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# Soil Health Financial Assistance Program

A Report to the Minnesota Legislature

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# Executive Summary

Building soil health is key to facilitating resiliency across Minnesota’s working lands in the face of a changing climate. However, soil health practices typically require specialized, expensive equipment that many producers do not own. To meet this challenge, the Soil Health Financial Assistance Program (SHFAP) was established to provide grants to individual producers, groups of producers, and local government units to purchase soil health equipment. Initially established as a \$500,000 pilot appropriation during the 2022 legislative session, the SHFAP received additional funding in subsequent legislative sessions, and as a result has offered four rounds of funding since initiated in 2023. The funding available in FY26 included a General Fund appropriation of \$639,000, a Clean Water Fund appropriation of \$1.75 million, and \$2,467,857.50 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) via a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. The EPA funds represent more than \$8 million in investments awarded to the SHFAP over a 4-year period in addition to the maintained match of state general fund \$639,000/year and clean water fund \$1,750,000 baseline funding.

The awards made in FY26 are the focus of this report. The FY25 awards are the subject of the Soil Health Financial Assistance Program Fiscal Year 2025 Legislative Report (Jan. 15, 2025), the FY24 awards were the subject of the Soil Health Financial Assistance Program Fiscal Year 2024 Legislative Report (Jan. 8, 2024), while the FY23 (pilot) awards were the subject of the Soil Health Financial Assistance Pilot Program Fiscal Year 2023 Legislative Report (Dec. 27, 2023).

## Program Operations

A request for proposals for the SHFAP was open from Aug. 1 to Aug. 29, 2025, and generated 284 applications for more than \$8.6 million in requested support. Applications were competitively reviewed by an external review committee that scored and ranked applications based on their soil health benefit, financial need, potential for conservation practice co-benefits, and other factors. Grant award decisions were announced in December 2025. The FY26 request for proposal (RFP) marked the fourth funding cycle under the SHFAP, following the first (pilot) round and FY24 and FY25 rounds. RFPs for the previous funding cycles were open in winter and summer 2023 and summer 2024.

## Grant awards

Using the General Fund appropriations, 22 awards totaling \$595,880.98 were made across 20 counties. Of the \$639,000 available from the General Fund, up to 6.5% or \$41,535, can be reserved for program administration. Table 1 shows grant awards under the General Fund appropriation by county. The equipment purchased through these grant awards will be used to implement a wide range of soil health practices on a minimum of 25,644 acres annually.

Tables 2, 3, and 4 show the individual awards made under the General Fund, Clean Water Fund, and EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant appropriations. Combined, these funding pools allowed a total of \$4,809,683.68 in SHFAP grant awards to 164 recipients. The equipment purchased with these grant awards will affect an estimated 217,031 acres annually.

**Table 1: FY26 General Fund appropriation only SHFAP awards by county**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number of Awards</b>	<b>Total \$ Awarded per County</b>
Big Stone	1	\$45,000
Clay	1	\$29,500
Douglas	1	\$26,611
Freeborn	1	\$45,000
Hennepin	1	\$31,000
Isanti	1	\$15,000
Kanabec	1	\$8,000
Kittson	1	\$45,000
Lincoln	1	\$40,900
Lyon	1	\$38,800
McLeod	2	\$30,000
Meeker	1	\$16,400
Morrison	1	\$45,000
Olmsted	1	\$45,000
Pipestone	1	\$20,800
Scott	1	\$37,500
Sherburne	2	\$9,400
Sibley	1	\$37,698.98
Washington	1	\$1,625
Wilkin	1	\$27,646
<b>SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>\$595,808.98</b>

**Table 2: FY26 Grant awards for the SHFAP with General Fund appropriation**

<b>County</b>	<b>Equipment</b>	<b>Grant Award</b>	<b>Estimated Acres Affected Annually</b>
Big Stone	Strip Freshener	\$45,000	800
Clay	Cover Crop Interseeder	\$29,500	1,000
Douglas	Agricultural Drone for Cover Crop Seeding	\$26,611	1,860
Freeborn	Low Disturbance Manure Spreader	\$45,000	60
Hennepin	Stalk Roll Kit and Grain Drill	\$31,000	154
Isanti	No-Till Planter	\$15,000	90
Kanabec	Hay Bale Processor	\$8,000	24
Kittson	Strip Till Machine	\$45,000	800
Lincoln	No Till Planter	\$40,900	550
Lyon	Air Seeder	\$38,800	600
McLeod	Agricultural Drone for Cover Crop Seeding	\$20,000	5,000
McLeod	No-Till Drill	\$10,000	400
Meeker	Low Disturbance Manure Spreader	\$16,400	57
Morrison	Vertical Tillage Unit	\$45,000	1,400
Olmsted	No-Till Drill	\$45,000	4,500
Pipestone	Strip Till Machine	\$20,800	1,300
Scott	No Till Planter	\$37,500	215
Sherburne	Calmer Corn Reels	\$6,400	1,000
Sherburne	No-Till Drill	\$3,000	600
Sibley	Agricultural Drone for Cover Crop Seeding	\$37,698.98	3,600
Washington	Flail Mower	\$1,625	4
Wilkin	Hydraulic Planter Downforce System	\$27,646	1,630
--	<b>SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>\$595,808.98</b>	<b>25,644</b>

**Table 3: FY26 Grant awards for the SHFAP with Clean Water Fund appropriation**

County	Equipment	Grant Award	Estimated Acres Affected Annually
Becker	Automated Planter Hydraulic downforce	\$24,000	1,300
Blue Earth	Agricultural Drone	\$21,747	1,500
Blue Earth	Agricultural Drone	\$45,000	1,600
Brown	Air Seeder	\$45,000	4,000
Brown	Strip Till machine	\$45,000	540
Chisago	No-till Seeder	\$5,341.85	55
Clay	Agricultural Drone	\$45,000	2,250
Cottonwood	Agricultural Drone	\$23,250	994
Dakota	No-till Drill	\$4,250	900
Douglas	Agricultural Drone	\$33,575	4,000
Faribault	No-till seeding equipment	\$16,550	1,705
Fillmore	No-till Planter	\$30,000	610
Fillmore	Agricultural Drone	\$23,908.50	1,000
Fillmore	No-till Planter	\$30,000	500
Goodhue	Agricultural drone	\$43,850	2,050
Hennepin	Strip Till Unit	\$45,000	2,600
Kandiyohi	Agricultural Drone	\$34,500	125
Lac Qui Parle	Agricultural Drone	\$30,000	4,000
Lyon	Vertical tillage implement (for cover crops)	\$16,000	285
Martin	Strip Till Unit	\$32,500	220
McLeod	Mobile livestock shelter for cattle and poultry	\$19,346.50	15
McLeod	Agricultural Drone	\$19,500	300
Morrison	Soil Warrior Strip Tillage Implement	\$45,000	1,400
Morrison	No-till Drill	\$45,000	1,500
Mower	Portable fence system	\$5,544	495
Mower	Agricultural Drone	\$40,600	2,000
Murray	Agricultural Drone	\$18,665	950
Nicollet	Agricultural Drone	\$21,830	1,200
Nobles	Agricultural Drone	\$10,000	140
Olmsted	No-till Planter	\$45,000	980
Olmsted	Vertical tillage implement (for cover crops)	\$17,500	100
Pipestone	No-till Drill	\$10,000	1,020
Polk	No Till Drill / Planter	\$40,000	800
Renville	Air Seeder	\$45,000	2,800
Rice	Liquid Nitrogen Drops	\$8,750	2,000
Rice	Agricultural Drone	\$45,000	1,865
Rock	Agricultural Drone	\$17,500	1,500
Rock	Air Adjustable Row Cleaner Units	\$6,669.90	800
Sherburne	Agricultural Drone	\$21,500	2,000
Sibley	Dry material spreader	\$45,000	1,300
St. Louis	No-till seed drill & roller crimper	\$18,150	600
Stearns	No-till Planter	\$35,000	650
Stevens	Vertical tillage implement (for cover crops)	\$45,000	2,400
Stevens	Vertical tillage implement (for cover crops)	\$45,000	1,200

County	Equipment	Grant Award	Estimated Acres Affected Annually
Swift	Planter upgrades for No-till	\$9,389	3,500
Todd	Agricultural Drone	\$40,500	300
Todd	Agricultural Drone	\$25,076	1,600
Traverse	Air Seeder	\$45,000	1,850
Traverse	Agricultural Drone	\$18,797	142
Wadena	Bale Stacker	\$45,000	18,000
Washington	Planter upgrades for No-till	\$4,002	600
Winona	Agricultural Drone	\$21,972	2,000
Winona	Vertical tillage implement (for cover crops)	\$45,000	500
Winona	Agricultural Drone	\$45,000	800
Winona	Vertical tillage implement (for cover crops)	\$45,000	4,400
Wright	Strip Till Unit	\$45,000	1,800
Wright	Strip Till Unit	\$45,000	1,000
Wright	Low-disturbance Manure Injector	\$45,000	300
--	<b>SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>\$1,744,763.75</b>	<b>95,041</b>



**Table 4: FY26 Grant awards for the SHFAP with EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant appropriation**

County	Equipment	Grant Award	Estimated Acres Affected Annually
Aitkin	Bale Feeder	\$4,400	300
Beltrami	Low-disturbance manure spreader	\$37,000	500
Benton	No-Till Drill	\$15,000	500
Blue Earth	Strip Till Unit	\$45,000	1,000
Blue Earth	Strip Till Unit	\$22,000	880
Blue Earth	Cover Crop Seeder	\$15,000	3,000
Blue Earth	No-Till Drill	\$25,000	280
Carver	No-Till Drill	\$25,000	100
Cass	Vertical tillage implement (for cover crop seeding)	\$45,000	1,500
Chippewa	Air seeder	\$15,000	1,000
Chisago	No-Till Drill	\$25,200	400
Clay	Compost Turner	\$45,000	2,100
Clay	Air seeder	\$45,000	1,000
Cottonwood	Strip Till Unit	\$20,000	850
Cottonwood	Strip Till Unit	\$45,000	3,000
Cottonwood	Strip Till Unit	\$30,000	950
Crow Wing	No-Till Drill	\$20,000	50
Dakota	No-till planter	\$30,000	750
Dane	Fencing Equipment	\$7,137.50	50
Douglas	In-Row Harrow & Pomace Spreader	\$11,671.26	18
Faribault	Strip Till Unit	\$45,000	2,500
Faribault	Strip Till Unit	\$45,000	2,000
Fillmore	No-Till Drill	\$45,000	1,800
Fillmore	Low-disturbance manure spreader	\$45,000	4,000
Fillmore	No-Till Drill	\$20,000	400
Goodhue	No-Till Drill	\$45,000	700
Grant	Strip Till Unit	\$45,000	1,300
Hennepin	No-Till Drill	\$25,000	160
Houston	No-Till Planter	\$30,000	500
Houston	No-Till Planter	\$42,750.50	300
Houston	Cover Crop Specialty Harvesting Equipment	\$35,000	150
Jackson	Row cleaners and rolling baskets	\$21,144	1,400
Kanabec	Hay Tubgrinder	\$20,000	400
Le Sueur	No-Till Drill	\$45,000	1,000
Le Sueur	Strip Till Unit	\$45,000	1,600
Lincoln	No-Till Drill	\$45,000	500
Martin	No-Till Drill	\$45,000	2,350
McLeod	3-Point Spreader	\$25,000	700
Meeker	No-Till Drill	\$15,000	40
Mille Lacs	No-Till Planter	\$5,250	200
Mille Lacs	No-Till Drill	\$12,496	60
Morrison	No-Till Drill	\$45,000	5,000
Morrison	Pull type soil aerator	\$7,150	4,000

County	Equipment	Grant Award	Estimated Acres Affected Annually
Morrison	No-Till Drill	\$25,000	350
Morrison	No-Till Drill	\$36,000	425
Morrison	No-Till Drill	\$11,250	100
Murray	No-Till Planter	\$44,500	700
Olmsted	No-Till Drill	\$20,000	1,300
Olmsted	Pull Type Sprayer	\$5,000	950
Olmsted	Vertical tillage implement (for cover crop seeding)	\$45,000	1,100
Olmsted	Air Seeder	\$16,000	450
Olmsted	No-Till Drill	\$45,000	800
Ottertail	No-Till Drill	\$27,725	862
Pine	Air Seeder	\$45,000	675
Pine	No-Till Drill	\$25,000	200
Pope	No-Till Drill	\$12,500	370
Pope	No-Till Drill	\$15,000	210
Redwood	Air seeder	\$45,000	1,750
Redwood	No-Till Drill Parts	\$10,000	440
Renville	Bulk Seed Vacuum Delivery System	\$7,500	3,000
Rice	No-Till Drill	\$45,000	350
Rice	No-Till Drill	\$16,000	400
Rice	No-Till Drill	\$37,650	150
Rock	No-Till Drill	\$30,000	3,000
Rock	Broadcast Cover Crop Seeder	\$45,000	5,000
Sherburne	Vertical tillage implement (for cover crop seeding)	\$45,000	900
St. Louis	No-Till Drill	\$18,000	120
St. Louis	No-Till Drill	\$27,000	230
Stearns	No-Till Drill	\$45,000	2,500
Stearns	No-till planter	\$42,500	500
Steele	No-Till Drill	\$22,500	1,200
Swift	Flame Weeder	\$45,000	1,500
Swift	Lightning Weeder	\$45,000	3,300
Todd	No-Till Drill	\$25,750	445
Todd	Cover crop seeding drone and trailer	\$25,076	1,600
Traverse	Strip Till Unit	\$45,000	3,600
Traverse	Strip Till Unit	\$45,000	4,600
Traverse	No-Till Drill	\$45,000	1,200
Wilkin	Inter seeder	\$36,000	800
Winona	Vertical tillage implement (for cover crop seeding)	\$20,000	300
Winona	Low-disturbance manure spreader	\$20,714.69	621
Winona	No-Till Drill	\$17,500	300
Yellow Medicine	No-Till Drill	\$5,650	750
Yellow Medicine	Corn head cover crop seeder	\$8,100	610
--	<b>SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>\$2,474,114.95</b>	<b>96,946</b>