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Department of Agriculture

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<https://mda.state.mn.us/>

AT A GLANCE

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA):

- Employs 535 people across the state.
- Analyzed over 3,700 dairy product samples and 2,100 meat and poultry samples in partnership with the MDA Laboratory Division.
- Conducted over 3,100 manufactured food, 10,200 retail food, and 560 animal feed inspections to ensure the safety and quality of products manufactured and distributed in Minnesota.
- Issued about 1,500 phytosanitary certificates annually providing worldwide market access.
- Assisted Minnesota counties, townships, and cities with the enforcement of noxious weed issues.
- Licensed 1,362 farms and farmers' markets to use the Minnesota Grown logo.
- In partnership with all Minnesota counties, collected over 638,000 pounds of waste pesticides in 2025.
- The Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program has enrolled nearly 1,900 producers farming more than 1.3 million acres; certified farms average higher net income than non-certified.

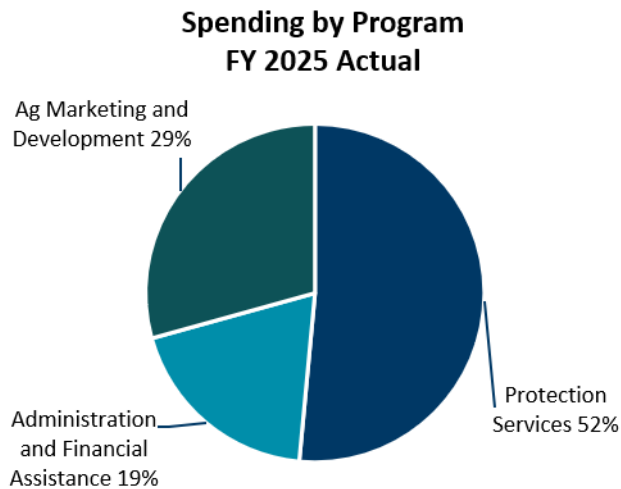
PURPOSE

Our mission is to enhance Minnesotans' quality of life by equitably ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment, and the strength and resilience of our agricultural economy.

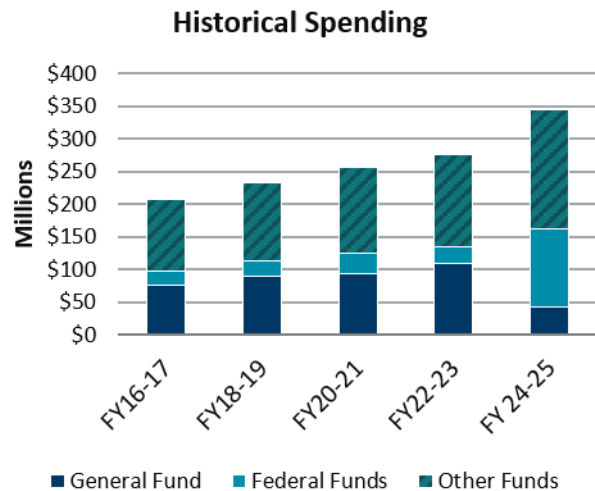
The MDA provides many services to Minnesota farmers, consumers, and the agriculture economy. Among our many efforts, we:

- Invest in farmers through education and grants aimed at modernizing the family farm.
- Invest in the future of the agricultural economy with grants for research and value-added processing.
- Ensure that state and federal regulations for food and health safety are followed.
- Educate producers, suppliers, and consumers on proper production and handling of food products.
- Educate Minnesotans about environmental hazards to keep our farms, homes, businesses, and neighborhoods safe.
- Promote the consumption of Minnesota-grown foods.
- Promote the export of Minnesota crops and livestock.

BUDGET



Source: Budget Planning & Analysis System (BPAS)



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

Our budget comes from various sources. The most significant funding resources are split between fee revenues and the state's General Fund. Fee revenues must be spent to support the activities from which they are collected. The state's General Fund is used for various activities throughout the agency. A large portion of the General Fund budget passes through MDA's Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) programs, Agriculture Research, Education, Extension, and Technology Transfer (AGRETT) program, and other assistance programs. Federal fund expenditures accounted for approximately 12% of MDA's budget, and the Rural Finance Authority's revolving loan program accounted for just under 14%.

STRATEGIES

We use a range of regulatory and voluntary strategies to support our mission. These strategies are supported by effective tools such as registration, labeling, licensing, permitting, inspection, and enforcement. We pair regulation with education and outreach through workshops, conferences, and field demonstration projects. Additional strategies are supported through grant programs for farmers and farmer-focused organizations.

The following is a summary of the strategies included in our 2023-2027 strategic plan, highlighting our focus on the One Minnesota priority areas of Equity and Inclusion, Minnesota's Environment, and Fiscal Accountability, Customer Experience, and Measurable Results. These are paired with strategies that directly support the mission critical areas for the MDA of a Strong Agricultural Economy, a Safe Food Supply, and a Healthy Environment.

1. Equity and Inclusion

- Establish and normalize equitable procurement and grant making processes
- Engage diverse communities in outreach
- Nurture and foster an inclusive culture at MDA

2. Minnesota's Environment

- Increase MDA capacity for environmental work related to agriculture and aligned with the Minnesota state Climate Action Framework (CAF)
- Develop and expand innovative environmental impact programs

3. Fiscal Accountability, Customer Experience, and Measurable Results

- Improve customer experience
- Accelerate implementation of service transformation
- Prioritize public engagement and resource delivery for non-English speakers and underserved populations

4. Strong Agricultural Economy

- Support Minnesota's local and regional food system development
- Expand sales of Minnesota agricultural products
- Explore novel development and agricultural pathways
- Award grants to partner organizations to support agriculture and work with farmers
- Upgrade state agricultural services to better support agency policy and regulatory work

5. Safe Food Supply

- Support farmer youth and family mental health
- Support food insecurity and hunger relief programs
- Include and advance indigenous knowledge on sustainability and food sovereignty
- Continue preparedness planning for agricultural emergency responses

6. Healthy Environment

- Integrate sustainability practices within the MDA
- Celebrate and communicate diverse agricultural stories

The following are examples of ongoing work at the department that directly supports the strategies listed above.

- Our staff conduct inspections and verify samples to ensure that producers, processors, wholesalers, haulers, grocery and convenience stores, and other industry personnel are producing and handling dairy, food, meat, and feed products in a safe manner to protect them from unintended alteration and contamination.
- We ensure that Minnesota plant products meet the import requirements of our trading partners; meet grading standards established in contracts; that seeds meet viability and purity standards; that general health standards are met for nursery stock; and that standards for freedom from harmful plant pests are met.
- Our marketing and promotional initiatives offer producers technical and financial assistance on a variety of issues, including dairy and livestock development, business planning, and emerging water quality, and conservation practices.
- Our staff facilitates access to new markets through the Minnesota Grown Program, regional and domestic marketing opportunities, and support for international trade missions, market research, and export assistance. We also support the organic industry through education and direct financial support.
- We support a diverse agriculture community and economy through outreach and support to emerging and beginning farmers and government-to-government consultation and cooperation with Minnesota's 11 tribal nations.
- We prepare and train staff, provide guidance to farmers and the ag industry, and coordinate work across jurisdictions so that Minnesota is equipped to swiftly act to foreign animal disease outbreaks, adverse weather disasters, and other agricultural emergencies. To prepare for climate impacts to the agriculture industry and our natural resources, we financially support soil health initiatives, promote sustainable agricultural practices, and assess the impact of our regulatory programs.

Minnesota Statutes Chapter 17 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17>) creates the Department of Agriculture and provides specific authority to the commissioner.

Program: Protection Services**Activity: Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division**<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/pesticide-fertilizer/pesticide-fertilizer>**AT A GLANCE**

he Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division:

- In partnership with all 87 Minnesota counties, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) collected nearly 638,678 pounds of waste pesticides in 2025, and over 11 million pounds of waste pesticides have been collected since 1990.
- In our 30-year history, over \$60 million from the Agricultural Chemical Response & Reimbursement Account has been spent to reimburse people for the environmental cleanup of ag chemicals.
- Annually, over \$1.1 million is funded for fertilizer research, directed by a council of agriculture organizations.
- The MDA has developed one of the most comprehensive pesticide water monitoring programs in the nation. Monitoring data is publicly available and is used as feedback in the pesticide regulatory process, as well as to inform policy makers, planners, and Minnesotans about the quality of the state's water resources.
- The MDA monitored for pesticides in groundwater (525 samples at 167 locations), surface water (1,096 samples at 58 locations) and rain (52 samples from 4 locations) in 2025. The agency collected 491 private drinking water well pesticide samples from 18 counties in 2025.
- The MDA expanded the Minnesota Agriculture Weather Network (MAWN), providing critical weather and soil information and crop tools to help producers make data-based agronomic decisions to protect water resources and enhance crop yield.
- The agency registered over 13,000 pesticides; 5,000 specialty fertilizers; 1,300 soil and plant amendments; and granted 1,964 fertilizer licenses.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division (PFMD) is responsible for almost all aspects of fertilizer and pesticide regulation in Minnesota, as well as many other climate, conservation, and water resources protection efforts.

PFMD supports the agency's mission by regulating pesticides and fertilizers to ensure the integrity of our food supply, implementing programs that protect and improve the health of our environment, and managing a regulatory system that instills confidence and consistency in support of a strong agricultural economy.

SERVICES PROVIDED

PFMD has broad responsibilities in the regulation of pesticides and fertilizers as it relates to ensuring water quality and protection of the environment. The division provides a wide variety of services, regulatory activities, and voluntary programs:

- Pesticide/fertilizer inspections
 - Federal, routine, incident, and compliance assistance
- Pesticide/fertilizer training, licensing, and certification
- Pesticide/fertilizer misuse investigations
- Pesticide/fertilizer storage facility permitting
- Pesticide/specialty fertilizer/soil and plant amendment registration
- Worker Protection Standard education and compliance
- Enforcement of pesticide and fertilizer regulations
- 24/7 emergency response
- Site cleanups and Superfund administration
- Anhydrous ammonia regulation
- Commercial manure application licensing
- Pesticide and fertilizer use surveys
- Pesticide Best Management Practice (BMP) development, promotion, and evaluation
- Special registration reviews for pesticides
- Edge of field monitoring technical support
- Reimbursement for cleanups
- Actions to protect pollinators in both urban and rural settings
- Pesticide Management Plan implementation
- Groundwater Protection Rule and Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan implementation
- Groundwater monitoring for pesticides and nitrate
- Private well monitoring for pesticides and nitrate
- Surface water monitoring for pesticides and nutrients
- Weather and soil monitoring for the Minnesota Agricultural Weather Network
- Free waste pesticide collection for agricultural and urban users
- Soil and manure laboratory certification
- Research funding for fertilizer impact on water quality
- Minnesota Agriculture Water Quality Certification program for farmers and landowners
- Soil Health Financial Assistance grants for specialized soil health equipment
- Nitrate water quality technical support for municipalities

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data (Required)

Pesticide Inspections: Pesticide facility inspections are designed to correct violations and assist in compliance. Our electronic/paperless Compliance Information System (CIS) results in more timely, comprehensive, and consistent inspections. The number of routine inspections has increased as the number of complaint-based inspections decreased.

Waste Pesticide Collections: The MDA has conducted waste pesticide collections since the early 1990s. Since 2001, much of the waste pesticide has been generated in urban settings. Agricultural waste pesticides have decreased due to changes in technology, packaging, and stewardship. However, the MDA has seen an increase in household waste pesticide collections.

Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program: This program has certified over 1,900 farms and over 1.3 million acres of Minnesota farmland for protecting water quality with newly implemented practices that are saving more than 168,000 tons of soil and preventing loss of more than 1.2 million pounds of nitrogen every year.

Minnesota Agricultural Weather Network: The MDA expanded the Minnesota Agricultural Weather Network (MAWN) with new stations monitoring weather and soil conditions to help producers make data-based agronomic

decisions to protect water resources and enhance crop yield. The expansion in 2024 and 2025 was focused on southern Minnesota greatly expanding network coverage to an area without these tools previously.

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Number of pesticide inspections: Facility, Worker Protection Standard, Restricted Use Pesticide	Quantity	Number of routine inspections in our Compliance Information System (CIS)	Number of routine inspections increased in recent years due to a decline in complaint inspections	330 in FY24-FY25
Number of misuse investigations conducted	Quantity	Number of complaint inspections in our Compliance Information System (CIS)	Number of complaint inspections have decreased in recent years due to effective regulation	143 in FY24-FY25
Amount of waste pesticides collected	Quantity	Pounds of waste pesticides collected as summarized in the annual reports	Pounds of waste pesticides collected have increased over the previous two years.	638,673 lbs. in FY23
Number of acres covered by the Minnesota Agricultural Weather Network	Quantity	Acres of coverage provided by Minnesota Agricultural Weather Network stations (GIS Mapping)	Coverage has greatly expanded in the past two years with 27 new stations added.	27.6 million acres total as of FY25
Number of farms and acres certified by the Minnesota Agricultural Water Certification Program (MAWQCP)	Quantity	Farms and acreage coverage data provided by MAWQCP's Risk Assessment and Planning Tool (RAPT) and MPCA's BMP Effects Estimator Tool (BEET)	FY24: 1,511 farms; 1,085,561 acres	FY 25: 1,653 farms; 1,085,561 acres

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness (Required)

No evidence-based practices were identified.

Authority for this activity is found in Minnesota Statutes, Chapters:

M.S. 18B (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=18B>),

M.S. 18C (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=18C>),

M.S. 18D (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=18D>),

M.S. 18E (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=18E>),

M.S. 103H (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=103H>),

M.S. 115E (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=115E>)

Program: Protection Services**Activity: Plant Protection Division**

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants-insects>

AT A GLANCE

Annually the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Plant Protection Division:

- Licenses and inspects about 350 grain buyers and 210 grain storage facilities.
- Inspects about 7,000 acres of seed potatoes, more than 1,200 loads of potatoes for shipment, and certifies 600 acres per year to be free from potato cyst nematode.
- Grades over 4,500 loads of potatoes for processing and makes over 500 inspections to grade other produce to establish fair prices for transactions.
- Manages the Noxious Weed List through the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee and works with local governments to enforce the Noxious Weed Law.
- Provides annual grants to local units of governments for noxious weed management.
- Certifies about 2,000 live plant dealers for the production and sale of clean nursery stock.
- Collects 1,500-2,000 seed samples to ensure labels accurate and seed is free of noxious weeds.
- Licenses and inspects producers and processors of hemp.
- Monitors about 20,000 traps for spongy moth and conducts treatment and eradication of satellite populations annually.
- Facilitates the release of biological control agents for emerald ash borer (EAB) and noxious weeds.
- Monitors commodities and specialty crops statewide for more than 50 invasive threats and facilitates eradication or control of new detections.
- Facilitates research on invasive species by staffing a containment facility on the University of Minnesota campus and collaborates on an average of 2-3 research projects per year through data collection and access to research sites.
- Reviews about 200 permits for the movement of soil, plants, and other organisms into Minnesota.
- Certifies about 15 firewood producers for heat treatment standards to produce pest-free wood.
- Registers about 900 tree care companies to maintain communication on invasive species restrictions on wood movement.
- Inspects over 74,000 cut Christmas Trees to reduce movement of invasive threats in holiday greenery.
- Issues about 1,500 phytosanitary certificates to provide worldwide market access.
- Compensates about 75 claims per year for livestock depredation by wolves.
- Compensates about 25 claims per year for damage to crops and fences by wild elk, primarily in northwest Minnesota.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The Plant Protection Division (PPD) provides inspection and certification services in a variety of plant and plant product industries to:

- facilitate fair and transparent marketplaces.
- provide certification for product access to markets.
- protect those industries, as well as our natural resources, from invasive species.

These activities contribute to the mission of the agency by protecting agriculture and the environment from pest threats and by verifying the quality of Minnesota products for sale or export. A wide variety of Minnesota producers and citizens directly interact with PPD, including producers of commodities, specialty crops, horticultural crops, and livestock. Other important stakeholders include associated industries such as grain buyers and storage warehouses, live plant dealers, seed labelers and sellers, fruit and vegetable wholesalers, and hemp processors. Finally, PPD works extensively with the public and land managers regarding invasive species and noxious weeds.

SERVICES PROVIDED

PPD works to ensure that plants and plant parts sold, planted, exported, or stored in Minnesota meet purity, viability, and health standards, and that the impacts of plant pests such as noxious weeds and invasive insects are mitigated. These goals are achieved by:

- Inspecting and certifying plants and plant parts (e.g., seeds, grain, fruit, logs). Inspection and certification programs ensure Minnesota's plant commodities meet standards for import and export requirements, such as germination and purity of seeds, health of plants, and the absence of harmful plant pests.
- Eradicating or managing plant pests that threaten Minnesota's agriculture or environment. Our surveys, inspections, quarantines, and treatment programs benefit farmers and the public by keeping Minnesota as free as possible from harmful plant pests.

Fee-generated dedicated funds support about 60% of PPD spending, with another 20% supported by federal and state grants, and the remaining 20% supported by the state General Fund.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

During the past year, PPD:

- Investigated the first valid claims of nonpayment for grain against the indemnity fund since it was established in August 2023.
- Phased in revised financial reporting requirements for grain buying and storage license holders with greatly improved reporting compliance.
- Continued working with Minnesota seed potato growers to identify opportunities for updates to Minnesota statute and rule for seed potato certification.
- Worked to document treated seed sales in the marketplace and allowed sellers offering seed without pesticide treatments to self-identify.
- Facilitated regular meetings of both the Seed Advisory Committee and the Noxious Weed Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the commissioner regarding the operations of those programs.
- Awarded grants to local County Agricultural Inspectors for enforcement and control of noxious weed populations.
- Initiated a review of virus regulation in nursery stock among Midwestern states.
- Licensed and inspected over 3,200 acres of hemp, ranking sixth overall in the nation for acres planted in 2025.
- Slowed the spread of spongy moth into Minnesota with the annual detection trapping survey (~20,000 traps placed statewide) and by treating more than 98,000 acres (2025) and over 171,000 acres (2026) with spongy moth pheromone lure to disrupt insect mating and manage increasing populations.
- Identified emerald ash borer in six (2025) and one (2026 to date) new counties bringing the total infested to 60 of 87 counties.

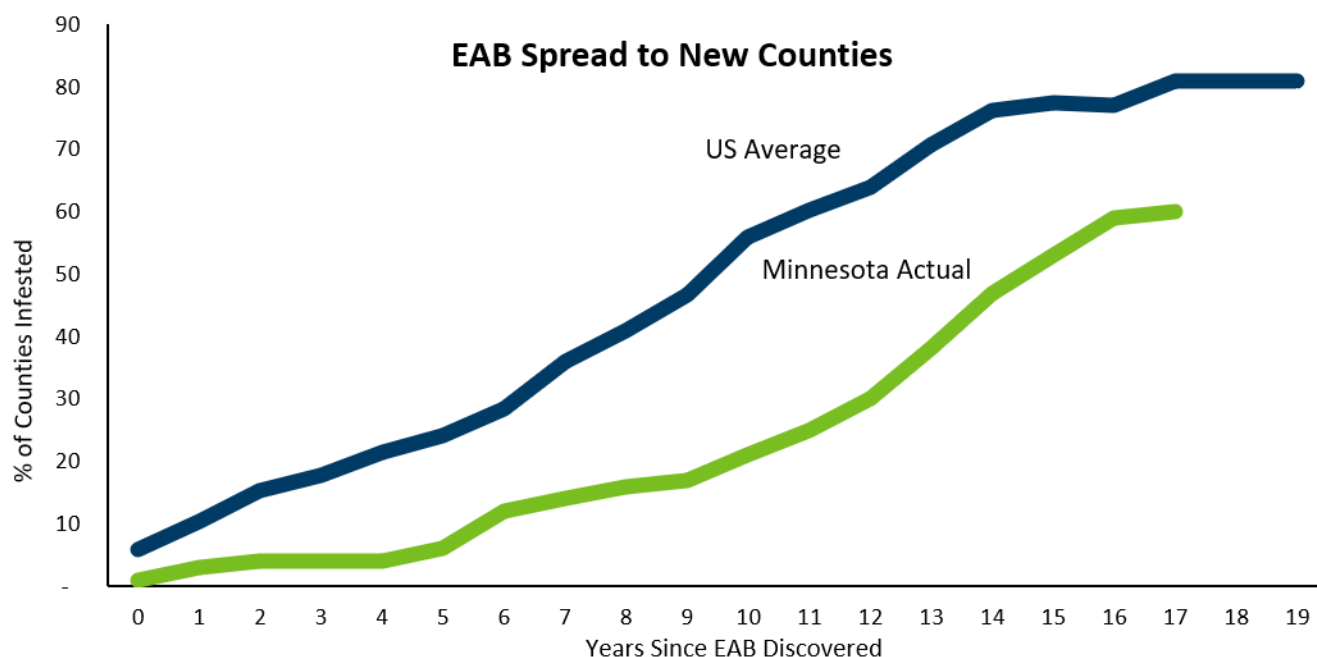
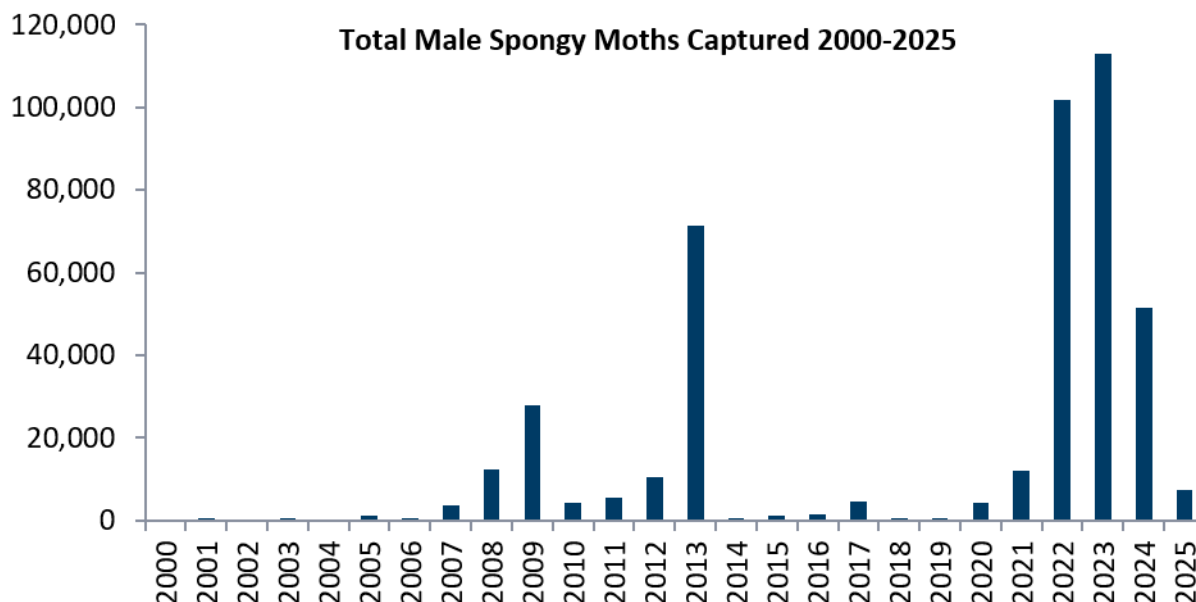
Noxious Weed / County Ag Inspector Grant Applications Received and Funded by MDA, 2018-2024

Fiscal Year	Total Applications	Total Projects Awarded	Total Request	Total Funds Awarded
2018	41	29	\$791,540	\$295,500
2019	35	35	\$481,512	\$321,325
2020	45	35	\$868,877	\$537,277
2021	44	20	\$182,092	\$95,100
2022	33	28	\$142,868	\$119,586
2023	31	7	\$179,407	\$38,700
2024	50	11	\$416,529	\$147,500
2025	26	13	\$264,028	\$150,000
*2026	47	47	\$484,100	\$484,100
Totals	279	165	\$3,062,825	\$1,554,988

**In FY26, the appropriation language specified that funds were available for County Ag Inspectors and that all applicants meeting minimum criteria would receive an equal amount of funding*

Palmer Amaranth Cumulative Detections and Annual Recurrence in Minnesota

Calendar Year	Cumulative Sites w/ Palmer Confirmed	Sites with Palmer Recurring from a Previous Year
2016	15	0
2017	21	2
2018	23	0
2019	26	0
2020	29	1
2021	35	2
2022	38	4
2023	40	1
2024	44	1
2025	45	4



Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

No evidence-based practices were identified.

Authority for this activity is found in Minnesota Statutes:

Section 3.737 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=3.737>) compensation for wolf depredation to livestock

Section 3.7371 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=3.7371>) compensation for elk damage to crops and fences

Chapter 18F (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/18F>) review federal permits for release of genetically engineered organisms

Chapter 18G (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=18G>) exclude and manage invasive and exotic plant pests and certify commodities for export

Chapter 18H (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=18H>) inspect and certify live plant dealers

Chapter 18J (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/18J>) defines enforcement procedures for violations of Chapters 18G, 18H, 18K, 27, 223, 231, and 232; sections [21.80](#) to [21.92](#); and associated rules

Chapter 18K (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/18K>) license industrial hemp production/ and processing

Section 18.75-91 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=18.75>) administer a state noxious weed program

Section 21.111-122 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/21>) inspect and certify seed potatoes

Section 21.71-78 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/21.71>) inspect and sample screenings to keep noxious weed seeds out of feed

Section 21.80-92 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=21.80>) inspect seeds for distribution and enforce seed label requirements

Chapter 27 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=27>) assign USDA grade and investigate farm product transaction complaints

Chapter 223 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=223>) license and inspect grain buyers

Chapter 231 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=231>) license and inspect general merchandise warehouses

Chapter 232 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/232>) license and inspect grain storage warehouses

Program: Protection Services**Activity: Laboratory Services Division**

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/laboratory-services>

AT A GLANCE

For FY26, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Laboratory Services Division:

- Performed 5,971 tests for 6,051 analytes (an organism or chemical constituent of a sample) on 2,893 samples for MDA's Dairy and Meat Inspection Division.
- Performed 9,188 tests for 156,976 analytes on 6,621 samples for MDA's Pesticide and Fertilizer Inspection Division.
- Performed 18,816 tests for 61,316 analytes on 2,234 samples for MDA's Plant Protection Division.
- Performed 5,009 tests for 5,031 analytes on 1,327 samples for MDA's Food and Feed Safety Division.
- Performed 5,089 tests for 5,543 analytes on 1,708 samples for the Department of Natural Resources.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The Laboratory Services Division's goal is to furnish scientifically and legally defensible testing that supports the MDA's objectives. These activities are critical to the protection of Minnesota's food supply, agricultural industry, and natural environment.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The Laboratory Services Division provides analytical testing primarily for:

- MDA's Dairy and Meat Inspection Division
- MDA's Food and Feed Safety Division
- MDA's Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division
- MDA's Plant Protection Division
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Office of Cannabis Management
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Specific Services:Support response to:

- Ag chemical incidents/spills
- Human and animal exposure
- Product tampering
- Plant disease outbreaks
- Food security events
- Foodborne outbreaks
- Natural disasters

Surveillance testing for:

- Food safety
- Pesticides in water
- Dairy product safety
- Interstate marketing of milk
- Seed health
- Meat safety for small producers
- Plant disease
- Label claim verification

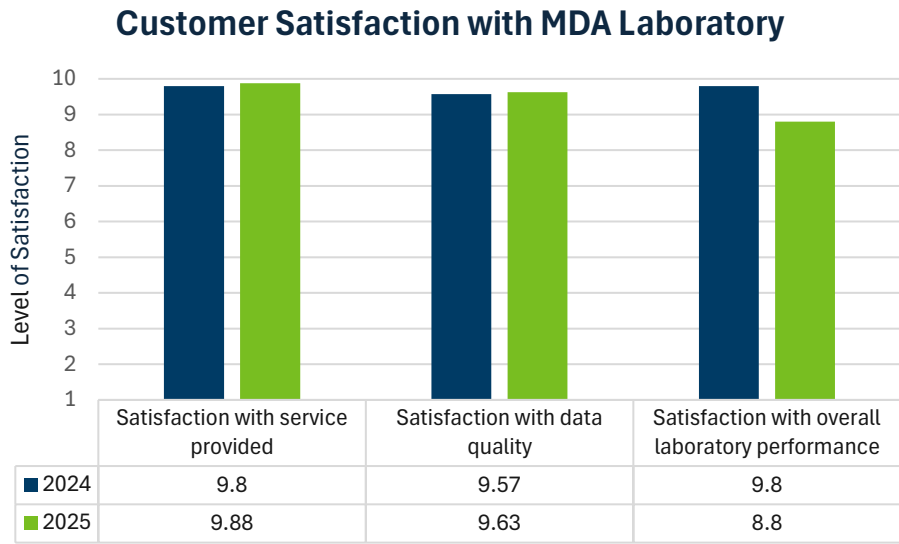
Other services include:

- Method development
- Technical consultation
- Data interpretation
- Quality assessment

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

The MDA grades laboratory performance on our ability to provide accurate, defensible data that meets established program objectives in a timely manner. To measure this performance, we survey our customers annually to measure their satisfaction level with our services. The chart below shows the average level of satisfaction MDA customers reported on three key performance measures. We discuss problem areas and address them through our formal corrective action procedure. Overall, the lab’s customers are satisfied with our services.



Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

No evidence-based practices were identified.

Authority for this activity is found in M.S. Chapter 17, (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17>) and other statutes authorizing specific protection services activities.

Program: Protection Services**Activity: Food and Feed Safety Division**<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/>**AT A GLANCE**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Food and Feed Safety Division:

- Conducted and participated in over 140 outreach activities on food safety related issues which included presenting at educational conferences and facilitating meetings with stakeholders and partner agencies.
- Issued over 1,700 new food business licenses and reviewed over 1,600 business applications.
- Conducted over 11,000 inspections, including 2,600 food processor/distributor and 8,400 retail food.
- Participated in 48 rapid response activations and investigations and tracked 18 pesticide misuse events.
- Processed over 1,600 human and animal food complaints submitted from the public.
- Conducted over 720 compliance and enforcement activities, resulting in 165 field enforcement actions and 53 escalated enforcement actions.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The Food and Feed Safety Division (FFSD) advances the MDA's mission to ensure the integrity of the food supply through proactive outreach, risk-based inspections, and rapid response. Our regulatory and outreach activities cover the expanding areas of food production, manufacturing, distribution, and retail sales. We work to ensure safe food handling practices are followed from the farm to processors, distributors, and retailers so consumers receive safe, wholesome products.

FFSD contributes to the agency's mission to equitably ensure the integrity of the food supply and the strength and resilience of the agricultural economy by:

- Verifying compliance with food safety laws so products can enter commerce safely and consumers are protected.
- Supporting food producers' ability to access interstate and international markets.
- Creating opportunities for food producers to grow and expand their businesses.
- Providing farmers with access to processing services needed to market their products within Minnesota, across the country, and internationally.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Outreach: Outreach and education are central components of our regulatory approach. When food business operators understand food safety principles and the regulations that apply to them, they are better equipped to implement effective food safety practices. Strong outreach and education efforts help new operators navigate regulatory requirements as they start new businesses and ensure existing operators stay informed about current food safety risks within their processes.

Food Business Application and Licensing: Our staff routinely review food business license and construction plan review applications. They process new business licenses, registrations, and license and registration renewals annually. The total FFSD human food inventory includes more than 9,000 licensed businesses.

Inspections and Assessments: Our staff conduct risk-based food safety inspections as required by federal and state law. These inspections verify that businesses that make, distribute, or sell human food have systems in place to keep products safe and maintain clean, sanitary conditions. The division also conducts a range of additional food safety assessments to protect the food supply. These include labels, facility designs, and food safety plans, as well as collecting and analyzing product and facility samples. Our regulatory inspection programs follow national program standards for quality management. A more detailed summary of the inspection programs supported by Protection Services funds follows:

- **Produce Safety:** Our Produce Safety program provides outreach, education, and technical assistance to approximately 1,200 produce farms and inspects produce farms covered under the federal Produce Safety Rule. The program also investigates pesticide misuse cases impacting produce growers. Protection Services funds support the program on a limited basis for investigations, complaints, and activities beyond the Produce Safety Rule.
- **Retail Food Inspection:** Our Retail Food program provides outreach, education, and technical assistance to roughly 6,300 retail food businesses, such as grocery stores, convenience stores, bakeries, and retail meat stores, and about 900 mobile food businesses. Businesses are classified into risk categories based on their food-handling activities, and inspection frequency is determined by the level of risk. Inspections verify compliance with statutory requirements and the Minnesota Food Code. The program also investigates complaints and responds to emergency events such as potential illness outbreaks, contamination incidents, product recalls, fires, and weather-related disruptions.
- **Manufactured Food Inspection:** Our Manufactured Food program provides outreach, education, and technical assistance to roughly 1,100 manufacturers and processors and about 700 distributors. Businesses are classified into risk categories based on their food-handling activities, and inspection frequency is determined by the level of risk. Inspections verify compliance with statutory requirements and applicable federal regulations, including preventive controls, specialized processing requirements, and good manufacturing practices under Code of Federal Regulations Title 21. The program also investigates complaints and responds to emergency events such as potential illness outbreaks, contamination incidents, product recalls, fires, and weather-related disruptions.

Response: Our staff respond quickly when unsafe products or operations are identified. The Rapid Response Team works with federal, state, and local partners to trace products during outbreaks. Our staff support recall actions when food safety systems fail and ensure unsafe food products are removed from sale.

Compliance and Enforcement: Compliance staff receive and triage complaints, working with internal teams and partner agencies as needed. We follow an educational, progressive enforcement approach, aiming first for voluntary corrections and using elevated actions only when necessary. More serious violations can lead to monetary penalties, restrictions on food sales, or civil or criminal actions. Field staff take immediate actions to protect public health when needed, such as issuing cease-and-desist orders or placing products or equipment under embargo. All compliance and enforcement activities align with national regulatory program standards.

Cottage Food Administration: Protection Services funds support the administration of the Cottage Food exemption. This work includes outreach, processing registrations, responding to complaints and inquiries, and coordinating with local public health agencies on regulatory guidance and approaches. The number of exemption registrations has grown more than 34-fold since starting in 2015 with more than 16,000 in 2026.

Emergency Management: The Office of Emergency Preparedness and Response leads MDA and assists the Board of Animal Health efforts in mitigating the effects of, to plan and prepare for, respond to and recover from natural and or man-made incidents affecting food and agriculture systems in Minnesota by collaborating with the general public, private industry, non-governmental organizations, University of Minnesota, and local, state and federal government.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

Table 1. Food Business Application Activities, by Fiscal Year.

Activity	Number Reviewed Fiscal Year 2025	Average Review Period in Days Fiscal Year 2025	Number Reviewed Fiscal Year 2026	Average Review Period in Days Fiscal Year 2026
License Application Review	NA	NA	707	51
Construction Plan Review	417	57	492	39

Table 2. Total Number of Inspections Conducted, by Program and Fiscal Year.

Regulatory Program	Fiscal Year 2023	Fiscal Year 2024	Fiscal Year 2025	Fiscal Year 2026
Retail Food	4,388	4,322	4,716	3,682
Manufactured Food	1,379	1,253	1,439	1,235

Table 3. Percent of Facilities Within Inspection Frequency, by Program and Fiscal Year.

Regulatory Program	Fiscal Year 2023	Fiscal Year 2024	Fiscal Year 2025	Fiscal Year 2026
Retail Food	84%	79%	80%	69%
Manufactured Food	84%	77%	85%	80%

Table 4. Compliance and Enforcement Activities, by Fiscal Year.

Activity	Fiscal Year 2023	Fiscal Year 2024	Fiscal Year 2025	Fiscal Year 2026
Complaint Reviews	544	631	731	919
Total Compliance and Enforcement Actions	341	321	386	341
Compliance Actions	267	248	269	240
Field Enforcement Actions	65	57	88	77
Escalated Enforcement Actions	9	16	29	24

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

The FFSD regulatory program services are not funded directly to support or implement evidence-based practices. However, we routinely set program goals and report annually on outputs and outcomes.

M.S. 28A (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/28A>) provides the legal authority for Food Handler Licensing
M.S. 31 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=31>) provides the legal authority for Food Inspection Program activities.

M.S. 34A (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/34A>) provides the legal authority for Food Inspection Program enforcement activities.

Program: Protection Services**Activity: Dairy and Meat Inspection Division**<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/meat-poultry-egg-inspection><https://www.mda.state.mn.us/minnesota-inspection-program-dairy-stats>**AT A GLANCE**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Dairy and Meat Inspection Division:

- Conducted over 18,000 daily inspections of slaughter and processing operations in Minnesota "Equal To" meat and poultry processing plants during FY 25-26.
- Supported over 39 new meat and poultry facilities in obtaining "Equal To" inspection services or custom exempt permits during FY 25-26.
- Led or participated in 37 in-person outreach events, reaching over 2,000 people, from students to consumers to industry professionals, on food safety and regulations.
- Successfully completed federal audits of both dairy and meat program procedures and practices, with no significant findings.
- Collected and analyzed over 3,700 dairy samples and 2,100 meat samples in cooperation with the MDA laboratory in FY 25-26.
- Issued over 425 certificates during FY 25-26 for dairy products to be exported.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The Dairy and Meat Inspection Division (DMID) supports the MDA's mission to ensure the integrity of the food supply by conducting regulatory and outreach activities related to the production and manufacturing of dairy, meat, poultry, and eggs. Our activities ensure dairy processors have access to interstate and international markets, give small meat processors opportunities to expand their business, and provide farmers access to slaughter and processing services necessary to market their products within Minnesota.

These activities are also critical to ensuring the health of consumers. Dairy, meat, poultry, and egg products are traditionally high-risk food safety products and, as such, have specific inspection and regulatory requirements designed to address these unique risks. Inspection work focuses on ensuring safe food handling practices are employed from the farm to processor and manufacturer so that consumers receive safe food.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Inspections: Our inspectors conduct food safety-based inspections that focus on ensuring farmers and manufacturers of dairy, meat, poultry, and egg products have systems in place to ensure products are safe and are producing food in a clean and sanitary environment. These inspections are also required by federal and state law. Inspections focus on both sanitary requirements and each facility's food safety-based programs and systems. Certified industry inspection programs are also used to help improve dairy industry business continuity by ensuring required inspections are performed on a timely basis and that food safety practices are assessed in a timely manner.

Outreach: DMID maintains a strong emphasis on outreach and education, prior to and as a part of regulation. When operators understand food safety principles and the relevant regulations, they can more effectively incorporate good food safety practices into their daily practices. Outreach and education are also key to assisting new operators in navigating the rules as they begin a new business, as well as ensuring that existing operators have strong foundational knowledge in food safety risks that exist in their processes.

Investigations, Compliance, and Enforcement: Investigators and compliance staff work to conduct reviews of product labels and equipment plans; identify operators working outside of the regulations; and follow up when food safety systems fail, a recall of product is necessary, or an outbreak is detected. Enforcement actions, such as warning letters, penalties, or license and permit suspensions, may be used to promote or address compliance issues when they are more severe and cannot be addressed through inspections or education.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

Industry and program audits are used to assess overall compliance rates and provide an assessment of how well inspected entities are meeting the regulatory requirements designed to ensure the dairy, meat, poultry, and egg products they produce are safe.

Dairy Inspection - Interstate Milk Shipment (IMS) Audits: The state and its dairy industry must participate in the IMS program to be able to ship Grade A dairy products across state lines. IMS audits assess the overall compliance of farms and plants, and dairy program performance. Because failure of an audit results in a lost market, achieving passing results is critical to maintain business continuity and market access. Dairy farm, plant, and enforcement audit results are monitored annually with the goal of achieving 95% passing scores. This evaluation measures the quality of inspections being performed and how well entities are complying with the regulatory requirements. In FY 25 and 26, over 95% of audits had passing scores, with improved overall results from FY23 and 24.

Table 1. Percent of Passing IMS Audits.

Year	Percent passing
2020	98%
2021	97%
2022	98%
2023	91%
2024	94%
2025	97%
2026	99%

Meat and Poultry Inspection - Food Safety Assessment Results: In-depth assessments of the food safety systems at each meat and poultry establishment are performed at least once every three years and for new establishments after a 90-day operating period. The assessment provides a deeper look at how well establishments are complying with the regulatory requirements and how well inspection staff are working with establishments to move toward compliance. The goal for this measure is to have more than 66% of non-targeted audits (routine) result in a full passing result, which is one that does not require additional follow-up other than by routine inspection staff.

The overall trend for this measure is improving and reached targeted levels in FY 24 and 25. The program has seen significant growth since 2020, and audit results are typically poorer for new establishments because the federal requirements are complex and can be challenging for small operators. The program hired a program liaison to assist processors joining the program, which has positively impacted the level of readiness of new establishments. In FY 2026, the program had a significant staffing shortage and focused on relatively higher risk facilities, and as a result expected fewer full passing audits; however, no audits resulted in critical findings during that time.

Table 2. Percent of Passing FSA's

State FY	% Passed
2020	53%
2021	53%
2022	50%
2023	59%
2024	71%
2025	67%
2026	53%

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

No evidence-based practices were identified.

M.S. 32D (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/32D>) provides the legal authority for Dairy Inspection Program activities.

M.S. 31A (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=31A>) provides the legal authority for Meat and Poultry Inspection Activities.

Program: Ag Marketing and Development**Activity: Marketing, Development, and Innovation**

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/about/mnfarmerstress>

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/business-dev-loans-grants/farmlink>

<https://www.minnesotagrown.com>

<https://minnesota.agclassroom.org/>

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/agri>

AT A GLANCE

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Agricultural Marketing and Development Division:

- Over 85 beginning/emerging farmers are using FarmLink to seek a relationship with an existing farm.
- Over 528 beginning farmers were awarded scholarships to assist with Farm Business Management tuition.
- 176 farms assisted by Dairy Profit Teams.
- Nearly 7,000 acres listed on the cropland grazing exchange, an online tool that matches livestock farmers with crop farmers who have land available for grazing.
- 408 calls and texts answered by counselors on the Minnesota Farm & Rural Helpline, up 30% compared to FY25 and 53% compared to FY24.
- Average of 37,775 people use the Minnesota Grown website each month to locate farms and farmers' markets.
- 158,728 K-12 students impacted by Minnesota Ag in the Classroom's programs and printed resources in 2024-2025 school year.
- 39 value-added processors expanded capacity or increased food safety, including 21 meat processing businesses in FY26.
- 144 Minnesota food businesses received financial assistance for e-commerce and digital marketing costs and participating in wholesale events.
- 36 fueling stations in FY 24 and 25 received funding through the Biofuels Infrastructure Grant Program to update or install new fuel pumps, fuel storage tanks, and other equipment compatible with E25 or higher blends.
- One overseas office operating in Taiwan to represent Minnesota agricultural interests to East Asian buyers.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The Agricultural Marketing and Development Division works to help farmers and other agricultural businesses be profitable, protect our environment and resources, and meet society's needs for food, fiber, and fuel.

We work across the state to serve farmers, agribusinesses, entrepreneurs, industry and commodity organizations, local governments, tribes, public and private schools, environmental and natural resource professionals, and consumers.

SERVICES PROVIDED

We provide numerous and diverse services to meet our goals, including:

- Minnesota Grown, an umbrella marketing program that connects consumers and wholesale buyers with producers of specialty crops, livestock, and other agricultural products grown or raised in Minnesota.
- Organic information and financial assistance to growers, processors, and consumers.
- Marketing support, including business development, trade show support, and international marketing.
- Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Farmers' Market Nutrition and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition programs that distribute vouchers for fresh produce.
- Farm to Food Security grant administration to help connect local farmers with food assistance providers.
- Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom, an educational resources and professional development provider that embeds agriculture, food, and natural resources education into K-12 classrooms.
- Information and assistance to livestock producers and local governments on livestock development, permitting, and grazing opportunities through MDA's Grazing Exchange.
- Assistance to dairy farmers, including access to Dairy Profit Teams and Dairy Business Planning Grants.
- Farm stress and agricultural mental health support, including a 24-hour Minnesota Farm & Rural Helpline and direct counseling by three licensed agricultural mental health providers.
- Assistance to renewable and low-carbon fuel sector and the farmers growing feedstocks for the bioenergy industry, including administration of the state's Sustainable Aviation Fuel Tax Credit and the Biodiesel Blending mandate.
- Farm transition assistance through farmland access/succession teams, multigenerational farm transition retreats, and FarmLink.
- Agricultural land use assistance, including information on agricultural zoning and business development, and permit navigation.
- Provide technical representation to the Environmental Quality Board and represent agricultural interests at the Public Utilities Commission and oversee agricultural impact mitigation plans protecting farmland during large energy facility development.
- Oversight of Agricultural commodity research and promotion councils.
- Food Retailer, Improvement, and Development Grant and advisory committee administration.
- Farm safety grants for grain bin safety and rollover protection systems for tractors.
- Trade services through trade missions and in-market representation.
- The Emerging Farmers Office connects new farmers with resources and programs.

The Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Program provides financial assistance to advance the agricultural and renewable energy industries. This is accomplished through grants and other forms of financial assistance to support rural economic infrastructure activities.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Farms, markets, and businesses licensed to use the Minnesota Grown logo	Quantity	MDA's Licensing Information System	All-time high, up 8% since 2021	1,395 farms, markets, and businesses had a license to use the Minnesota Grown logo in Calendar Year 2025
Active users that visit MinnesotaGrown.com	Quantity	Google Analytics	All-time high, up 15% over FY25	450,000+ active users of the Minnesota Grown website in FY26
Number of teachers reached by Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom professional development	Quantity	Professional Development attendance	Increase of 500 teachers from 2023-2024 due in part to hosting National Ag in the Classroom Conference in Minnesota	1,235 in-service and pre-service teachers attended a Minnesota Ag in the Classroom professional development activity in 2024-2025 school year.
Amount of private investment leveraged through Biofuels Infrastructure Grant Program	Result	Grant contract agreements and associated budgets	This is a new grant program, so this measurement is setting the baseline for future trend analysis	Grantees provided \$7.8M of private investment in FY22/FY23
Expand awareness of agricultural mental health services and resources	Quantity	Outreach material distribution	72% increase compared to 24,970 items in FY25	Fulfilled requests for more than 43,000 brochures and promotional items.
Provide licensed mental health services to farmers and their families	Quantity	Contract provider annual reports	12% increase compared to 970 sessions in FY25	1,086 counseling sessions involving 54,364 miles traveled

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

No Evidence-based Practices were identified

M. S. 17.03 Subds. 1, 6, 7, and 7a (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17.03>) authorizes the development of agricultural industries, promotion of agricultural products to international markets, and promotion of agricultural diversification and nontraditional agriculture.

M.S. 17.101 Subd. 1 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17.101>) provides authority for promotion and support of production and marketing of products of Minnesota agriculture.

M.S. 17.1016 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/2023/cite/17.1016>) establishes the cooperative grants.

M.S. 17.102 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17.102>) authorizes the establishment and promotion of the Minnesota Grown label.

M.S. 17.1017 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/17.1017>) and M.S. 17.1018 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/17.1018>) establishes the Food Retailer Improvement and Development Grant (FRIDG) Program and the FRIDG Advisory Committee.

M.S. 17.116 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17.116>) establishes the Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant Program.

M.S. 17.1195 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/17.1195>) establishes the Farm Safety Grant Program.

M.S. 17.58 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17.58>) defines the duties of the agency related to oversight of the promotion councils.

M.S. 17.80 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17.80>), 17.81 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17.81>), 17.82 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17.82>), 17.84 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17.84>) articulate state agricultural land preservation and conservation policy and define duties of the agency.

M.S. 17.844 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17.844>) authorizes promotion of livestock production.

M.S. 31.94 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=31.94>) authorizes the promotion of organic agriculture.

M.S. 32D.30 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/32D.30>) establishes the dairy development and profitability enhancement program.

M.S. 40A (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=40A>) establishes the agricultural land preservation program.

M.S. 41A.12 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=41A.12>) provides the legal authority for the AGRI Program.

M.S. 41A.16 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=41A.16>) provides the legal authority for the Advanced Biofuel Production Incentive.

M.S. 41A.17 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=41A.17>) provides the legal authority for the Renewable Chemical Production Incentive.

M.S. 41A.18 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=41A.18>) provides the legal authority for the Biomass Thermal Production Incentive.

M.S. 41A.30 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/41A.30>) provides the legal authority for the Sustainable Aviation Fuel Tax Credit.

M.S. 239.77 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/239.77>) provides the legal authority for the biodiesel blending mandate.

M.S. 216I.18 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/216I.18>) provides legal authority for MDA to require agricultural impact mitigation plans for energy infrastructure permitting.

M.S. 216B.243 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/216b.243>) authorizes MDA as the lead agency on the development of agricultural impact mitigation plans required for a certificate of need for a large energy facility.

Minnesota Rules 4405 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/4405/>) establishes MDA's Technical Representative in EQB operating procedures.

Program: Ag Marketing and Development**Activity: Ag Research, Education and Extension Tech Transfer (AGREETT) Program**

<https://agreett.umn.edu/>

AT A GLANCE

- University of Minnesota has 35 AGREETT agriculture faculty and educator positions.
- This appropriation also provides funding for the Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council; the Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership program, Rapid Agricultural Response Fund; Forever Green; and research on avian influenza, salmonella, and other turkey-related diseases and disease prevention measures, crop contamination and exposure to prions, wild rice, and potatoes.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

Through the Agriculture Research, Education, Extension, and Technology Transfer (AGREETT) Program, we provide grants to the University of Minnesota for long-term funding, primarily for human infrastructure. This includes research and Extension faculty, Extension educators, graduate students, and post-doctoral fellowships at the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences; Extension; and the College of Veterinary Medicine. The University of Minnesota has 35 AGREETT agriculture faculty and educator positions. In addition, funds are provided for rapid response to plant and animal diseases and agricultural education.

SERVICES PROVIDED

Through AGREETT, we provide funds to the University of Minnesota for agricultural faculty positions in the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences; Extension; and the College of Veterinary Medicine. One-time funds were also granted to Southwest Minnesota State University. In addition, funds are provided for rapid response to plant and animal diseases and agricultural education.

RESULTS**Part A: Performance Data**

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Faculty and Extension educators hired	Result	Annual reports provided by University of Minnesota	All available funds for faculty and educator hiring have been committed. Without additional funding, no additional hiring will occur other than replacement due to attrition.	35

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

No Evidence-based Practices were identified.

M.S.41A.14 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=41A.14>) provides the legal authority for the AGREETT Program.

Program: Administration and Financial Assistance**Activity: Grants and Assistance**<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/>**AT A GLANCE**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) grant and assistance programs:

- Partnered with and assisted hundreds of organizations and individuals.
- Administered a variety of specialized programs.
- Assisted and worked with many different sectors of the agricultural industry, including ag youth, farmers and farm customers in need, ag researchers, and others.

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

The grants and assistance activity passes money through the MDA to other organizations and programs that focus on specific agriculture-related subjects. By providing this assistance, the MDA helps strengthen the agricultural economy at its "roots" and in areas that might otherwise get overlooked. These programs reach individual farmers, farm youth, and targeted customers of agricultural products. The money also supports key efforts to research and promote agricultural activities specific to Minnesota's climate.

SERVICES PROVIDED

- This activity provides assistance to county fairs and agricultural associations, the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association, the Minnesota Poultry Association, and the Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council. These organizations maintain generations of expertise, enhance it with the latest research, and pass it on to future generations through their educational programs for youth.
- Through the Farm Advocates program, the MDA provides one-on-one assistance to farmers who face crisis due to natural disasters or financial problems. Trained, experienced advocates help farmers determine how to address difficulties through agricultural lending options, mediation, farm programs, crisis counseling, disaster programs, and legal and social services. Related to this work, the MDA passes funds through to the Farm Business Management programs at colleges in the Minnesota State system to provide farm families with mental health counseling support.
- The MDA partners with the Feeding America food banks to purchase milk for distribution through food shelves and other charitable organizations. Most grants are now competitive as opposed to direct appropriations.

RESULTS

Part A: Performance Data

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Pounds of milk provided to food shelves and other emergency feeding organizations.	Quantity	Reports submitted by Feeding America food banks	Not available	In FY26, partners purchased 2,990,201 pounds of milk through the program
Minnesota Farm Advocates	Quantity - service hours Advocates assisted Minnesota farmers	Hours submitted by Advocates for reimbursement	FY21 – 8,428 hours FY22 – 9,932 hours FY23 – 5,797 hours FY24 – 6,106 hours FY25 – 6,223 hours	FY26 – 5,943 hours

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

No evidence-based practices were identified.

Minnesota Statutes Chapter 38, (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=38>), Chapter 41D (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=41D>) and others.

Program: Administration and Financial Assistance**Activity: Agency Services**<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/commissionersoffice>**AT A GLANCE**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Agency Services:

- Ensure implementation of statewide policies
- Provide leadership on agricultural issues

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

This activity ensures the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) stays responsive to the needs of agriculture in Minnesota and stays focused on advancing our mission. The MDA's mission is to enhance Minnesotans' quality of life by equitably ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment, and the strength and resilience of our agricultural economy.

SERVICES PROVIDED

This activity provides leadership and support services to the agency and its employees and performs agency-level services for the public, agricultural industries, and other governmental entities. Agency Services includes:

- The Commissioner's Office
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion coordination
- Communications Office
- Human Resources Division
- Finance and Budget Division, including staffing for loan programs under the Rural Finance Authority, a separate board of state officials and public members, and Ag Best Management Practices (AgBMP) loans.
- Legal Services
- Tribal Liaison
- Hosting for staff of MN.IT, the state's office of information technology
- IT Modernization
- Compliance

RESULTS

We maintain communication and coordination with farmers, ag groups, state boards, interagency committees, and national and international associations. Communication and outreach activities are provided in person and through the media, including the agency's web page and social media sites.

www.mda.state.mn.us www.youtube.com/mnagriculture x.com/mnagriculture
www.facebook.com/mnagriculture www.instagram.com/mnagriculture www.threads.com/@mnagriculture
www.mnagriculture.bsky.social www.linkedin.com/company/minnesota-department-of-agriculture

The reach of our social media presence continues to increase and has helped with outreach on many issues, including recent animal disease outbreaks.

Part A: Performance Data

Measure	Measure type	Measure data source	Historical trend	Most recent data
Web traffic (total visits)	Quantity	Outreach Reports	2024: 1,233,152 2023: 1,189,871 2022: 1,024,479	2025: 1,209,031
Newsletter and news release subscribers	Quantity	Webpage software report	2024: 123,435 2023: 115,095 2022: 104,346	2025: 142,745
Site visits conducted by Commissioner's Office (total visits to farms, agriculture facilities, food retailers)	Quantity	Commissioner's Office Outlook calendars	2024: 96 2023: 111 2022: 87	2025: 109

Part B: Evidence of Effectiveness

This budget activity funds core functional/operational costs that cannot be evaluated using a randomized control trial or quasi-experimental design study.

M.S. Chapter 17 (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17>) outlines the responsibilities of the Commissioner of Agriculture.