



Emerging Farmers

House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee

March 21, 2024

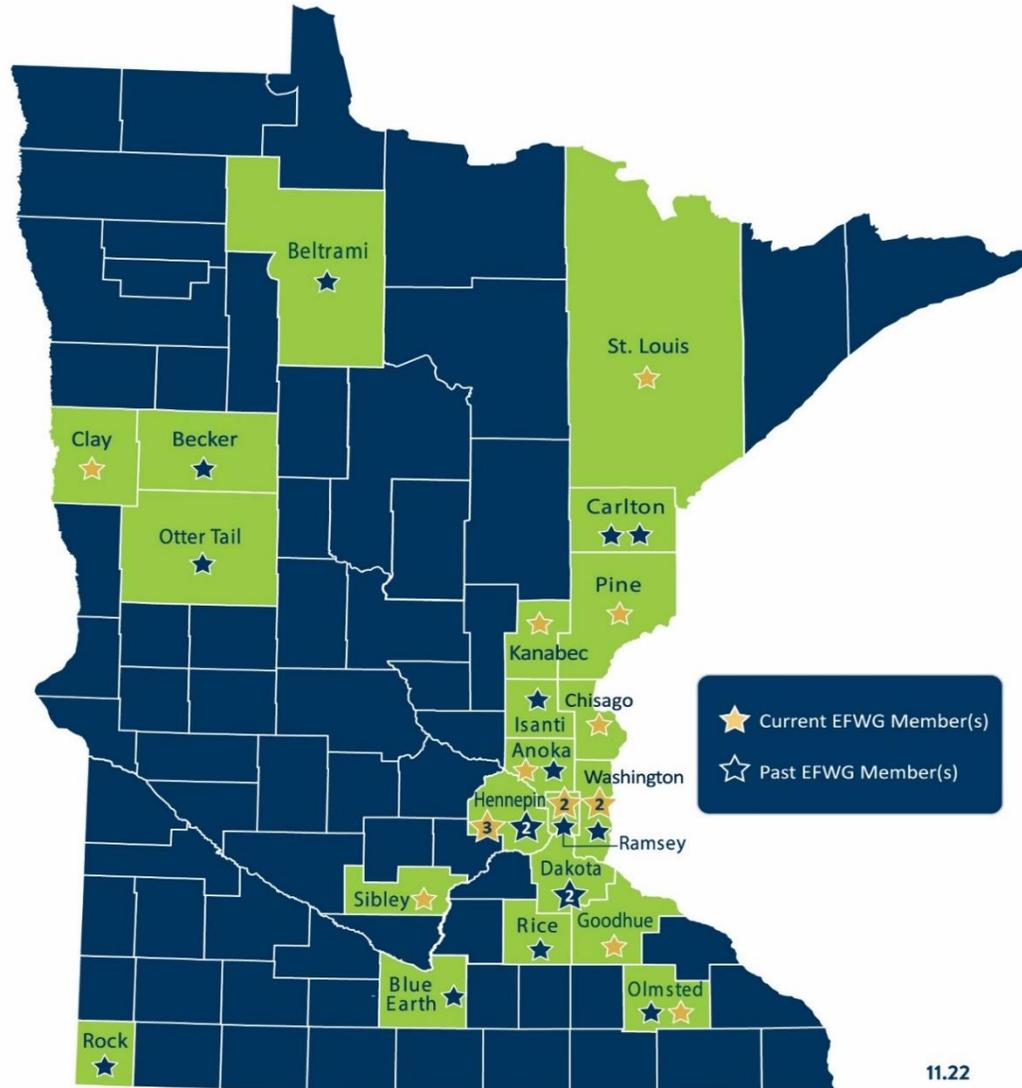
Emerging Farmer Working Group

Background:

- The Emerging Farmer Working Group (EFWG) is a stakeholder group created by the 2020 legislative session which provides feedback to all divisions of the MDA on how to serve emerging farmers
- Past three cohorts of about 33 members served two-year terms representing 20 counties
- Current Cohort 4 members represent 12 counties
 - Farmers and aspiring farmers who are women, veterans, persons with disabilities, American Indian or Alaskan Native, members of a community of color, young (35 and under), LGBTGIA+, and urban

EMERGING FARMERS

Working Group Members



EFWG Engagement

- “NEW” State Fair Booth – Last summer, we had 15 plus emerging farmers staff the MDA booth, sharing information and receiving feedback from public
- EFWG moved to hybrid open meetings
 - Members secured locations and hosting partners
 - Hosted by North Branch City Council, Brooklyn Park Mayor at council offices, and at Fond du Lac Nation during Sustainable Ag. and Natural Resource Conference in Carlton



Emerging Farmers Office Listening Session at EFC – 80 plus Attendees

Area of interest	Green (farming more than 5 years)	Yellow (farming less than 5 years)	Blue (aspiring farmer)	Red (farm service provider)	Total
Cooperative land access	8	12	4	6	30
Land access	11	4	6	8	29
Market access	10	5	3	6	24
Infrastructure (inflation reduction act)	8	1	3	2	14
Climate change	2	5	3	2	12
Business support	4	1	3	4	12
Pesticide drift & water safety	1	3	3	2	10
Mental health	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	10
Farmer education	5	5	0	0	10
Culturally relevant outreach	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	9
Food hubs	unknown	unknown	unknown	unknown	9

Emerging Farmers Office-Implementation

- FY24 Hired Director, Sr. Grants Specialist, and Outreach and Engagement Coordinator
- \$275,000 technical assistance grants to Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) ongoing work
- Beginning Farmer Equipment and Infrastructure Grants ongoing work
- \$25,000 Translation services
- \$577,000 RFA administered Technical Assistance Grants completed in FY2024 (20 eligible applications requesting \$1.5million; 8 awardees)

2024 Emerging Farmers Office focus

- Outreach/Engagement in Urban and Greater Minnesota (Western and Southern MN)
- Land Access
- Working on CDFI Grant and Beginning Farmer
- Infrastructure Grants
- Language Accessibility (Translation Services)
- Technical Assistance
- Data - Farmer Stories
- Expanding Engagement to Greater MN





Questions?

Assistant Commissioner Patrice Bailey
patrice.bailey@state.mn.us