces of equipment to process fruit and crust ingredients more efficiently, meet increased demand, increase sales and add to value added offerings.  |
| Dehmer's Meats, Inc.                        | Wright   | Facility upgrades and installation of a smokehouse and purchase a sausage mixer and water activity meter kit to be able to safely produce new product lines.  |
| Dombrovski Meats Co.                        | Benton   | Purchase of a jerky packaging machine and smokehouse to increase efficiencies in production and packaging to increase sales.  |
| Dover Processing, Inc.                      | Olmsted  | Purchase of a vacuum packaging system to increase efficiency of packaging, sales, and expanding to new markets.   |
| Dumpling and Strand, Noodlers at Large, LLC | Hennepin | Purchase and install a modified atmosphere packaging tray sealer to increase production rates and shelf life and enter new markets.   |
| Erdmans County Market                       | Dodge    | Purchase and install roll stock vacuum packing machine, automatic tie clipper, water activity meter, pH meter, refrigerated cooler, and wireless data loggers to address food safety requirements, and increase product line and production efficiency. |

## Value Added Equipment Grant Recipients

| Business Name                         | County          | Summary   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Glacial Grain Spirits                 | Swift County    | Purchase of equipment to begin processing organic distillers grains produced from MN-sourced organic corn which will expand and diversify markets.  |
| Grandma's Gourmets, LLC               | Freeborn        | Purchase and install a steam kettle and food processor to enhance production efficiencies, increase capacity, and expand sales to new wholesale accounts.                                       |
| Greg's Meat Processing, LLC           | Dakota          | Purchase of automated slicer, stainless steel equipment, and patty former to produce new products and expand private label and wholesale markets, which will increase profitability.            |
| Guardian Energy, LLC                  | Waseca          | Purchase and install stainless steel tank with foundation and associated equipment to increase production capacity.   |
| Heart O' Lakes Quality Meats          | Otter Tail      | Purchase two freezer units and construction of an addition to be able to slaughter more livestock and further process more retail meat.   |
| JonnyPops, LLC                        | Hennepin        | Purchase and installation of new equipment for each area of the manufacturing line to increase production capacity and efficiency while reducing food safety risks.                             |
| Kettle River Pizza, Inc.              | Pine            | Conversion and improvement of cooler to freezer to improve process of shipping and handling, and increase production, sales, and profitability.   |
| K-FAITH, LLC<br>(DBA The Meat Shoppe) | Yellow Medicine | Facility improvements to bring facility up to code and licensing requirements, and allow purchase of walk-in cooler and retail case to increase market access to livestock processing services. |
| Klein Foods, Inc.                     | Lyon            | Purchase of equipment to improve efficiency in honey processing and meet Food Safety Modernization Act requirements for traceability to boost sales.  |
| Lang's Meat Market, LLC               | Sibley          | Purchase and install two retail fresh meat refrigeration cases and two freezer doors to maintain quality and ensure food safety of meat products to maintain customer base.                     |
| Loon Liquors, LLC                     | Rice            | Purchase of equipment to increase all sides of production: mashing, fermentation, distillation, storage and bottling with each piece designed to increase food safety.                          |
| Mackenthun's Meats and Deli, Inc.     | Hennepin        | Purchase and install a large freezer to enable production of a larger variety of sausages and increase profits.   |
| McDonald's Meats, Inc.                | Sherburne       | Construct a large addition to slaughtering and meat processing facility to expand market outlets by processing more local livestock and expanding product offerings.                            |
| Michael G Erickson Farms              | Polk            | Purchase of a grain cleaning unit to prepare hemp for further processing which will diversify farm income and increase profitability of farm business.  |
| Mighty Axe Hops                       | Benton          | Purchase equipment to process local hops into pellets to enable sales to more markets and increase profitability of hop farmers' businesses.  |
| Mills Locker Plant                    | Otter Tail      | Purchase a vacuum stuffer with a twist linker to increase uniformity of meat products and efficiency of production.   |
| Minnesota Hemp Farms, Inc.            | Washington      | Initiation of a hemp product processing facility to expand markets and increase profits.  |

## Value Added Equipment Grant Recipients

| Business Name                        | County          | Summary   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Minnesota Syrup Co.                  | Lake            | Purchase and install an updated and larger evaporator to increase syrup quality, food safety and efficiency of syrup production.  |
| Nelson Shine Produce                 | Crow Wing       | Purchase of equipment and upgrades to the poultry processing plant to increase processing efficiency and food safety, diversify markets and continue business growth.       |
| Odenthal Meats                       | LeSueur         | Expand and remodel processing facility including purchase of equipment to create efficient production flow, improve food safety and maintain current private label markets. |
| Ody's Country Meats & Catering, Inc. | Fillmore        | Construction of a drip cooler to increase food safety, production efficiency and capacity of meat products from local beef and hogs.  |
| River Rock Kitchen & Baking Co       | Nicollet        | Purchase of equipment including a walk in cooler and walk in freezer to expand production, and purchase of flooring, sink and steel work tables to increase food safety.    |
| Schroeder Meats, LLC                 | Carver          | Purchase a larger carcass splitting saw to decrease splitting time, increase food safety, and benefit local livestock producers.  |
| Seeds Farm                           | Rice            | Build a new space and purchase equipment to wash, process, prepare and store vegetables to meet food safety standards, improve efficiency and increase market access.       |
| Smude Enterprises, LLC               | Morrison        | Purchase a filter system and new equipment for custom bottling of oils to diversify markets and services.   |
| Sogn Valley Orchard                  | Goodhue         | Facility improvements to improve the efficiency of apple washing and packaging to increase sales.   |
| Stittsworth Meats                    | Beltrami County | Construction of new building for USDA ready-to-eat processing and new USDA mobile slaughter trailer to diversify local livestock farmers and increase processing capacity.  |
| TFC Poultry                          | Grant           | Purchase and installation of two water jet de-boners and peripheral equipment to enhance food safety, meat processing efficiency and production and thereby expand markets. |
| The Good Acre                        | Ramsey          | Purchase of four pieces of processing equipment to process produce into shelf-stable production for use in kitchens and increase farmers' access to markets.                |
| The Hess Meat Company                | Carver          | Purchase of two commercial trailers and an enclosed trailer to open up a new revenue stream, build a customer base, and increase profits from the farm.                     |
| Valley Natural Meats, Inc.           | Rice            | Facility and equipment costs to retrofit a plant according to food safety requirements to increase niche Minnesota livestock producers' market access.                      |
| Vertical Malt                        | Polk            | Purchase equipment to increase processing efficiencies, capacity, and types of products to increase business sustainability.  |
| Von Hanson's Meats of Plymouth, Inc. | Hennepin        | Purchase of equipment to increase food safety, produce more meat products, as well as market more efficiently to increase sales.  |

## Value Added Feasibility Grant Recipients

| Business Name                              | County   | Summary  |
|--|----------|--|
| Associated Milk Producers, Inc.            | Brown    | Studying the expansion of a cheese and whey plant located in the city of Paynesville.  |
| Best Animal Utilization, LLC               | Hennepin | Exploring the feasibility of organic and grass-fed byproduct markets.  |
| Buckwheat Growers Association of Minnesota | Wadena   | Determining if a retail environment would be a viable way to increase sales of their products.   |
| Chippewa Valley Ethanol Company            | Swift    | Evaluating if a new project based on emerging conversion technologies would be feasible if co-located or sited nearby its Benson facility.   |
| Country Blossom Farm, LLC                  | Douglas  | Exploring the development of baked goods and dehydrated products into local wholesale outlets, food hubs, farmers markets, and on-farm sales.  |
| Glacial Grain Spirits                      | Swift    | Determine the potential market for organic dried distiller grains production.  |
| Mark Lange                                 | Martin   | Exploring the feasibility of adding an on-farm dairy processing facility to the existing dairy operation, and to market local, primarily grass-fed, Vat-Pasteurized fluid milk and butter. |
| Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative  | Renville | Studying the overarching feasibility of expanding the further processing of surplus sugar beets, sugar beet co-products, and their waste stream by-products.                               |
| The Urban Farmhands                        | Hennepin | Exploring the further processing of microgreens into more widely available, shelf-stable products.   |

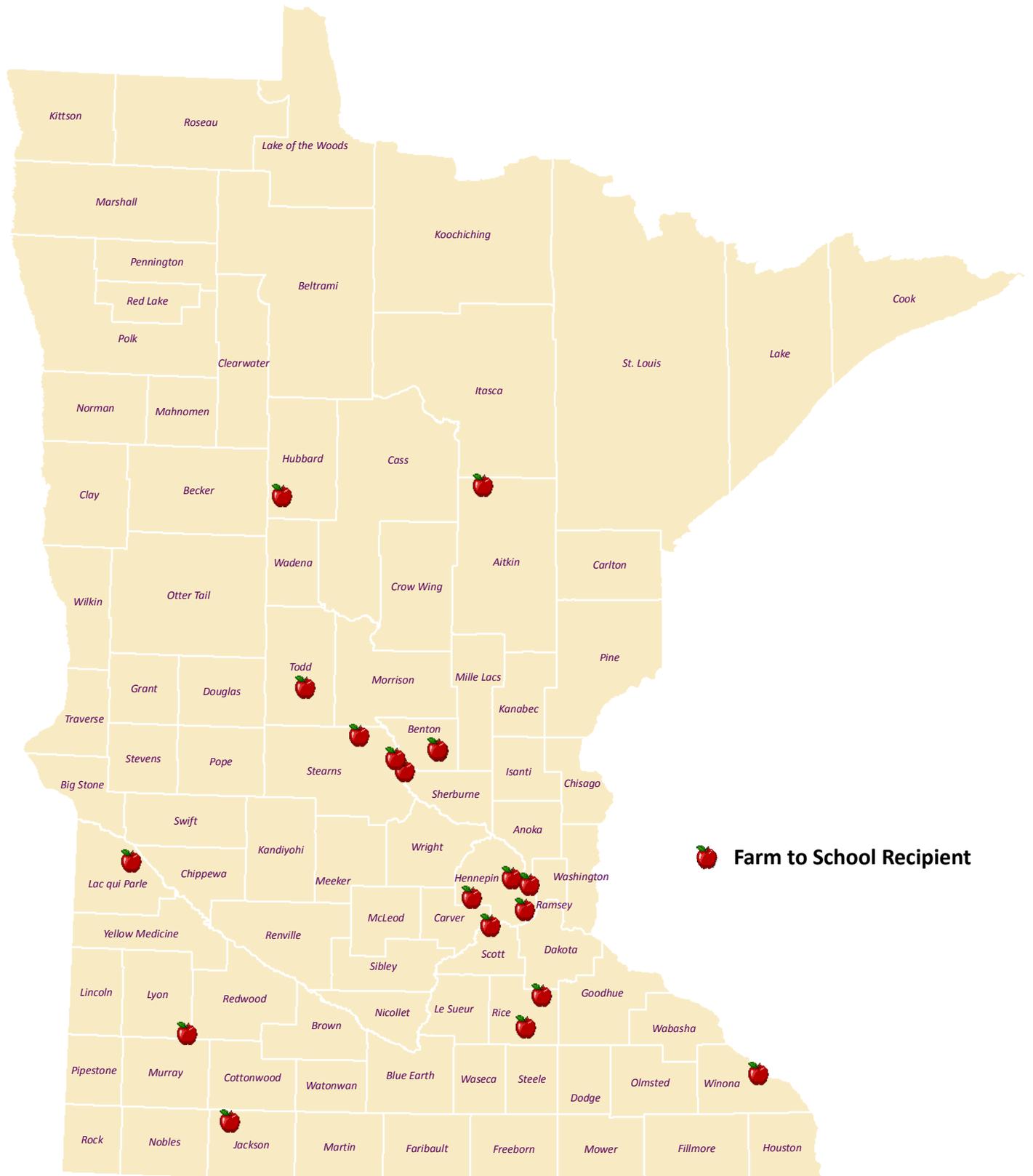


## Farm to School Grant Recipients

| School                                 | City         | Summary   |
|--|--------------|---|
| Bethlehem Academy                      | Faribault    | Purchase convection oven, cool cart for salad bar, and stand mixer.   |
| Foley Public Schools                   | Foley        | Purchase hot and cold serving counters, ice machine, Vita-mix, and smallwares.  |
| Heron Lake-Okabena School              | Heron Lake   | Purchase doublestack oven, fruit and vegetable cart, and holding cart.  |
| Hill City School                       | Hill City    | Purchase steamer and tilting braising pan.  |
| Holdingford Public Schools             | Holdingford  | Purchase meat slicer and cart.  |
| Lac qui Parle Valley School District   | Madison      | Purchase refrigerated buffet station, work table, dicing blade for Robot Coupe, hot steam table, double convection oven, tray platform cart, and construction work.                             |
| Long Prairie-Grey Eagle Public Schools | Long Prairie | Purchase convection steamer and accessories.  |
| Minneapolis Public Schools             | Minneapolis  | Purchase conveyor and bulk product transfer pump.   |
| Northfield Public Schools              | Northfield   | Purchase a combi oven/steamer and a countertop freezer.   |
| Park Rapids Area Schools               | Park Rapids  | Purchase portable heating cabinets, pass-thru refrigerator, convection oven, hydrovection oven, plumbing, and electrical.   |
| Playhouse Child Care Center            | St Cloud     | Purchase combination cooler and freezer, microwave oven/steamer, prep work area, shelving and wall cabinets, dishwasher, dishtable, sorting shelf, range/oven, microwave/steamer, and disposer. |
| Playhouse Child Care Center            | St Cloud     | Conduct feasibility study to determine group purchasing and continue research on baby products.   |
| Richfield Public Schools               | Richfield    | Purchase and construct a “build you own salad” line, including hot and cold wells, electrical pole, cashier’s counter, utility counter, refrigerator, and an electrical plan.                   |
| Robbinsdale Area Schools               | New Hope     | Purchase combi oven, Robot Coupes, and tilting braising pan.  |
| Sartell-St. Stephen School District    | Sartell      | Purchase two combi ovens, one Robot Coupe, two hot water dispensers, and rotisserie style racks for combi ovens.  |
| Shakopee Public Schools                | Shakopee     | Purchase walk-in cooler and freezer for East Junior High.   |
| St. John’s Area School                 | Foley        | Purchase electric range, milk cooler, and misc. kitchen equipment.  |
| Tracy Area Schools                     | Tracy        | Purchase refrigerated salad bars for both schools.  |
| Westonka Public Schools                | Mound        | Purchase tilting skillet, two combi ovens, and two rotating rack convection ovens.  |
| Winona Area Public Schools             | Winona       | Purchase hydrovection oven.   |

# Farm to School Grants by County

## Fiscal Year 2017



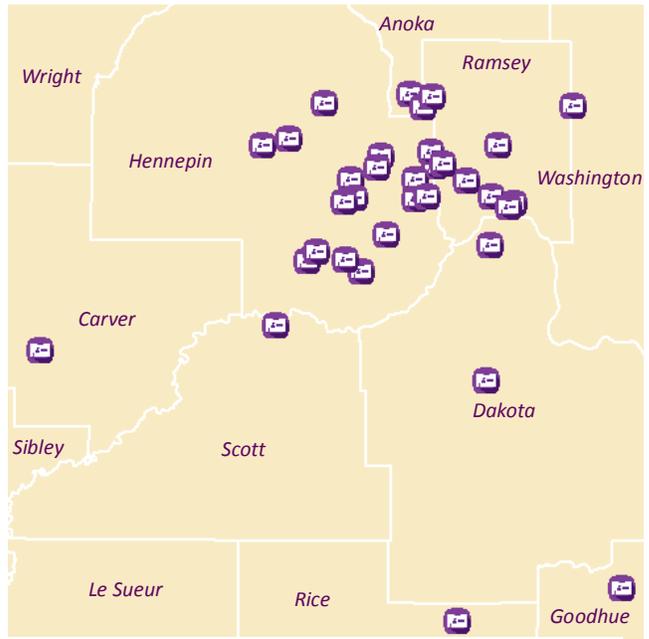
## Minnesota Pavilion Participants

| Company Name or Brand Name          | City             | County      |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| Agropur                             | Saint Paul       | Ramsey      |
| Bare Honey                          | Saint Paul       | Ramsey      |
| Bee Free Honey                      | Plymouth         | Hennepin    |
| Bizzy Coffee                        | New Brighton     | Ramsey      |
| Bliss Gourmet Foods                 | Saint Paul       | Ramsey      |
| Bongards Premium Cheese             | Chanhasen        | Carver      |
| Buddy's Nut Butter                  | Minneapolis      | Hennepin    |
| Captain Ken's                       | Saint Paul       | Ramsey      |
| CHS Sunflower                       | Grandin          | Cass (ND)   |
| Compart Family Farms                | Nicollet         | Nicollet    |
| Crapola                             | Ely              | Saint Louis |
| Dashfire                            | Saint Paul       | Ramsey      |
| Dauus                               | Bloomington      | Hennepin    |
| Davisco                             | Eden Prairie     | Hennepin    |
| Downs Food Group                    | Mankato          | Blue Earth  |
| Dr. In the Kitchen                  | Eden Prairie     | Hennepin    |
| Dutch House Confections             | Alexandria       | Douglas     |
| Envy Brands                         | Minneapolis      | Hennepin    |
| Farmer You                          | Northfield       | Rice        |
| Five Friends Food (FreshBAR)        | Minneapolis      | Hennepin    |
| Henke Foods (BT McElrath/Annie B's) | Mahtomedi        | Ramsey      |
| Joia                                | Saint Louis Park | Hennepin    |
| JonnyPops                           | Saint Louis Park | Hennepin    |
| Kakookies                           | Plymouth         | Hennepin    |
| K-Mama Sauce                        | Minneapolis      | Anoka       |
| K'UL Chocolate                      | Minneapolis      | Hennepin    |
| Leech Lake Wild Rice                | Cass Lake        | Cass        |
| Maddy & Maize                       | Saint Paul       | Ramsey      |
| Midwest Ag Enterprises              | Marshall         | Lyon        |
| Northarvest Bean Growers            | Frazee           | Becker      |
| Nots! Brand Sustenance Snacks       | Ada              | Otter Tail  |
| Pop'd Kerns                         | Arden Hills      | Ramsey      |

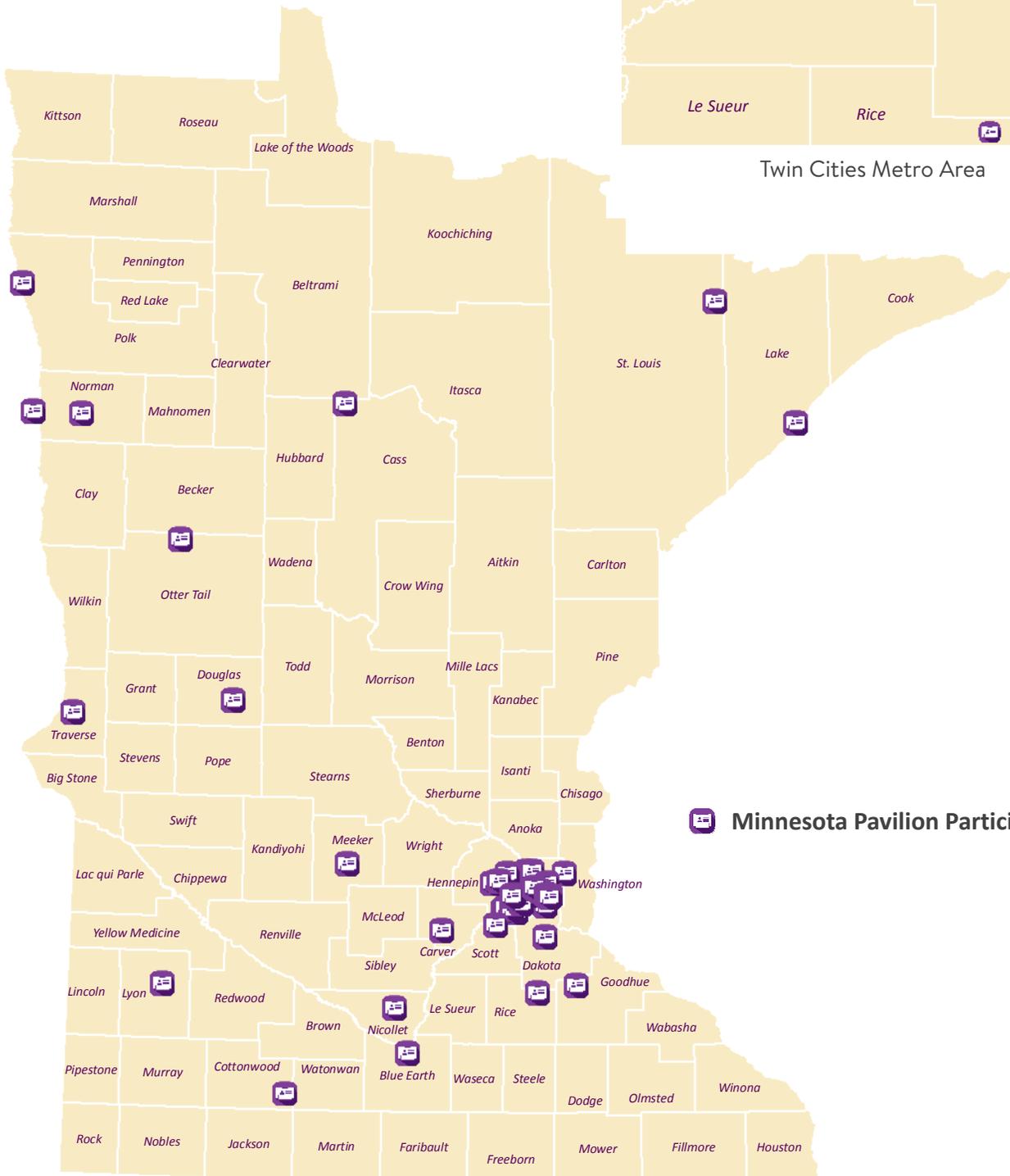
## Minnesota Pavilion Participants

| Company Name or Brand Name      | City             | County   |
|---------------------------------|------------------|----------|
| Punk Rawk Labs                  | Minneapolis      | Hennepin |
| Red River Valley Potatoes       | East Grand Forks | Polk     |
| River Hills Harvest Marketers   | Minneapolis      | Hennepin |
| Rusty Anchor Bloody Mary Mix    | Wheaton          | Traverse |
| Seven Sundays                   | Minneapolis      | Hennepin |
| So Good Brands                  | Minneapolis      | Hennepin |
| Sparboe                         | Litchfield       | Meeker   |
| Stone Gate Foods                | Shakopee         | Scott    |
| SunOpta                         | Edina            | Hennepin |
| Sweet Harvest Foods (PB Crave)  | Rosemount        | Dakota   |
| Thousand Hills Cattle Co.       | Cannon Falls     | Goodhue  |
| Toom Dips (Joyce Foods)         | Mendota Heights  | Dakota   |
| Total Health Advanced Nutrition | Fridley          | Anoka    |
| Waymouth Farms                  | New Hope         | Hennepin |
| WholeMe                         | Minneapolis      | Hennepin |
| Wilderness Products             | Silver Bay       | Lake     |

# Minnesota Pavilion Participants by County Fiscal Year 2017



Twin Cities Metro Area



 Minnesota Pavilion Participant

## Tradeshow Support Program Participants

| Company Name or Brand Name             | City            | County      |
|--|-----------------|-------------|
| Andrej's European Pastry               | Chisholm        | Saint Louis |
| Angie's BOOMCHICKAPOP                  | Mankato         | Blue Earth  |
| Bank Brewing Co.                       | Hendricks       | Hennepin    |
| Bizzy Coffee                           | New Brighton    | Ramsey      |
| Bliss Gourmet Foods                    | Saint Paul      | Ramsey      |
| Blue Earth Valley Trading Co.          | Mankato         | Blue Earth  |
| Bolton Bees                            | Saint Paul      | Ramsey      |
| Bongards Premium Cheese                | Chanhassen      | Carver      |
| Brody's 579                            | Mahtomedi       | Washington  |
| Buddy's Nut Butter                     | Minneapolis     | Hennepin    |
| Calvit's Shrubs                        | Minneapolis     | Hennepin    |
| Capra Nera Creamery                    | Altura          | Winona      |
| Clover Valley Farms                    | Duluth          | Saint Louis |
| Coco Amour Foods                       | Minneapolis     | Hennepin    |
| Curly Girlz Candy                      | Medford         | Steele      |
| Desserts by Alighieri                  | Saint Paul      | Ramsey      |
| Double Take                            | Edina           | Hennepin    |
| Dr. In the Kitchen                     | Eden Prairie    | Hennepin    |
| Dry Creek Red Angus                    | Goodhue         | Goodhue     |
| Dumpling and Strand, Noodlers at Large | Minneapolis     | Hennepin    |
| Dutch House Confections                | Alexandria      | Douglas     |
| E & C's (Hunkola)                      | Eden Prairie    | Hennepin    |
| ENKI Brewing                           | Victoria        | Carver      |
| Envy Brands                            | Minneapolis     | Hennepin    |
| Famous Products                        | Eden Prairie    | Hennepin    |
| Far North Spirits                      | Hallock         | Kittson     |
| Farmer You                             | Northfield      | Rice        |
| Five Friends Food (FreshBAR)           | Minneapolis     | Hennepin    |
| Gardenaire                             | Rochester       | Olmsted     |
| Grandma's Gourmets                     | Albert Lea      | Freeborn    |
| Gray Duck Chai                         | Minneapolis     | Hennepin    |
| Grk                                    | West Saint Paul | Dakota      |
| Gustola Granola                        | Minneapolis     | Hennepin    |
| Heather's Dirty Goodness               | Minneapolis     | Hennepin    |
| Heavenly Treats                        | Saint Cloud     | Stearns     |
| Hellraising Hot Sauce                  | Richfield       | Hennepin    |
| Henke Foods (BT McElrath/Annie B's)    | Mahtomedi       | Ramsey      |
| Hot Dang                               | Minneapolis     | Hennepin    |

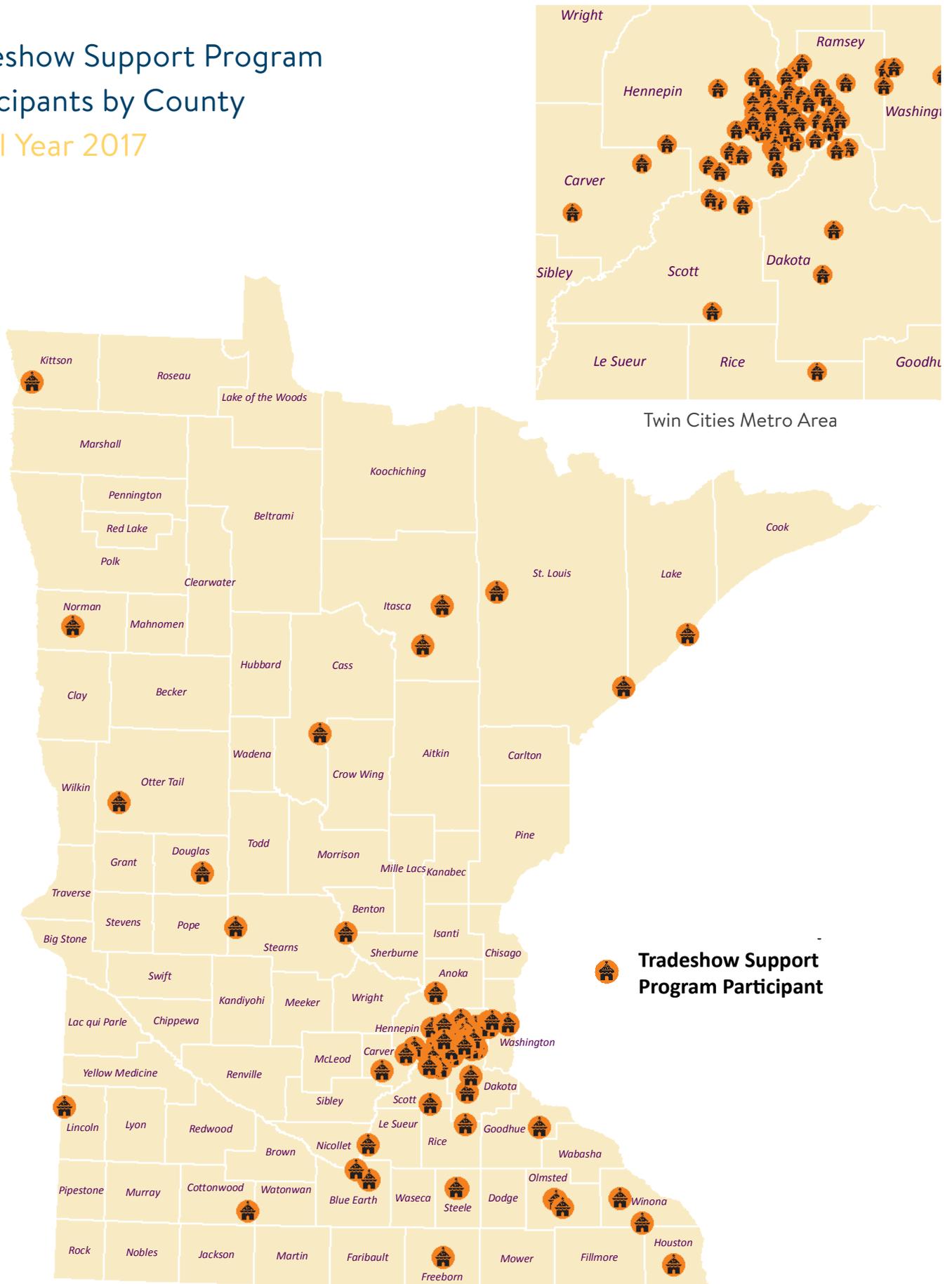
## Tradeshow Support Program Participants

| Company Name or Brand Name    | City             | County     |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| Jazzy Foods                   | Saint Paul       | Ramsey     |
| Joia                          | Saint Louis Park | Hennepin   |
| JonnyPops                     | Saint Louis Park | Hennepin   |
| Kakookies                     | Plymouth         | Hennepin   |
| K-Mama Sauce                  | Minneapolis      | Anoka      |
| K'UL Chocolate                | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| Life Changing Foods           | Saint Peter      | Nicollet   |
| Life Changing Foods           | Saint Louis Park | Hennepin   |
| Lionheart Cider               | Little Canada    | Ramsey     |
| Luv Ice Cream                 | Stillwater       | Washington |
| Mademoiselle Miel             | Saint Paul       | Ramsey     |
| Mama Stoen's                  | Owatonna         | Steele     |
| Metz's Hart-Land Creamery     | Rushford         | Fillmore   |
| Minnesota Nice Spice          | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| Mixmi Brands                  | Eden Prairie     | Hennepin   |
| MN Bratwerks                  | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| North Aire Market             | Shakopee         | Scott      |
| North Mallow                  | Golden Valley    | Hennepin   |
| Nots! Brand Sustenance Snacks | Ada              | Otter Tail |
| Numeez                        | Saint Paul       | Ramsey     |
| Nutrisolutions                | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| Oak Valley Creations          | Savage           | Scott      |
| Origin Meals                  | Excelsior        | Hennepin   |
| Pam's Pepper Jam              | Robbinsdale      | Hennepin   |
| Papa George                   | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| Pashen Corporation            | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| Philia Foods                  | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| Pipz Jerky                    | Bloomington      | Hennepin   |
| Pop'd Kerns                   | Arden Hills      | Ramsey     |
| Punk Rawk Labs                | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| Pure Soap Flake               | Pine River       | Crow Wing  |
| Qwiznibet Foods               | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| Redhead Creamery              | Brooten          | Stearns    |
| Regals Catering               | Rochester        | Olmsted    |
| River Hills Harvest Marketers | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| Salad Girl                    | Willernie        | Washington |
| Salsa Del Diablo              | Rochester        | Olmsted    |
| Sara's Topsy Pies             | Oak Park Heights | Washington |

## Tradeshow Support Program Participants

| Company Name or Brand Name                      | City             | County     |
|---|------------------|------------|
| SelfEco Gardens                                 | Stillwater       | Washington |
| Seven Sundays                                   | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| Simpls  | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| Snaptail Smokers, LLC                           | Bovey            | Itasca     |
| Snopac foods                                    | Caledonia        | Houston    |
| St. Paul Bagelry (Minnesota Smoothies and More) | Roseville        | Ramsey     |
| St. Paul Switchel                               | Roseville        | Ramsey     |
| Steve's Pepper Sauce                            | Grand Rapids     | Carlton    |
| Stone Gate Foods                                | Shakopee         | Scott      |
| Superior Switchel                               | Saint Louis Park | Hennepin   |
| Sweet Harvest Foods (PB Crave)                  | Rosemount        | Dakota     |
| Sweetland Orchard, LLC                          | Webster          | Rice       |
| Tantalizing Taste                               | Otsego           | Sherburne  |
| Tattersall Distilling                           | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| Terroir Chocolate                               | Fergus Falls     | Ottertail  |
| The Twisted Shrub                               | Edina            | Hennepin   |
| Thelma's Minnesota                              | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| Toom Dips (Joyce Foods)                         | Mendota Heights  | Dakota     |
| Triple Crown BBQ                                | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| True Dough                                      | Farmington       | Dakota     |
| Urban Chemist                                   | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| West End Enterprises (Chanticlear)              | Maple Grove      | Hennepin   |
| WholeMe   | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |
| Wilderness Products                             | Silver Bay       | Lake       |
| You Betcha Kimchi                               | Minneapolis      | Hennepin   |

# Tradeshow Support Program Participants by County Fiscal Year 2017



## Crop Research Grant Recipients

| Project Title   | Organization Name                              | Principal Investigator | Crop                     |
|---|--|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Improving sustainable management practices for spotted wing drosophila, an emerging pest of small fruit in Minnesota. | Regents of the University of Minnesota         | Mary Rogers            | Fruits                   |
| Increasing the capacity of an applied, genomics-assisted Kernza breeding program.                                     | Regents of the University of Minnesota         | James A. Anderson      | Kernza                   |
| Identification and characterization of the soybean cyst nematode resistance in dry bean.                              | Regents of the University of Minnesota         | Senyu Chen             | Dry beans                |
| Reducing canola input costs through singulation and row spacing.  | Minnesota Canola Council                       | Nancy Ehlke            | Canola                   |
| Develop vitamin D3-enriched tomato varieties for Minnesota growers.   | Regents of the University of Minnesota         | Changbin Chen          | Tomato                   |
| Utilizing structural engineering principles to develop lodging resistant oats.  | Regents of the University of Minnesota         | Kevin P. Smith         | Oats                     |
| Breeding barley and soybean for a dual cropping system.   | Regents of the University of Minnesota         | Aaron Lorenz           | Soybean, Barley          |
| Developing a hybrid hazelnut production package for Minnesota.  | Regents of the University of Minnesota         | Lois Braun             | Hazelnut                 |
| Agronomic and breeding strategies for improved pennycress grain yield and oil content.                                | Regents of the University of Minnesota         | M. Scott Wells         | Pennycress, Soybean      |
| Plant growth, development and yield influenced by sulfur applied in soybean, spring wheat and perennial ryegrass.     | Minnesota Turf Seed Council                    | Nancy Ehlke            | Soybean, Wheat, Ryegrass |
| Improving hard red spring wheat management with plant height, plant stand and nitrogen management                     | Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council | Grant Mehring          | Wheat                    |

## Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant Recipients

| Grantee  | Summary   | Grantee City   | Project Location (County)                 |
|--|---|----------------|---|
| Anna Johnson                                   | Testing three novel sheep-specific pasture types to maximize average daily gains in lambs on pasture. | Gibbon         | Sibley                                    |
| Blueberry Fields of Stillwater                 | Using essential oils to repel spotted wing drosophila in blueberries.                                 | Stillwater     | Washington                                |
| Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council | Impact of two tillage types on yield, economic profitability, and soil health in Polk County.         | Red Lake Falls | Polk                                      |
| Pheasants Forever                              | Using precision agriculture data to maximize economic and environmental benefits.                     | Saint Paul     | Multiple                                  |
| Regents of the University of Minnesota         | Developing an annual day-neutral strawberry planting system with biodegradable mulches.               | Minneapolis    | Hennepin, McLeod, Otter Tail, and Stevens |
| Vande Ag Enterprises                           | Determining economic feasibility of spray form insulation in a hog finishing barn.                    | Marshall       | Lyon                                      |
| York Farm                                      | Testing different training systems and varieties to improve the profitability of gooseberries.        | Hutchinson     | McLeod                                    |

## Food Hub Grant Recipients

| Organization Name                              | City          | Summary  |
|--|---------------|--|
| City of Crookston                              | Crookston     | Develop a detailed business plan, building off of work done through an initial feasibility study.  |
| Greenhouse MN, LLC                             | Golden Valley | Secure, retrofit and operate a membership-based production, storage, co-working and community facility for small food processors.  |
| Hmong American Farmers Association             | St. Paul      | Build a GAP certified aggregation, packing, and cooling facility on HAFA land.   |
| Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe - Tribal Development | Cass Lake     | Create online food hub and marketing and business plans.   |
| Orr Recreation and Resource Center, Inc.       | Orr           | Purchase of refrigerator & freezer for the new ORR Center Market created to streamline access to healthy, locally-grown food within the community.   |
| Project Sweetie Pie                            | Minneapolis   | Purchase equipment for a new food hub, including GAP hand washing stations and harvesting bins for five growing sites.   |
| Real Food, LLC                                 | Willmar       | Purchase of equipment for commercial kitchen as part of the larger Willmar Regional Food Hub project.  |
| Sprout MN, LLC                                 | Brainerd      | Develop a marketing plan to build off the current business plan and operations and to identify market objectives and strategies to increase sales, communicate Sprout's mission, and create a roadmap for achieving goals. |
| Sprout MN, LLC                                 | Brainerd      | Purchase of small equipment, a refrigerated delivery vehicle, hydraulic hand pump, vegetable washing machine, and miscellaneous small equipment for the existing, operational food hub.                                    |
| Waite House Community Center                   | Minneapolis   | Develop a business plan for all aspects of the food hub, forming of the cooperative that will manage it, and capacity building toward the development and distribution infrastructure at the food hub site.                |

## AGRI Investments Since FY13



The Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation (AGRI) Program was established in Minn. Stat. 41A.12 to advance Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy industries. The program is funded through an annual general fund base appropriation of \$10.235 million to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). Through June 2017, \$40.1 million has been awarded.

The AGRI Program focuses on the areas of greatest opportunity and potential economic impact to generate agricultural jobs and promote business expansion in the areas of livestock investment, value added business and market development, farm to school, and renewable energy.

### Livestock Investment *FY 2013 to Present*

Invests in Minnesota's livestock industry which adds value to the crops grown in the state

The Livestock Investment Grant awards 10 percent of livestock equipment or facility expenses up to \$50,000 (lifetime). Funds are available to all Minnesota livestock farmers and are awarded competitively. Criteria for reviewing applications include beginning farmer or transition to next generation; positive impact on the environment; increased efficiency or profitability of the operation; and job creation.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Applications Received/Amount Requested    | 1,437 applications/\$23.92 million   |
| Applications Funded/Amount Awarded        | 547 projects/\$9.77 million  |
| Estimated Leveraged Private Investment    | \$229.99 million   |
| Estimated Jobs Created                    | 3,886 during construction/1,385 post construction  |
| Awards to Beginning/Transitioning Farmers | 85 percent of grantees have been farming for less than 10 years;<br>94 percent of grantees are entering or transitioning the farm to the next generation |
| Projects Addressing Environmental Issues  | 97 percent   |

**FY 2018 Update:** The MDA anticipates awarding \$1.9 million. Review committees are currently evaluating proposals.

## Value Added Equipment *FY 2013 to Present*

Supports Minnesota agricultural producers and processors to expand markets for Minnesota products

The goal of the Value Added Grant Program is to increase sales of Minnesota agricultural products by diversifying markets, increasing market access, and increasing food safety. Grant awards fund 25 percent of equipment purchases or building modification expenses up to \$150,000. Priorities for funding are meat processors, farm to school market access, and projects that address components of a food safety plan.

|  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Applications Received/Amount Requested | 543 applications/\$22.82 million |
| Applications Funded/Amount Awarded     | 249 applications/\$8.28 million  |
| Leveraged Private Investment           | \$40.21 million                  |
| Estimated Jobs Created                 | 254 full-time and 254 part-time  |

**FY 2018 Update:** The target for Value Added Grants is \$3.5 million, including up to two \$1 million grants. In the fall round, the MDA received 23 applications requesting \$1.18 million and awarded grants to 16 applicants totaling \$608,000. Private investments of \$2.2 million will result in a 3.65 to 1 return on the state's investment. A second round of grants for the remaining funding will be available in the spring.

## Farm to School *FY 2013 to Present*

Enhances schools' ability to purchase, store, and serve locally grown products, increasing sales of Minnesota agricultural products

School districts that are part of the National School Lunch Program and/or early care and education organizations participating in the Child and Adult Care Food Program are eligible to apply. Farm to School awards cover 50 percent of an equipment project, up to \$50,000, and 75 percent of a feasibility study, up to \$30,000. The Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota has annually contributed up to \$150,000 to help schools meet the matching fund requirement. In recent surveys of awardees, nearly all schools indicated grant funding made a major impact on the success of their projects.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Applications Received/Amount Requested                                 | 153 applications/\$3.14 million                         |
| Applications Funded/Amount Awarded                                     | 103 projects/\$1.82 million                             |
| Estimated Leveraged Private Investment                                 | \$2.06 million  |
| Estimated Farmer/School Relationships                                  | 162 (among FY16 and FY17 grantees)                      |
| Estimated Sales of Minnesota Foods in Schools in School Year 2017-2018 | \$5.6 million (based on 32 grantees from FY16 and FY17) |

**FY 2018 Update:** The MDA is in the process of awarding \$380,000 for 22 projects.

## New Market Development

*FY 2013 to Present*



Helps small food and agriculture companies explore regional and international markets

The MDA coordinates “Minnesota Pavilions” at trade events worldwide to help companies stand out in a very competitive marketplace and to enter new markets. The Tradeshows Support Program (TSP) provides cost sharing for retail sampling events and can help offset the high costs of exhibiting at wholesale food shows.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| State Funds Invested in TSP  | \$1.07 million   |
| Number of Companies Participating in TSP and Minnesota Pavilions (sum of each fiscal year) | 576  |
| Projected New Sales from TSP and Minnesota Pavilions                                       | \$53.85 million and over 16,800 new relationships with stores and distributors |

**FY 2018 Update:** \$340,000 is available for TSP cost sharing and Minnesota Pavilions. Tradeshows with Minnesota Pavilions are scheduled in Anuga, Germany; San Francisco, CA; Anaheim, CA; Chicago, IL; and New York City, NY

## Crop Research

*FY 2013 to Present*



Supports applied crop research projects that will result in near term benefits to farmers and the agricultural economy by improving agricultural product quality, quantity, and value

Projects create public, transferable information and include a robust outreach component. Examples of eligible projects include research to increase crop yield and production efficiency; improve traits for market or climate; and develop new crops, cover crops and specialty crops. Grants of up to \$250,000 per project are awarded on a competitive basis.

|  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Applications Received/Amount Requested | 118 projects/\$22.84 million |
| Applications Funded/Amount Awarded     | 44 projects/\$8.11 million   |

**FY 2018 Update:** The MDA received 43 applications totaling \$8.9 million and expects to make awards in early February.

## NextGen Bioenergy and Biochemicals

*FY 2014*



Provided for research, technical assistance, equipment, and/or development of business plans and structures related to community ownership of bioenergy and biochemical facilities

Awards were made by the Commissioner of Agriculture after consultation with the NextGen Energy Board. Examples of projects include ethanol plant retrofit engineering for butanol production; pilot plan construction for biochemical production; and research for advanced drop-in biofuel production. This program was discontinued in FY 2016.

|  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| Applications Received/Amount Requested | 35 projects/\$12.3 million |
| Applications Funded/Amount Awarded     | 5 projects/\$1.7 million   |
| Leveraged Private Investment           | \$3.6 million              |

## NextGen Biothermal Energy *FY 2015*



Provided for financial assistance for the installation of woody biomass heating equipment used for propane fuel replacement in regions lacking natural gas infrastructure

This program was a separate allotment from the NextGen Bioenergy and Biochemicals grant fund. These projects supported the deployment and evaluation of existing commercial biothermal technology, addressed the critical barrier of financing propane/fuel oil heating switch-over projects, and supported wood energy market development across the supply chain from fuel, to heating equipment, to installation capacity. This program was discontinued in FY 2016.

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Applications Received/Amount Requested | 6 proposals/\$632,000 |
| Applications Funded/Amount Awarded     | 5 projects/\$522,135  |
| Leveraged Private Investment           | \$515,000             |

## Blender Pump Cost Share *FY 2014 and FY 2015*



Provides funding to service stations for flexible fuel pumps, and compatible infrastructure to deliver renewable liquid fuels such as E15 or E85 and other flexible fuel ethanol blends with gasoline

The Minnesota Corn Growers matched the State fund with \$1 million and a committee convened by the American Lung Association of Minnesota oversees the grants. Applications are taken continuously until funds are exhausted.

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Applications Received/Amount Requested | 39 proposals/\$985,000        |
| Projects Completed                     | 36 service stations/\$950,000 |

**FY 2018 Update:** Funding for this program in FY 2017 and FY 2018 was used to support projects and match Federal funds as a part of the Minnesota Biofuels Infrastructure Partnership project. See below for detail.

## Minnesota Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership Cost Share *FY 2016 to Present*



Leverages a Federal award to provide funding to service stations for flexible fuel pumps, and compatible infrastructure to deliver renewable liquid fuels such as E15 or E85 and other blends of ethanol

The MDA received \$8 million from United States Department of Agriculture's Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership (BIP) Program for this project. About \$3.05 million in FY 2016 and FY 2017 AGRI funding is being used to fund the State's contribution to the program. An additional \$3.06 million was contributed by the Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council, 17 of Minnesota's ethanol plants, and a separate fund for E15 infrastructure created by the Minnesota Legislature.

|                                     |                            |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Applications Funded/AGRI Investment | 40 proposals/\$1.3 million |
| Leveraged Investment                | \$7.6 million              |

**FY 2018 Update:** Contracts have been awarded for 59 sites, including \$1.56 million in AGRI funding.

## Farm Business Management Scholarship

*FY 2016 to Present*

Supports Minnesota farmers by making Farm Business Management education more affordable

Scholarships pay 50 percent of Farm Business Management tuition (after financial aid and any other grants) until a farmer/student reaches 40 credits.

|                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Scholarship Applications Received | 1,297 applications                |
| Scholarships Awarded              | 1,297 applications/\$1.08 million |

**FY 2018 Update:** As of January 1, 2018, the MDA had awarded scholarships to 451 beginning farmers, for a total of \$368,438.

## Sustainable Agriculture

*FY 2013 to Present*

Provides an opportunity for farmers, nonprofit groups, agricultural researchers, and educators to explore ways to improve the sustainability of a wide range of farming systems

The Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant Program moved to AGRI in FY 2013. The maximum grant amount is \$25,000 for on-farm demonstration and research to improve farm energy efficiency, environmental benefits, and profitability.

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Applications Received/Amount Requested | 133 projects/\$2.49 million |
| Applications Funded/Amount Awarded     | 50 projects/\$794,000       |

**FY 2018 Update:** The MDA received 19 applications requesting \$416,115. Up to \$250,000 is available for funding new projects. Grants are set to be awarded in late February.

## GAP/GHP Certification Cost Share

*FY 2013 to Present*

Assists producers to become GAP certified, a requirement to sell produce to schools, institutions, and through retail markets

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)/Good Handling Practices (GHP) certification focuses on improving the safety and quality of produce at the farm and at the processor. A food safety plan is required for this third-party certification. Farmers and handlers certified to the USDA standards by an accredited certifier are eligible to receive a reimbursement of 75 percent of their GAP/GHP certification costs up to \$2,500.

|                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Applications Funded /Amount Awarded | 150 farmers and handlers/\$99,483 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|

**FY 2018 Update:** \$25,000 is available for cost share; applications are being accepted through May 31, 2018. As of January 1, 2018, 18 applications have been received.

## County Fairs

*FY 2014 to Present*



Supports development and activities at county fairs

Funding is offered on an equal share basis to each of the 94 county fairs. In Fiscal Years 2014 and 2015, investments focused on increasing public access and knowledge of the arts, Minnesota history and cultural heritage. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2016, funding supports the preservation and promotion of agriculture.

|  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| Applications Received/Amount Requested | 361 projects/\$4.13 million |
|--|-----------------------------|

**FY 2018 Update:** The MDA anticipates awarding \$1 million to the 94 active county fairs. Proposals are due on February 9, 2018.

## Food Hub Grant

*FY 2017*



Assisted food hubs and other community-based food distribution systems to increase sales of Minnesota agricultural products

The goal of the Food Hub Grant Program was to increase sales of Minnesota agricultural products by investing in food hubs and other community-based food distribution systems by helping them purchase equipment/make physical improvements and assisting them in developing long-term plans for business sustainability.

|  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| Applications Received/Amount Requested | 15 projects/\$373,715 |
|--|-----------------------|

|                                    |                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Applications Funded/Amount Awarded | 10 projects/\$165,445 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|

**FY 2018 Update:** This was a one-time appropriation of up to \$250,000 for FY 2016 and FY 2017.