

Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation

Fiscal Year 2014

Legislative Report



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Agricultural Growth,
Research, and Innovation

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

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Executive Summary

The Agricultural, Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Program was established in Minn. Stat. 41A.12 to advance Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy industries. In Fiscal Year (FY) 14, the second year of the program, \$10.2 million was awarded 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, Trade Show Assistance, NextGen Bioenergy and Biochemical Grants, Blender Pump Installation Cost Share, Crop Research Grants, Beginning Farmer Assistance, and Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grants. Significant immediate economic impacts have already been realized in increased production or new products for sale, increased employment, entry into new markets, and increases in efficiency of production or processing.

FY14 investments resulted in:

- \$59.6 million of private investment, leveraged nearly \$6 for every \$1 of state investment;
- 687 new jobs (full/part-time) on livestock farms;
- 15 new full-time jobs and 32 new part-time jobs added as of Fall 2014 from the Value Added Grant
- 14 schools increasing their purchases of Minnesota grown food for school food service;
- 13 meat processors expanding the amount of livestock they process and/or improving efficiency; and
- 71 percent of Value Added Grant recipients expanding into new markets while improving their efficiency and/or improving food safety.

The AGRI Program appropriation for FY14 and FY15 is \$20.47 million. In addition to the \$10.2 million awarded in FY14, \$7.7 million has been awarded to date in FY15. Requests for proposals remain open for applications to the Value Added Grants, County Fair Grants, Beginning Farmer Assistance, and GAP/GHP Certification Cost Share programs.

A summary of investments since the AGRI Program's inception is included in Appendix 9.

Introduction

The AGRI Program was established 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.

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 \$2.301 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. The Commissioner has implemented programs in the following areas:

- Livestock Investment Grants – to initiate or expand livestock production and processing;
- Value Added Grants – to purchase equipment in order to create, upgrade, or modernize value added businesses, including meat processing;
- Farm to School Grants – to help schools purchase more Minnesota grown food by assisting schools to invest in processing equipment and storage;
- Crop Research Grants – to catalyze research that will improve quality, quantity, and value of crops grown in Minnesota;

- NextGen Bioenergy and Biochemical Grants – to foster research and development in renewable energy technologies;
- Blender Pump Cost Share – to increase availability of renewable liquid fuels;
- Trade Show Assistance – 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 farms and food processors that are food certified under GAP/GHP; and
- County Fair Arts Access and Cultural Heritage Grants – to enhance arts access and education and to preserve and promote Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage at county fairs;

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

Livestock Investment Grants

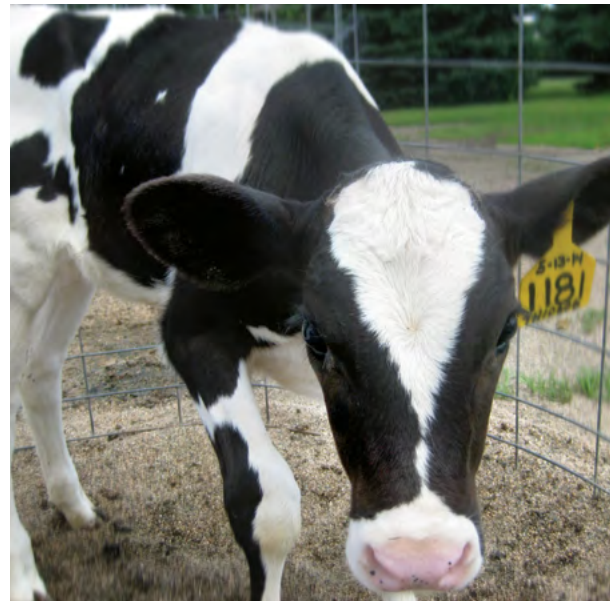
Livestock Investment Grants (LIG) invest in Minnesota’s livestock industry infrastructure, which adds value to the crops grown in the state. For example, the University of Minnesota estimates between 25-33 percent of all corn and soybeans grown in the state are fed to livestock. LIG awards up to 10 percent of the cost of livestock equipment or facility improvements, with a maximum lifetime award of \$50,000. Funds are available to all Minnesota livestock farmers and are awarded competitively. A panel of Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and external reviewers scores applications on demographic, economic, and environmental criteria.

The FY14 target for LIG awards was \$2 million. The MDA received 471 grant applications requesting \$6.6 million and awarded 130 grants totaling \$2.3 million. The total private investment by participating farmers was \$55.2 million, a 24 to 1 return on the state’s investment. Awards were made across many livestock species and ranged from \$676 to \$25,000, with an average award of \$17,700. A list of awardees and a map of their locations are located in Appendices 1 and 2.

Of the grants awarded:

- 100 percent addressed an environmental issue;
- 96 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 (Figure 1); and
- 86 percent of recipients had ten years of farming experience or less.

The MDA estimates that 688 construction jobs and 687 full or part-time jobs on the farm were created as a result of LIG.



Alise Sjostrom

was able to start farming with her parents near Brooten, Minnesota. Not only was she able to purchase equipment but has also started to produce cheese under the Redhead Creamery label.

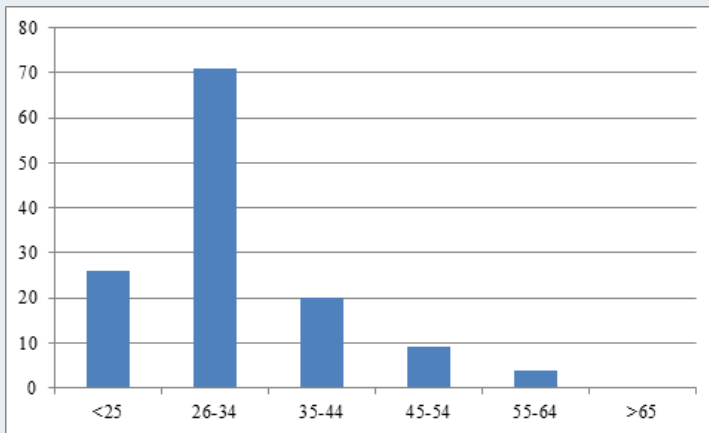


Figure 1.

Age Distribution of
FY14 Livestock Investment Grant

For FY15, the target for LIG awards is \$2 million. The MDA received nearly 200 applications requesting \$2.8 million.

Value Added Grants

The Value Added Grant Program 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 FY14, projects involving meat processing, Farm to School (or other institution) market access, or implementing components of a food safety plan were given priority, and priorities remain in place for FY15. The target for the FY14 Value Added grant program was \$1.75 million. The MDA received 118 applications requesting a total of \$4.4 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 \$1.42 million was awarded for nine business planning grants and 46 equipment grants. The range of awards was \$1,096 to \$150,000 with an average of \$ 22,000. Private investment of \$4.47 million resulted in a 3 to 1 return on the state's investment.

Projects were located in 34 Minnesota counties (see map in Appendix 3). A list of FY14 awardees is located in Appendix 4.

The MDA conducted a follow-up survey of FY14 grantees:

- 88 percent said the grant helped improve food safety at their business;
- 71 percent reported the grant enabled them to bring a new product to the marketplace;
- 68 percent said they would not have been able to introduce the new product without the grant and 41 percent said they were able to introduce the product sooner than anticipated;



Lorentz Meats

from Cannon Falls, Minnesota expanded their slaughter area and livestock handling so they can process more Minnesota grown livestock. This meat processor has been able to access new markets because of these improvements while accommodating more Minnesota livestock producers.

- 84 percent said they had expanded into new markets: (e.g., direct marketing, retail grocery/cooperative, school/institution, or farmers’ market);
- 58 percent said they reduced waste (i.e., bulk packaging, waste water, and produce and product loss)
- 55 percent indicated they were able to use an existing product in a new way: processing fresh meat into smoked meats and sausages, sugar beets into alcohol, and apples into sweet and hard cider;
- 83 percent said they hired new employees (15 full-time and 32 part-time) and expect to hire an additional 50 full-time and 62 part-time employees within two years; and
- Businesses said they were able to increase production since completing the grant project. Examples include processing 10,000 more gallons of milk per week; 36,177 more pounds of winter vegetables per season; and 30 more hogs per month. One farm resulted in a threefold income increase.

“The growth has been unbelievable. The opportunities come knocking on the door a lot more.”

– Charles Cory, Big Steer Meats

“Sales of local farm (products) to schools and institutions are up 50 percent and custom processing for Food, Social, and Ceremonial (FSC) is up 100 percent.”

– Pete Gengler, Sno Pac Farms, LLC

In addition, a \$621,500 increase in sales in 2014 were attributable to funded projects and more Minnesota products were processed in 2014, including at least 100 gallons of maple syrup, 12 tons of ingredients, 78,000 pounds of pork, 120,220 pounds of apples, and 50,725 pounds of produce.

The FY15 target for the Value Added grants is \$2 million, and two requests for proposals will be issued. In the first round, MDA received 46 applications requesting \$2,713,908 and expects to award \$838,700 to 25 applicants in 18 counties. Those grant recipients will invest \$2,520,030 in matching funds – a 3 to 1 return on the state’s investment. The awards range from \$1,310 to \$150,000, with an average of \$33,547.

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 child care centers that participate in the Child and Adult Care Food Program are eligible applicants. Two types of projects are eligible for awards:

- Feasibility studies to determine product availability and cost or the specific equipment, tools, training, or policies that a school or school district needs in order 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.
- 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.

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



Hopkins School

roasts fresh Minnesota tomatoes for their students in their upgraded kitchen as a part of the Farm to School Grant.

The FY14 target for F2S Grant awards was \$250,000. The MDA received 25 applications totaling \$387,638 and awarded \$250,975 to 15 institutions. Awards ranged from \$1,921 to \$50,000 with an average of \$16,732. The Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota (Blue Cross) contributed \$151,231 to help schools meet match requirements. The funding was a part of Blue Cross' long-term statewide public health initiative to reduce preventable chronic disease by tackling its root causes, including unhealthy eating. A list of awards and a map are located in Appendices 5 and 6.

Schools purchased coolers, salad bars, food processors, steamers, ovens, serving trays, and miscellaneous small kitchen tools. For example, Crookston Public School District purchased steamers and a salad bar. The steamers will be used to prepare and then store local fruits and vegetables while they are in season. The stored food will be served in the winter and spring months. The salad bar for local fruit and vegetables is designed specifically for young children and allows students to serve themselves.

The MDA conducted a follow-up survey of all FY14 grantees.

- All recipients reported that the grant funds made their project possible. For example, Marshall County Central Schools wrote: *"Dollars for equipment are always hard to come by, especially in food service. We usually have to supplement equipment purchases with general education aid money taking funds out of the classroom. The combination of the grant plus the matching funds assistance from Blue Cross Blue Shield allowed us to complete the project quickly and saved us significant dollars we could keep in our classrooms."*
- Schools reported they bought products from 14 "new" farmers during the grant year, and increased the amount they purchased from existing farmer business partners.
- Ten schools reported dollar amount increases in local food purchases totaling nearly \$50,000. Two schools, Waconia and Owatonna, each had increases of nearly \$20,000. Lakes Area Service Cooperative, which serves school districts in a nine-county area, delivered more than 34,000 pounds of fresh produce. The schools expect their purchases will increase each year, as they complete installation of the equipment and become more comfortable and skilled with using it.

In FY15, the MDA received 32 proposals requesting \$633,179 and awarded \$476,942 to 22 applicants. Awards ranged from \$1,688 to \$50,000, with an average of \$24,679. Blue Cross has committed funds again in FY15 to help schools with their match requirement.

Crop Research Grant

Crop Research Grants are intended to improve the quality, quantity and/or value of crops grown in Minnesota. Awards of up to \$250,000 are 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.

In FY14, the MDA received 22 applications requesting a total of \$3.62 million. An external panel reviewed the applications and ten projects were awarded a total of \$1.3 million. A list of projects is provided in Appendix 7.

In FY15 the MDA received 38 applications totaling \$7.7 million and expects to award \$2.2 million in total to 11 projects.

NextGen Bioenergy & Biochemical Grant

The NextGen Bioenergy and Biobased Chemical Grant Program provides grants for research, technical assistance, equipment, or development of business plans and structures related to community ownership of bioenergy facilities. Eligible recipients include:

- Owners of Minnesota facilities producing bioenergy, biobased content, or a biobased formulated product;
- Organizations that provide for on-station, on-farm field scale research and outreach to develop and test the agronomic and economic requirements of diverse stands of prairie plants and other perennials for bioenergy systems; and certain nongovernmental entities.

Grants provide up to 50 percent of the cost of research, technical assistance, or equipment related to bioenergy, biobased content, or biobased formulated product production, with a maximum grant award of \$500,000. Grants to nongovernmental entities for the development of business plans and structures related to community ownership of eligible bioenergy facilities together are limited to \$150,000. In both cases, grantees must provide a 25 percent cash match.

Grants are competitively awarded through an RFP process. An interagency technical review team scores and ranks proposals before submission to the NextGen Energy Board. Funding decisions are made by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

The target funding amount for FY14 was \$2.2 million. The MDA received 35 applications requesting \$12.3 million and awarded five grants totaling \$1.7 million. The NextGen Energy Board recommended using the remaining \$500,000, to issue a targeted RFP for biomass thermal energy projects. Awards are being finalized.

Blender Pump Cost Share

In FY14 MDA allocated \$500,000 to help underwrite the American Lung Association of Minnesota's grants to install flexible fuel pumps or compatible infrastructure necessary for a service station to deliver renewable liquid fuels such as E15 or E85. The Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council (MCRPC) matched state funds with an additional \$1 million. The MDA serves on this committee.

To date, 36 stations have been awarded \$870,000. Of these, 19 are now open and selling E15, E20, and E30, higher blends of ethanol. For FY15 the MDA allocated another \$500,000, which was again matched by \$1 million from the MCRPC.

Trade Show Assistance

The purpose of the New Market Development program is to help Minnesota's small to medium-sized food businesses and value added agriculture producers explore new markets and expand their market reach. The program helps these businesses gain a competitive advantage in local, regional, national, and international markets through two initiatives that have shown great results and participation.

The MDA coordinates Minnesota Pavilions at local, regional, national, and international trade shows. This exposure helps participating companies put their best foot forward in new markets. The MDA secures exhibit space at selected trade events, and then offers it at reduced rates (usually 50 percent of the cost) to Minnesota companies and agricultural producers.

Sales relationships spurred at trade events can sometimes take more than a year to develop. The MDA surveys participants of every Minnesota Pavilion event to track results up to a year after the event and help determine future trade show options.

In FY14, Minnesota Pavilions were held at the following domestic trade events:

- Americas Food and Beverage Show (Miami)
- Winter Fancy Food Show (San Francisco)
- Natural Products Expo West (Anaheim)
- Food Marketing Institute (Chicago)
- National Restaurant Association (Chicago)
- Summer Fancy Food Show (Baltimore)

"TSP has been instrumental to finding new consumers, stores and for new market development."

– Rob Fuglie of Nots! Sunflower Snacks, Fergus Falls, Minnesota

"The TSP program is invaluable for us as a small farm-based, value added business located 150 miles from the metro area."

– Kathleen Batalden-Smith of Omega Maiden Oils, Lamberton, Minnesota

The 26 participating Minnesota food companies in FY14 reported almost \$2.1 million in sales as a result. The total cost of participation for companies who attended those events was \$170,600, resulting in a return on investment (ROI) of greater than 12 to 1 for those events. The MDA is planning seven domestic and two international Minnesota Pavilions for FY15.

The Trade Show and Demo Support Program (TSP) helps Minnesota companies exhibit at wholesale food events without a Minnesota Pavilion option. It also underwrites some of the cost of in-store demos for companies that are trying to introduce products into new markets and stores. Eligible costs for a 50 percent reimbursement include mileage and staff time for in-store demos, and booth space rental, shipping, and new signage for wholesale food shows.

In FY14, the MDA reimbursed \$105,000 of eligible expenses to 51 companies including: Ames Farm (Watertown), Locally Laid Eggs (Wrenshall), Cedar Summit Farm (New Prague), Clover Valley Farms (Duluth), Creative Bakery Solutions (Little Falls), Dombrovski Meats (Foley), Dutch House Confections (Alexandria), Joia (St. Louis Park), Nots! (Fergus Falls), Five Friends Foods (Minneapolis), Barnstormer Granola (St. Paul), Hill & Vale Farm (Wykoff), Omega Maiden Oil (Lamberton), Seven Sundays (Minneapolis), Smude's (Pierz), Sweet Harvest Foods (Cannon Falls), and many more.

Participants reported \$953,000 in sales (a 9:1 ROI), with expansion into 113 new markets and more than 3,700 new stores.



Pop'd Kerns

from Mountain Lake, Minnesota at the '14 Winter Fancy Food Show

Beginning 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 has provided important funds for a number of activities, including the Farm Realty Listing website where exiting farmers can list, and new farmers can discover, Minnesota farms for sale, and sponsorship of seminars and workshops about farm transition. In FY15, the MDA has set aside \$300,000 to support a beginning farmer assistance program.

Central to the beginning farmer assistance program, the MDA initiated a Farm Business Management (FBM) scholarship program for beginning farmers. FBM teaches farmers how to use their own farm records to make sound business decisions. Instruction is offered by Minnesota State Colleges and Universities campuses statewide; instructors meet with students 1:1 and/or in small group settings.

This scholarship 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. 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. To date in FY15, the scholarship program has awarded scholarships to 315 beginning farmers and disbursed a total of \$252,000.

Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant

Since 1989, the Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant Program (Minn. Stat. 17.116) has fostered collaborations among farmers, nonprofit groups, agricultural researchers, and educators to explore ways to enhance the sustainability of a wide range of farming systems. Originally funded through a dedicated biennial appropriation, funding was shifted to the AGRI Program by the MDA for FY13.

Projects can last for up to three years and may 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. All projects must include an outreach component to share the results of the projects with the public and grantee progress and findings are published in the MDA's annual *Greenbook* publication. An external review panel evaluates grant applications on a competitive basis and makes funding recommendations to the Commissioner of Agriculture.

The FY14 target for Sustainable Agriculture Grants was \$250,000. The MDA received 30 applications requesting \$548,500 and made 13 awards totaling \$205,345. Appendix 8 contains a list of the projects funded.

In FY15, 28 applications requesting \$650,000 were received. Proposal review is in process.

GAP/GHP Certification

The GAP/GHP Certification Cost Share program helps farmers and processors defray the cost of becoming GAP/GHP certified for food safety, a certification that is increasingly required to sell produce to schools, 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.

GAP/GHP certified farmers and handlers certified to the USDA standards by an accredited certifier are eligible to receive a reimbursement of 75 percent of their certification costs up to \$2,500.

In the first year of the program, the MDA received 28 applications and funded 25 of them, disbursing a total of \$17,705.40. The total cost of certification averaged \$944.28.

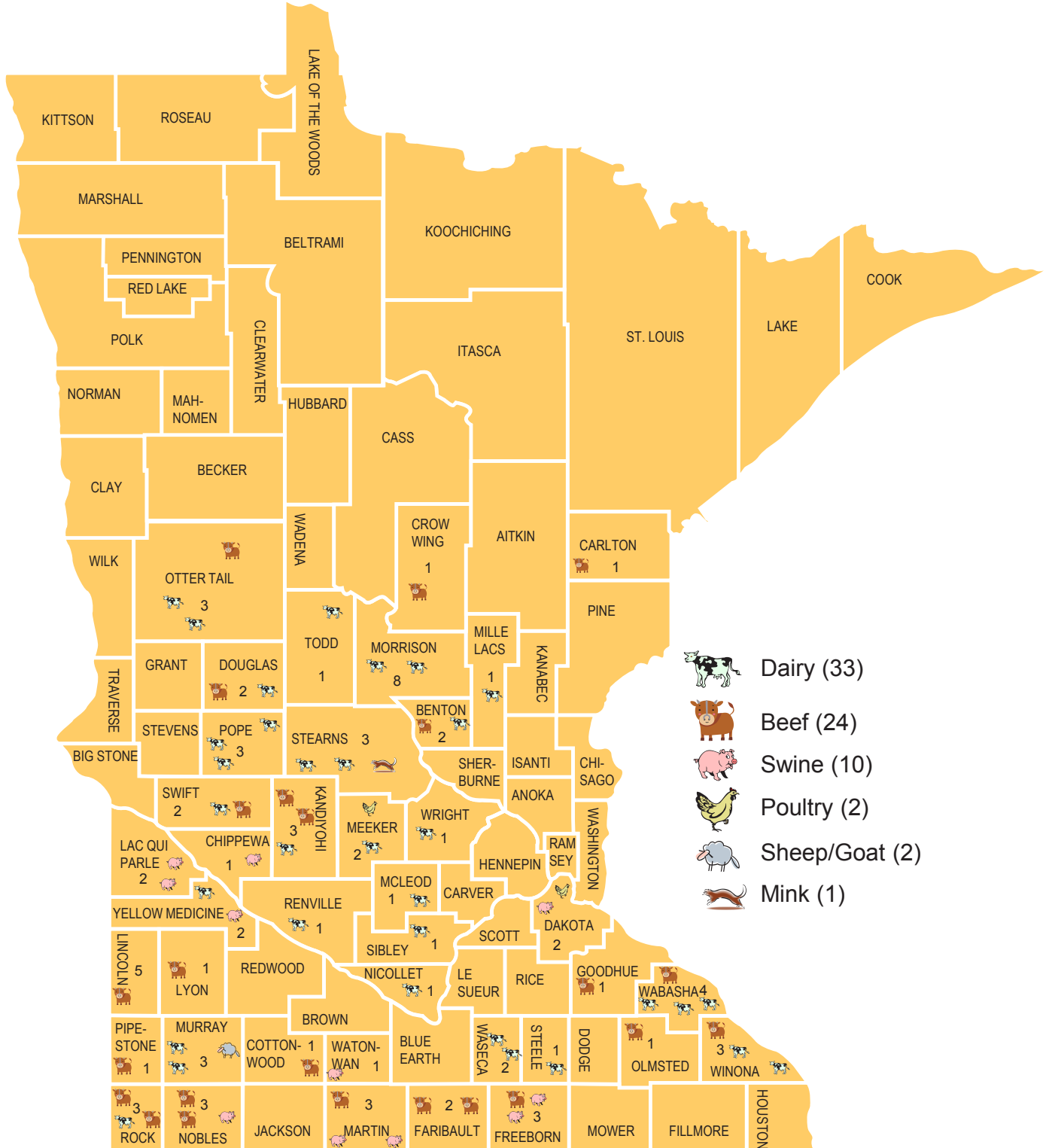
According to the USDA, there are currently 46 Minnesota GAP/GHP certified entities, an increase of 13 compared to the previous year. To date in FY15, the MDA has received 18 applications for the \$25,000 available again this year.

County Fair Arts Access and Cultural Heritage Grants

The County Fair Arts Access and Cultural Heritage Grants are to enhance arts access and education and preserve and promote Minnesota's history and cultural heritage at county fairs. In FY14, \$1 million was available, and each of Minnesota's 93 county fairs was eligible to apply for up to \$10,753. The program distributed a total of \$953,600 to 89 county fairs.

For FY15, \$1.251 million is available in equal shares to the 93 active county fairs.

Livestock Investment Grants by County Fiscal Year 2014



-  Dairy (33)
-  Beef (24)
-  Swine (10)
-  Poultry (2)
-  Sheep/Goat (2)
-  Mink (1)

Livestock Investment Grant Recipients

First Name	Last Name	City	County	Species
Jason	Amundson	Wrenshall	Carlton	Poultry
James	Bartholome	Goodhue	Wabasha	Dairy
Henry	Becker	Mayer	Carver	Beef
Laura	Becker	Kellogg	Wabasha	Dairy
Michael	Bedtke	Altura	Winona	Dairy
David	Berning	St Michael	Wright	Dairy
Kristi	Blank	Foley	Benton	Dairy
Brandon	Bode	Gibbon	Sibley	Dairy
Michael	Braaten	Butterfield	Watsonwan	Swine
Glenn	Brambrink	St. Cloud	Sherburne	Poultry
Adam	Brands	Edgerton	Rock	Dairy
Jonathon	Broberg	Kerkhoven	Swift	Swine
Chad	Bruns	Herman	Traverse	Sheep/Goat
Troy	Buendorf	New Richland	Waseca	Dairy
Kelsey	Buss	Hutchinson	McLeod	Dairy
Cory	Buyse	Minneota	Lyon	Beef
Jonathon	Carlson	Hallock	Kittson	Beef
Jacob	Carrow	Little Falls	Morrison	Dairy
Kyle	Clark	Murdock	Swift	Beef
Sean	Collins	Murdock	Swift	Beef
Allissa	Corrow	Talmoon	Itasca	Sheep/Goat
Kollin	Dahl	Dawson	Lac Qui Parle	Swine
Jordan	Dahl	Montevideo	Lac Qui Parle	Swine
Allen	Deutz	Marshall	Lyon	Dairy
Travis	Dick	Pillager	Cass	Swine
Jason	Douvier	Albany	Stearns	Dairy
Thomas	Dressel	Faribault	Rice	Swine
Sean	Driessen	Canby	Yellow Medicine	Dairy
Troy	Duerksen	Mountain Lake	Cottonwood	Swine
Chris	Emmert	Hancock	Pope	Dairy
Taylor	Engquist	Cambridge	Isanti	Dairy
Jon	Fahl	Benson	Swift	Beef
Jason	Felling	Sauk Centre	Stearns	Dairy
Paul	Freed	Atwater	Kandiyohi	Beef
Karl	Funk	Melrose	Stearns	Dairy
Charles	Grant	Storden	Cottonwood	Beef
Shannon	Hackett	Sauk Rapids	Benton	Beef

Livestock Investment Grant Recipients

First Name	Last Name	City	County	Species
Neil	Hanson	Granada	Martin	Swine
Marc	Hanson	Granada	Martin	Swine
Adam	Haroldson	Clarkfield	Yellow Medicine	Swine
Keith	Hartmann	Gibbon	Sibley	Poultry
Stephen	Haugen	Roseau	Roseau	Beef
Brian	Henderson	St James	Watonwan	Swine
Joel	Hendrickson	Menhaga	Ottertail	Dairy
Bart	Hoven	Zumbrota	Goodhue	Beef
Adam	Husfeldt	Glencoe	Sibley	Dairy
Joshua	Jansen	Blomkest	Kandiyohi	Beef
Wayne	Jensen	Ellendale	Freeborn	Swine
Brady	Jensen	Hartland	Freeborn	Swine
Katie	Johnson	Kerkhoven	Swift	Dairy
Benjamin	Johnson	Kenyon	Goodhue	Beef
Ralph	Kaehler	St. Charles	Winona	Beef
Peter	Kasella	Royalton	Morrison	Dairy
Brendan	Kazemba	Lakefield	Jackson	Swine
Jared	Kruger	Wabasha	Wabasha	Dairy
Rhonda	Kuechle	Watkins	Stearns	Dairy
John	Lanoue	Tracy	Lyon	Beef
Eugene	Leckness	Hayfield	Dodge	Beef
Joshua	Lingen	Balaton	Murray	Dairy
Dustin	Lingen	Woodstock	Murray	Dairy
Joshua	Lingen	Balaton	Murray	Dairy
Cody	Lubben	Edgerton	Rock	Dairy
Benjamin	Ludeman	Tracy	Lyon	Swine
Brady	Luettel	Adrian	Nobles	Beef
Mark	Majerus	Villard	Pope	Dairy
Thomas	Marzinske	Janesville	Waseca	Dairy
Jonathon	Meschke	Welcome	Martin	Beef
Jacob	Meyer	Kellogg	Wabasha	Dairy
Brandon	Meyer	Raymond	Chippewa	Swine
Bryton	Miller	Kellogg	Wabasha	Beef
Michael	Moscho	Freeport	Stearns	Beef
Matthew	Mueller	Kimball	Stearns	Mink
Jeremy	Mursu	New York Mills	Ottertail	Dairy
Darrin	Nelson	Benson	Swift	Beef

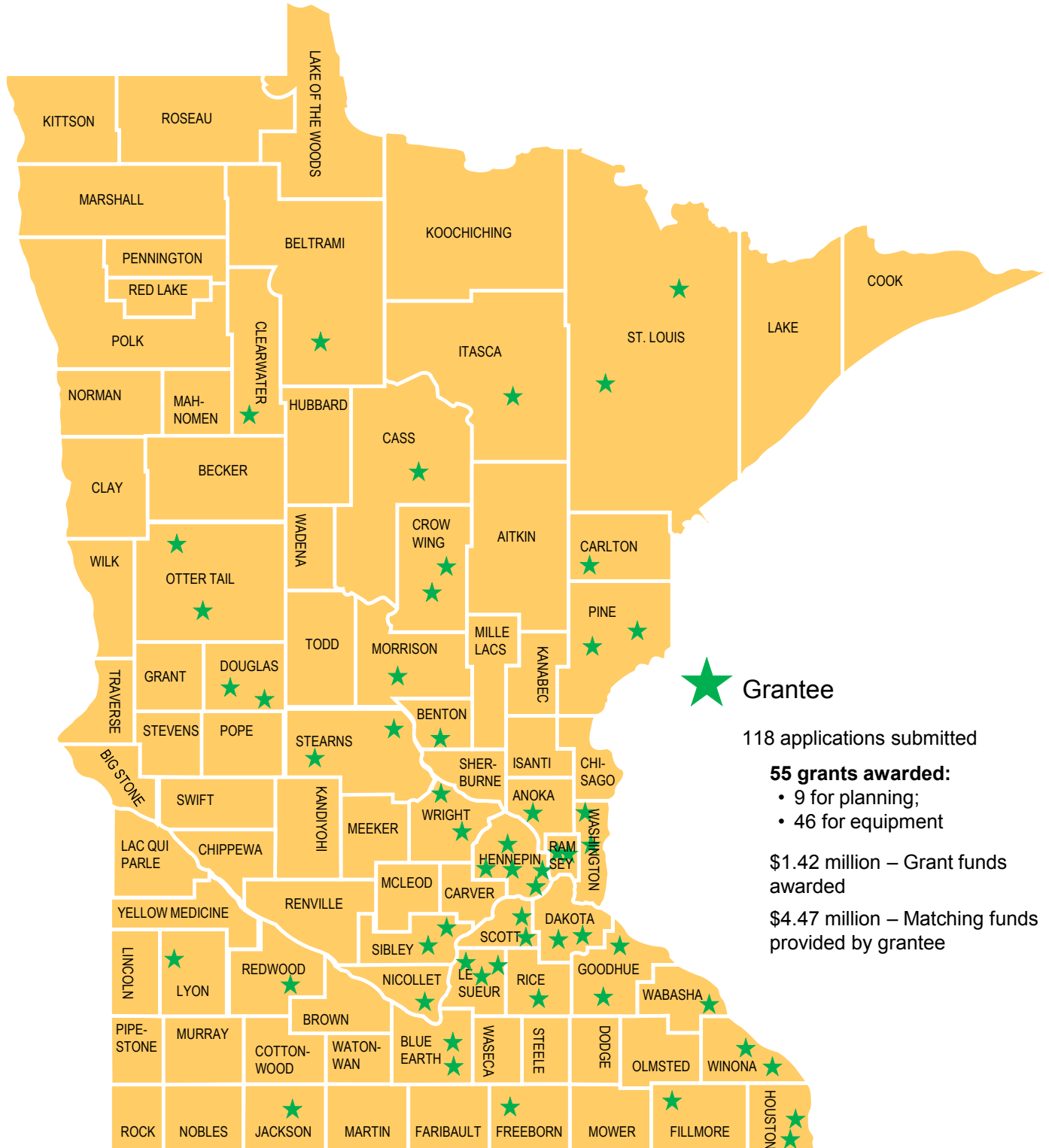
Livestock Investment Grant Recipients

First Name	Last Name	City	County	Species
Aaron	Nystrom	Worthington	Nobles	Beef
Chad	Olsen	Canby	Lincoln	Beef
Scott	Oltmans	Windom	Cottonwood	Swine
Kristopher	Paluch	Ivanhoe	Lincoln	Beef
Heath	Peterson	Edgerton	Rock	Beef
Adam	Popowski	Ivanhoe	Lincoln	Dairy
Jason	Possin	Wells	Faribault	Beef
William	Post	Chandler	Murray	Dairy
Veronica	Radil	Eagle Bend	Douglas	Beef
Richard	Radtke	Kerkhoven	Kandiyohi	Beef
Leah	Reiner	Springfield	Brown	Dairy
Tony	Rialson	Cottonwood	Lyon	Swine
Stephen	Roerick	Swanville	Morrison	Poultry
Craig	Roerick	Swanville	Morrison	Dairy
Kenneth	Rohe	Hawick	Kandiyohi	Dairy
Ryan	Roller	Hewitt	Ottertail	Dairy
Patrick & Rachael	Rusch	Stewart	Renville	Dairy
Benjamin	Rysavy	Owatonna	Steele	Dairy
Gregory	Sabolik	Kensington	Douglas	Dairy
Darvin	Saehr	Pierz	Morrison	Swine
Troy	Salzer	Barnum	Carlton	Beef
Kenneth	Sawle	Rushford	Fillmore	Dairy
Karla	Scheel	Rice	Benton	Beef
Kenneth	Schentzel	Farmington	Dakota	Sheep/Goat
Curtis	Schilling	Ellsworth	Nobles	Swine
Dean	Schimek	Easton	Faribault	Beef
Christopher	Schmidt	Garvin	Murray	Sheep/Goat
Philip	Schmidt	Alden	Freeborn	Beef
Christopher	Schueler	Willmar	Kandiyohi	Dairy
Staci	Sexton	Lake City	Wabasha	Dairy
Jacob	Sjostrom	Lafayette	Nicollet	Dairy
Alise	Sjostrom	Brooten	Stearns	Dairy
Crystal	Skiba	Pierz	Crow Wing	Beef
Eric	Sonnek	Foreston	Mille Lacs	Dairy
Danielle	Stonestrom	Wood Lake	Yellow Medicine	Swine
Ashley	Swenson	Nicollet	Nicollet	Dairy
Joel	Talsma	Luverne	Rock	Beef

Livestock Investment Grant Recipients

First Name	Last Name	City	County	Species
Dean	Taylor	Randolph	Dakota	Poultry
Anthony	Vait	Brooten	Stearns	Dairy
Berlinda	Van Der Wal	Pipestone	Pipestone	Dairy
Jance	Vandelanotte	Cottonwood	Lyon	Swine
Grant	Vis	Edgerton	Pipestone	Beef
Greg	Vold	Glenwood	Pope	Dairy
Justin	Wagner	Litchfield	Meeker	Dairy
Joel	Welle	Freeport	Stearns	Dairy
Mark	Wendinger	Litchfield	Meeker	Poultry
Mark	Werner	Byron	Olmsted	Beef
Darrin	Young	Plainview	Winona	Dairy
Daniel	Zenner	Paynesville	Stearns	Dairy
Amanda	Zigan	Long Prairie	Todd	Dairy
Paul	Zimmerman	Hewitt	Ottertail	Beef

Value Added Grants by County Fiscal Year 2014



Value Added Grant Recipients

Business Name	City	Summary of Grant Project
Aleamar Cheese Company, LLC	Mankato	Cold storage and other equipment to increase cheese processing capacity and diversify markets
Amundsen Farms	Duluth	Build egg processing facility with food safety measures to increase market diversity and market access for egg producers
Apple Jack Orchards	Delano	Equipment to keep in compliance with GAP, ensure fruit safety, and expand wholesale market opportunities
Arlington Market	Arlington	Equipment to increase processing of local livestock and improve food safety
Autumnwood Farm, LLC	Forest Lake	Equipment to initiate ice cream processing business for new market development
Bemidji Downtown Meats	Bemidji	Build retail space and cold storage to increase processing capacity and market access for local livestock
Big Steer Meats	St. Paul	Smoke house and other equipment to expand production and allow expansion into new wholesale and retail markets
Cannon River Winery, LLC	Cannon Falls	Increase use of local grapes by purchasing tanks and other wine production equipment to increase sales to diverse markets
Carlos Creek Winery	Alexandria	Change bottling line to increase bottling speed and options, marketing, and sales to diverse markets
Clover Valley Farms, LLC	Duluth	Equipment to scale up culinary vinegar production; diversify markets to wholesale and retail sales
Dick Stangler Seed Packaging	Kilkenny	Diversify local producers market access by purchasing a truck scale and packaging line
Eagan (City of)	Eagan	Improve food safety and market access; install electrical access to farmers' market vendors
Edel's Meat Market	Montgomery	Equipment to expand livestock processing ability, diversify markets and improve food safety
Evansville Meat Market	Evansville	Update building and equipment to upgrade to "equal to" meat processing to expand and diversify markets
Farm on St. Mathias	Brainerd	Build licensed food processing facility and packing shed to increase market access and diversity for local producers
Fergus Foods, LLC	Fergus Falls	Expand and diversify markets with packaging equipment to increase food safety and production of allergen free foods
Foley Locker, Inc.	Foley	Diversify markets by buying two smokehouses and equipment to process and pack meat on site
Food Farm	Wrenshall	Add storage and cooler building to store more vegetables and add equipment for food safety to diversify markets.
Four Seasons Apiaries, LLC	St. Paul	Initiate business that breeds and sells honey bees to expand market access of Minnesota honey producers

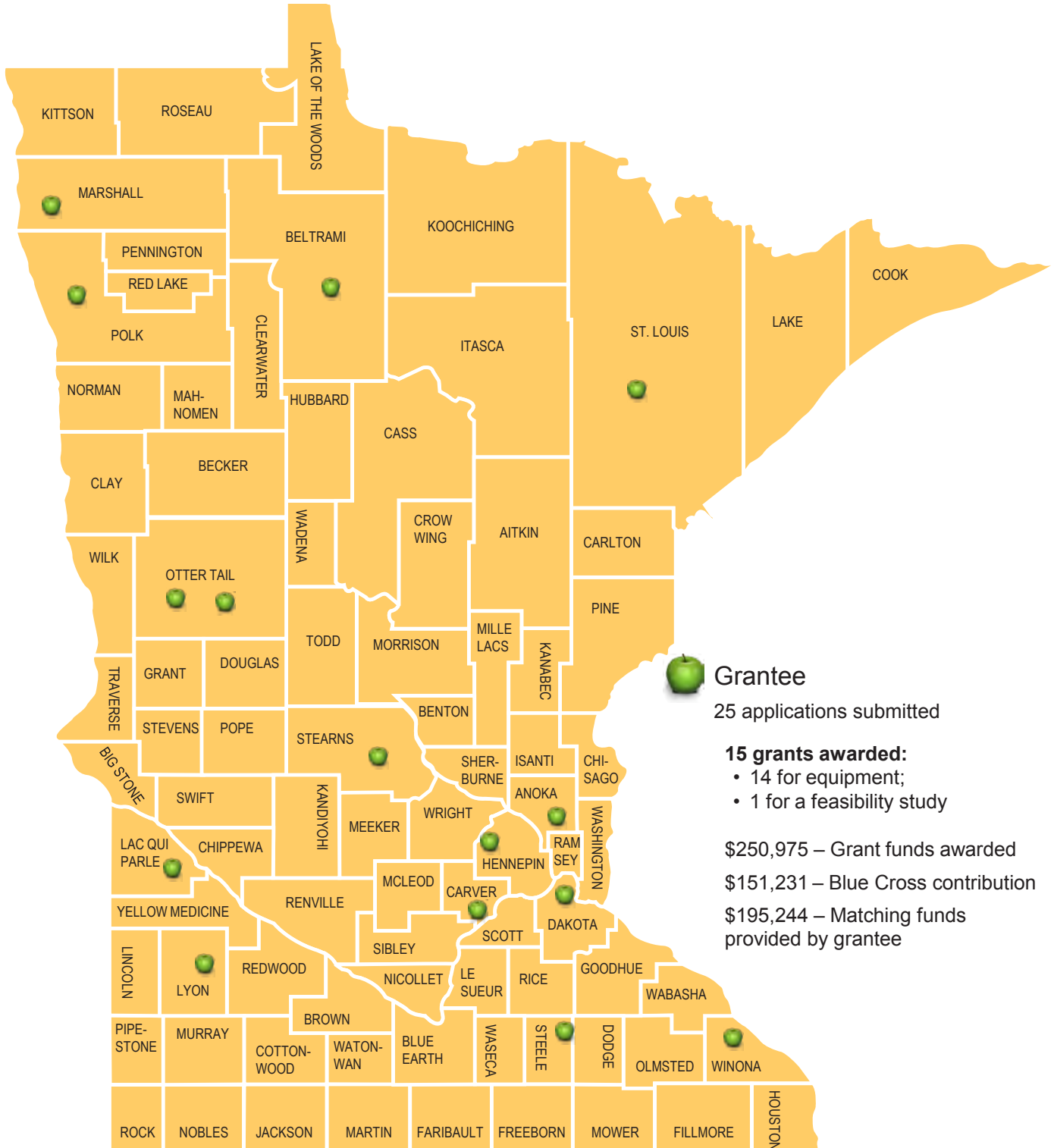
Value Added Grant Recipients

Business Name	City	Summary of Grant Project
Fruit Acres, Inc.	La Crescent	Modernize apple production packing house and line to be GAP certified and increase market access
Gregory's Foods, Inc.	Eagan	Upgrade to increase frozen bun-line production and expand product type and markets
Hazelnut Oil Marketing	Lake City	Business and marketing plan to purchase and distribute local, cold pressed hazelnut oil
Hunt Utilities Group	Pine River	Feasibility study to demonstrate need and viability of local foods facility within part of food hub network
Irish Ridge Farm	Winona	Market analysis and plan for production and distribution of grass-fed beef in southeastern Minnesota
James Jirik	Kilkenny	Maple syrup processing equipment to improve safety and quality; also increase efficiency to expand marketing
Klein Foods, Inc.	Marshall	Increase production of fudge with purchase of freezer and sifter to diversify markets
Lake Haven Custom Meat Processing	Sturgeon Lake	Build new facility and equipment to expand to processing local livestock to retail markets
Lamberton Meats	Storden	Significant improvements of meat process facility to reopen business and expand market access
Lavalier's Berry Patch and Orchard	New Hope	Bring in utilities and equipment to improve sanitation, reduce pesticides, and expand market access to schools
Little Falls Development Center	Little Falls	Feasibility study to develop a business plan for food hub so local producers can access larger markets
Lorentz Meats	Cannon Falls	Build four season livestock handling facility and remodel slaughter area to increase processing of local livestock
Minnesota Elderberry Cooperative	Minneapolis	Develop business plan; how to operate, legal mechanisms and prospectus for elderberry producing cooperative
Mississippi Mushrooms, LLC	Minneapolis	Retort-boiler system to decrease crop loss and contamination and increase production and market access
Minnesota Valley Business Development Corp	Mankato	Retrofit warehouse into local food hub to increase small farmers' access to school and other markets
Montgomery Orchard, LLC	Savage	Building, food safety and processing equipment to initiate sweet and hard apple cider business to diversify markets
Northcountry Producers, LLC	Minneapolis	Increase market access and diversity through purchase of refrigeration, distribution equipment, and mobile market vehicle
Oak Knoll Farm	Albert Lea	New building for cooler, wash station and root cellar to increase production, quality and markets of community supported agriculture distribution hub

Value Added Grant Recipients

Business Name	City	Summary of Grant Project
Ody's Country Meats & Catering	Spring Valley	Retail freezer to increase local production and walk-in cooler to meet Minnesota food safety requirements
Red Table Meat Company, LLC	Minneapolis	Expand local hog processing and market access through purchase of additional processing and storage equipment
Redhead Creamery, LLC	Brooten	Diversify milk markets by building a cheese plant, including all equipment to produce, test and market cheese
Riviana Foods	Clearbrook	Forage bagger to increase processing capacity, decrease food spoilage and increase market access of locally cultivated wild rice
Round Lake Vineyards	Round Lake	Diversify markets by purchasing tanks and other wine production equipment to initiate full service winery business
Scandia Valley Dairy, LLC	Brainerd	Conduct a feasibility study of goat cheese production business from Minnesota goat milk.
Schmidt's Meat Market	Nicollet	Expand cooler to increase production and product line, and diversify local livestock producers markets
Schneider's Meats	Askov	Construct building and equipment for smoking to start local livestock processing business and diversify markets
Sno Pac Farms, LLC	Caledonia	Develop a GAP plan and food safety plan
Sno Pac Foods, LLC	Caledonia	Three large feed hopper tanks in vegetable line to eliminate food contamination and meet new food safety requirement
Sogn Valley Orchard	Dennison	Grinder and create certified refrigerated cider storage to diversify marketing to local schools
Stony Creek Dairy, LLC	Melrose	Dairy production equipment, expand distribution warehouse and refrigeration transportation to address all goals of grant program
Sweetland Orchard, LLC	Webster	Expand, prepare, and equip cidery room for hard cider production; diversify their and local orchards' markets
T & R Meat Processing, LLC	Clearwater	Freezer and update meat processing facility to comply with food safety codes to maintain market access
Terroir Chocolate	Fergus Falls	Equipment to increase production capacity of organic, premium chocolate bars and diversify markets
The Alchemy, LLC	Minneapolis	Develop business and marketing plan, recipe for Minnesota sugar beet vodka and obtain federal regulation approval for label
The Big Dipper Creamery	Blaine	Develop business and marketing plan to expand ice cream business that uses locally grown ingredients.
Whistling Well Farm	Hastings	Retail refrigeration and freezer units with electrical to enable marketing new products and address food safety

Farm to School Grants by County Fiscal Year 2014



Farm to School Grant Recipients

Fiscal Year 2014

School District	City	County	Summary
Bemidji Public School District	Bemidji	Beltrami	Purchase and installation of walk-in cooler
Burnsville Public School District	Burnsville	Dakota	Purchase fruit and vegetable bar, food processors, refrigerator, knives, knife sharpeners, serving and storage containers, and tongs and utensils
Crookston Public School District	Crookston	Polk	Purchase and installation of steamers and a salad bar
Duluth Public School District	Duluth	St. Louis	Purchase food processors, cutting boards, and knives
Epiphany Catholic School	Coon Rapids	Anoka	Purchase freezer and expand existing cooler
Holdingford Public School District	Holdingford	Stearns	Purchase wedgers, utility cart, storage equipment, sheet pans, tongs, and serving trays
Lac qui Parle Valley School District	Madison	Lac qui Parle, Chippewa, Swift	Purchase of steam table pan warmers, pans, and lids, and associated electrical upgrading
Marshall County Central Schools	Newfolden	Marshall	Purchase and installation of cooler, freezer, and refrigeration components
Owatonna Public School District	Owatonna	Steele	Purchase and installation of cooler and freezer
Ridgeway Community School	Houston	Winona	Purchase of combination over/steamer, salad bar, cutting boards, knives, submersible blender, vacuum sealer, and kitchen scale
Tracy Area Public School District	Tracy	Lyon	Purchase and install combination over/steamer, gas oven with griddle and boiler, immersion blender, apple peeler, and freezer bags
Waconia Public School District	Waconia	Carver	Renovation of Quonset hut and associated infrastructure; purchase refrigerator, trays, bins, strainers, trays, cutting boards, and knives
Westonka Public School District	Minnetrissa	Hennepin	Purchase food processor, knife sharpener, peelers, and cutting boards
Lakes Country Service Cooperative	Fergus Falls	Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, Wilkin	Purchase and install refrigerated truck, walk-in cooler, work tables, scales, and delivery boxes (Equipment)
Lakes Country Service Cooperative	Fergus Falls	Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, Wilkin	Conduct a study to determine interest, capacity, demand, etc. of local schools and growers to increase Farm to School participation (Feasibility)

Crop Research Grant Recipients Fiscal Year 2014

Project Title	Principle Investigator	Organization Name	Crop
Improving Alfalfa Production, Quality and Value	Craig Sheaffer	Midwest Forage Association	Alfalfa
Remote Scouting of Insect Damage Using Unmanned Aerial Systems	Ian MacRae	University of Minnesota	Soybeans, potato, wild rice, sugar beet
Agronomic Value of Crop Rotations in Northwest Minnesota	Nancy Jo Ehlke	Minnesota Canola/ Minnesota Turf Seed Council	Canola, soybean, wheat, ryegrass
Intermediate Wheatgrass: Managing a New Perennial Grain for Food, Forage and Bioenergy	Marvin Zutz	Minnesota Turf Seed Council	Intermediate wheat grass
Growing Polycultures for Multiple High-Value Outputs: Natural Products, Seed and Biomass	Craig Sheaffer	University of Minnesota	Native perennial plants
Utilizing Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) to Record and Analyze Crop Nutrient Research	Nancy Jo Ehlke	University of Minnesota	Perennial ryegrass
Developing Spring and Winter Two Row Barley to Diversity Minnesota Agriculture	Kevin Smith	University of Minnesota	Two row barley
Millet as a Second Crop in Minnesota to Add Value to Farmers and Consumers	Koushik Seetharaman	University of Minnesota	Proso millet
Yields and Practices of Profitable Apple and Tomato Producers	Thaddeus McCamant	Central Lakes College	Apples, tomatoes
Northwest Minnesota On-Farm Research Network: Grower Driven, Field Scale Solutions to Priority Wheat Production Issues	David Torgerson	Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council	Wheat, soybean

Sustainable Agriculture Grant Recipients

Fiscal Year 2014

Grantee	County	Summary of Grant Project
Aaron Wills, Little Hill Berry Farm	Rice	Finding an organic strategy to control Canada thistle within reasonable time requirements to increase productivity
Becca Carlson, SEEDS Farm	Rice	Applying compost tea as a fertilizer to increase profitability, save energy, and reduce runoff
Bill Bronder, Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District	Sherburne	Demonstrating the effectiveness of cover crops on scavenging leftover nitrogen fertilizer and on reducing nitrate leaching on irrigated sandy soils in Sherburne County
Chad Rollofson	Grant	Comparing soil health measurements and economics of a conventional highly intensive tillage corn and soybean rotation with a no-till, cover cropped wheat, corn, and soybean rotation.
Cindy Hale	St. Louis	Demonstrating high-density trellised apple production with varying rootstock to support organic and Integrated Pest Management practices for small producers in northeast Minnesota
Jim Chamberlain, Happy Dancing Turtle	Cass	Demonstrating the establishment of productive and profitable agroforestry land-use systems use on-farm propagation methods to reproduce native plant species, produce cultivars, and produce hybrids of native plant species
Kathleen Connell, Redfern Gardens	Wadena	Examining two organic blueberry production techniques including determining the optimum depth of wood chip mulch and using wood chip, chick litter, and grass clipping mulches to increase productivity and sustainability
Margaret Rousu, White Earth Land Recovery Project	Becker	Creating an integrated perennial system on a plot of land with low quality soil to show the system's potential for soil nutrient revitalization and added economic value in northern Minnesota
Melissa Nelson	Big Stone	Testing methods to convert non-utilized land into beneficial insect habitat and documenting best methods to prevent undesirable plant species encroachment on the habitats
Noreen Thomas	Clay	Preserving and attracting native bees while providing a habitat that adds value to small acreage farms
Pakou Hang, HAFA	Dakota	Demonstrating the effects of cover crops on water and soil quality and income of low-literacy, mixed vegetable Hmong farmers
Paul Kruger	Wabasha	Determining if commercial nitrogen can be reduced or eliminated with the use of legumes between corn rows in order to help reduce soil erosion and enhance soil organic carbon
Sharon Utke, Hammers Green Acres	Fillmore	Demonstrating a renewable, sustainable water resource for crops and livestock by collecting, storing, and distributing rainwater using solar-power in combination with drip irrigation

AGRI Investment

Since FY13

The Agricultural, Growth, Research and Innovation program (AGRI) 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. Through November 2014, \$12.647 million has been awarded.

AGRI focuses on 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

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

Livestock Investment Grant (LIG) 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.

Name of Measure

Applications Received/Amount Requested	804 applications/\$14.2 million
Applications Funded/Amount Awarded	221 projects/\$3.49 million
Estimated Leveraged Private Investment	\$79.7 million
Estimated Jobs Created	1,238 during construction/327 post construction
Awards to Beginning/Transitioning Farmers	90% of grantees are entering or transitioning the farm to the next generation; 80% of grantees have been farming for less than 10 years
Projects Addressing Environmental Issues	95%

FY 2015 Update: \$2 million is available for grants. The Request for Proposals closed on December 10, 2014 and awards will be announced in early February.

Value Added

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.

Name of Measure

Applications Received/Amount Requested	268 applications/\$9.5 million
Applications Funded/Amount Awarded	128 projects/\$3.2 million
Leveraged Private Investment	\$13.6 million
Jobs Created	46 full-time and 76 part-time
Additional Product Processed/Additional Revenue	4.22 million pounds/\$0.6 million (Based on 44 projects, 12 months post award)

FY 2015 Update: \$2 million is available for two grant rounds. This fall we received 46 applications requesting \$2.7 million; we anticipate awarding \$850,000 to 27 applicants (figures are included in the above summary). Spring applications close on March 6, 2015.

AGRI Investment Since FY13

Farm to School

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 or 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 requirement. In recent surveys of awardees, nearly all schools indicated grant funding made a major impact on the success of their projects.

Name of Measure

Applications Received/Amount Requested	88 applications/\$1.6 million
Applications Funded/Amount Awarded	29 projects/\$0.48 million
Estimated Leveraged Private Investment	\$0.88 million
Estimated Farmers Working with Grantees	141
Estimated Increased Sales from Local Farmers	\$239,480

FY 2015 Update: \$500,000 is available for grants. The MDA received 32 applications requesting \$633,000. The MDA anticipates making awards before the end of calendar year 2014.

NextGen Bioenergy and Biochemicals

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

Awards are 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.

Name of Measure

Applications Received/Amount Requested	35 projects/\$11.9 million
Applications Funded/Amount Awarded	5 projects/\$1.7 million
Leveraged Private Investment	\$3.6 million

FY 2015 Update: \$577,000 was available for biomass thermal energy grants. The Request for Proposals closed in early October; award determinations are in the final stages and should be announced before the end of January 2015.

Blender Pump Cost-Share

Provides funding to service stations for flexible fuel pumps, or 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.

Name of Measure

Applications Received/Amount Requested	34 proposals/\$770,000
Projects Completed	15 service stations/\$370,000
Projects in Progress	11 service stations/\$225,000

FY 2015 Update: \$500,000 is available for awards. Eight new projects are currently pending.

AGRI Investment Since FY13

Crop Research

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 and may pay 100 percent of project costs.

Name of Measure

Applications Received/Amount Requested	22 projects/\$3.618 million
Applications Funded/Amount Awarded	10 projects/\$1.308 million

FY 2015 Update: \$1.7 million is available for award; the MDA received 38 applications requesting \$7.6 million. Applications are currently under review and awards are expected to be made in January 2015.

Beginning and Transitioning Farmers

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.

Name of Measure

Scholarship Applications Received	236 applications
Scholarships Awarded/Amount Awarded	234 applications/\$189,747

FY 2015 Update: The program began in FY 2015 with \$300,000 available for scholarships. Scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

Sustainable Agriculture

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.

Name of Measure

Applications Received/Amount Requested	30 projects/\$548,500
Applications Funded/Amount Awarded	19 projects/\$268,484

FY 2015 Update: \$250,000 is available for awards. Applications are due January 23, 2015.

AGRI Investment Since FY13

GAP Certification Cost-Share

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

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) 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 certification costs up to \$2,500.

Name of Measure

Applications Received/Amount Requested	47 farmers and handlers/\$30,852
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FY 2015 Update: \$25,000 is available for cost-share; applications are accepted through May 31, 2015.

County Fairs

Enhances arts access and education, preserves and promotes Minnesota's history and cultural heritage at county fairs

Funding is offered on an equal share basis to each of the 93 county fairs. Projects must benefit the public by increasing access to and knowledge of the arts, Minnesota history, and cultural heritage.

Name of Measure

Applications Received/Amount Requested	89 county fairs/\$953,600
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FY 2015 Update: \$1.251 million is available to be split equally among fairs; applications are due on February 6, 2015.

New Market Development

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 Tradeshow Support Program (TSP) provides cost-sharing for retail sampling events and can help to offset the high costs of exhibiting at wholesale food shows.

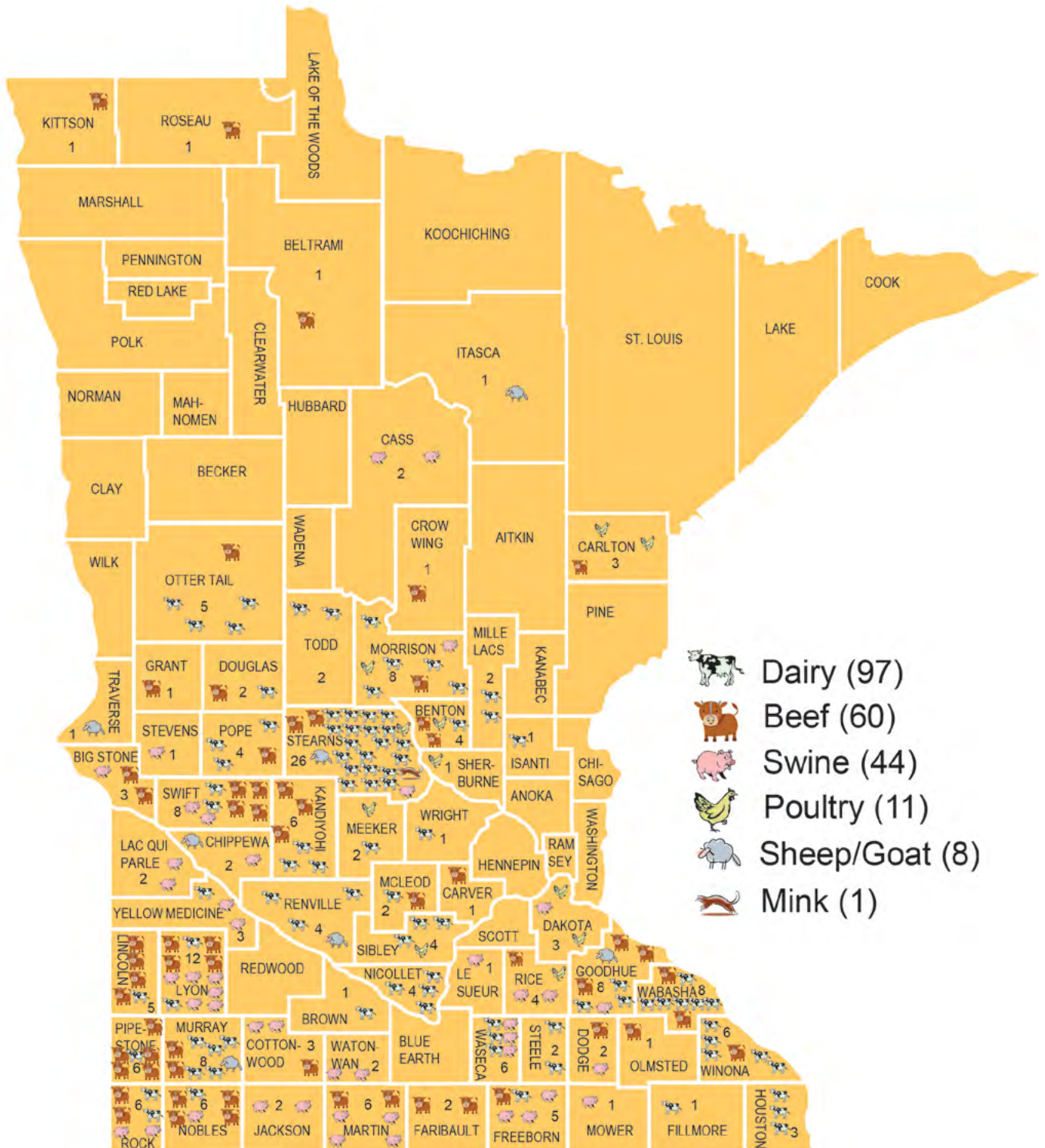
Name of Measure

State Funds Invested	\$344,327
Minnesota Pavilion Participants	40 companies
Projected New Sales from Minnesota Pavilions	\$3 million and over 100 new distributor relationships at domestic events
ROI from Minnesota Pavilions for Participants	12:1 for domestic events

FY 15 Update: \$80,000 is available for TSP cost-sharing and \$200,000 for Minnesota Pavilions. Upcoming tradeshow with Minnesota Pavilions are in San Francisco; Anaheim; Chicago; New York City; Dubai, United Arab Emirates; and Cologne, Germany.

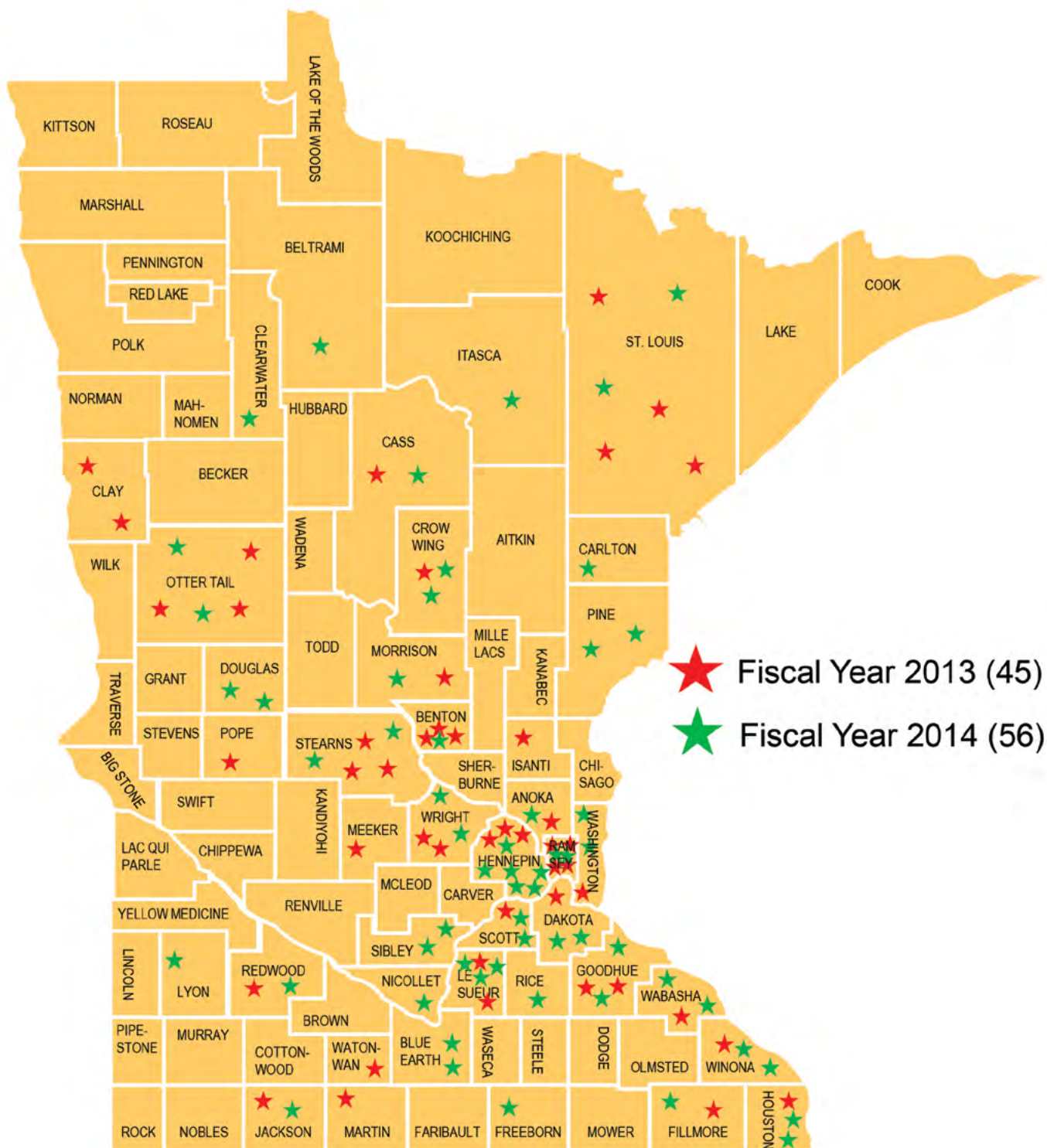
Livestock Investment Grant Recipients by County

Fiscal Years 2013-2014



Value Added Recipients by County

Fiscal Years 2013-2014



Farm to School Recipients by County

Fiscal Years 2013-2014

