



Meat Education and Training Grants

Grants for Secondary Career and Technical Education Meat Cutting and Butchery
Programs

01/15/2023

Minnesota Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Marketing and Development Division
625 Robert Street North
Saint Paul, MN 55155
Phone: 651-201-6648
ashley.bress@state.mn.us
www.mda.state.mn.us

This report cost approximately \$500 to prepare, including staff time, printing, and mailing expenses (MINN. STAT. 3.197).

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Executive Summary

In 2022, the Minnesota Legislature provided funding to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to award funds to secondary schools to establish or enhance meat cutting and butchery programs. The MDA has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) and is accepting applications until March 9, 2023, and anticipates making awards in April. A second report to the legislature, due on November 1, 2023, will provide further detail on the awards.

Background

During the 2022 session, the legislature appropriated \$350,000 for grants to secondary and technical education programs for the purpose of offering instruction in meat cutting and butchery. The appropriation language allows the commissioner to award up to \$70,000 per grant recipient and prioritizes grants to applicants that are coordinating with meat cutting and butchery programs at the Minnesota State Colleges and University system (Minnesota State) and local industry partners.

Grants may be used for costs including:

- equipment required for a meat cutting program
- facility renovation to accommodate meat cutting
- training faculty to teach the fundamentals of meat processing (limited to 10% of grant funding)

This report is required by the Minnesota Legislature (Laws of Minnesota 2021, First Special Session Chapter 3, Article 1, Section 2, Subd. 5):

By January 15, 2023, the commissioner must report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees with jurisdiction over agriculture finance and education finance by listing the grants made under this paragraph by county and noting the number and amount of grant requests not fulfilled. The report may include additional information as determined by the commissioner, including but not limited to information regarding the outcomes produced by these grants. If additional grants are awarded under this paragraph that were not covered in the report due by January 15, 2023, the commissioner must submit an additional report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees with jurisdiction over agriculture finance and education finance regarding all grants issued under this paragraph by November 1, 2023.

Request for Proposals

Branded as the Meat Education and Training (MEAT) Grant, the MDA released an RFP on December 8, 2022; applications are due on March 9, 2023.

Applications are being accepted from public and private school districts in Minnesota that are seeking to establish or enhance meat cutting and butchery programs for secondary students (defined as grades 6 through 12, unless otherwise indicated by the school district).

Eligible applicants may request a minimum of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$70,000 and may use up to 10% of their grants for faculty training. We anticipate awarding between five and ten grants, but the final number depends on the size of the awards.

We are prioritizing projects that include partnerships with Minnesota State's meat cutting and butchery programs and with local industry. Priority is also being given to projects that will serve secondary students from communities of color, Native American Tribal communities, or socio-economically disadvantaged communities, and that prioritize sourcing products from emerging farmers (including farmers of color; American Indian or Alaskan Native farmers; women; veterans; farmers with disabilities; young farmers; beginning farmers; LGBTQ+ farmers; and urban farmers) for instructional use.

Project examples include but are not limited to:

- Purchase of equipment required for a meat cutting program (e.g., refrigeration units, tables, saws, knives, cleaning and sanitizing equipment)
- Contractor costs and materials for installation of approved equipment, including plumbing, drainage, venting, and electrical work
- Facility renovation to accommodate meat cutting
- Purchase of livestock and livestock products for instructional use
- Curriculum development for new or enhanced meat cutting program
- Licensing and permitting costs required for new or enhanced meat cutting program
- Training faculty to teach the fundamentals of meat processing may be included as a project component, but is limited to 10% of the grant funding

After the application period closes, applications will be reviewed by a panel of MDA staff and community-based reviewers with expertise in education and meat cutting. We anticipate making awards in April 2023 and projects being completed by June 2024.