



Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Program

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

AGRI Purpose and History



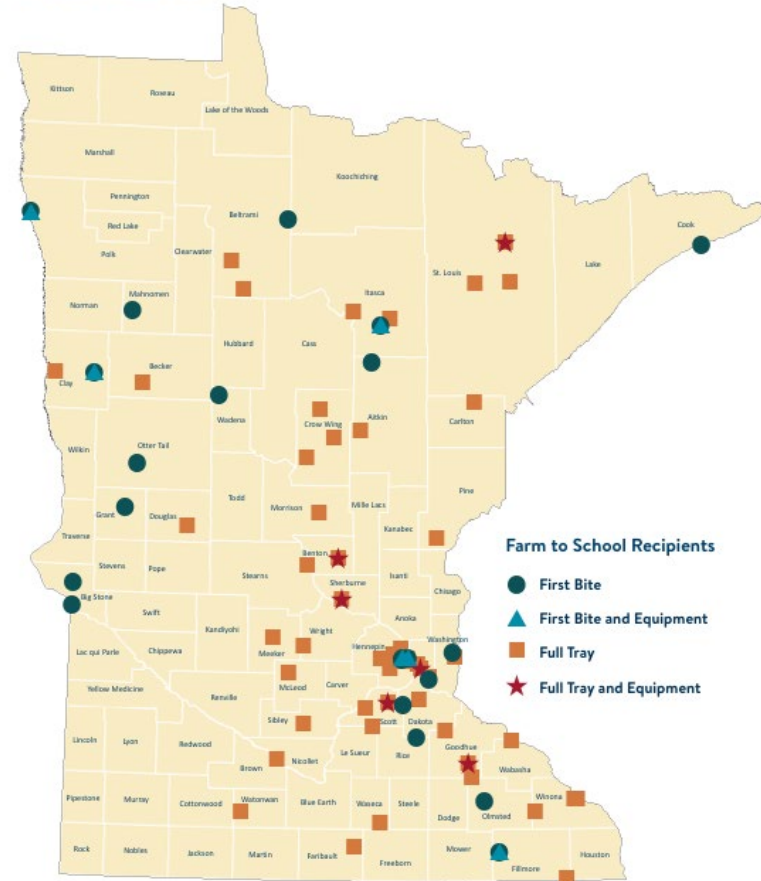
- Established in 2009 to promote the advancement of the state's agricultural and renewable energy industries, but first funded in FY2013
- Funds for this program were made available after the state fulfilled its commitment to support the ethanol industry through producer payments

AGRI Programs FY26

- Livestock Investment Grants
- Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Grants
- Value-Added Grants
- Crop Research Grants
- Make it Minnesota
- Sustainable Ag Demonstration Grants
- Farm to School and Early Care Grants
- Protecting Livestock Grants
- Bioincentive Payments
- GAP/GHP Cost-Share
- Farm Business Management Scholarships
- Urban Agriculture Grants
- Biofuels Infrastructure Grants
- Food Retailer Infrastructure and Development Grants
- County Fair Grants
- Preparing for Extreme Weather Grants

- Combination of designated and undesignated spending
- Fund the highest priority, best projects
- Respond to emerging needs
 - Protect Grants
 - Prepare Grants
- Access federal funding opportunities
 - Minnesota Biofuels Infrastructure Program
 - Local Foods for Schools Cooperative Agreement

FARM TO SCHOOL GRANTS BY COUNTY FISCAL YEAR 2025



AGRI FY 2025 Legislative Report

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Project descriptions

FY25 Farm to School Grant Recipients

School/School District	County	Type(s)	Project Summary
Agape Child Development Center	Hennepin	First Bite, Equipment	Expand food purchases to include fresh, culturally relevant items from small- and mid-sized farms, and introduce educational events that connect students and families to local and seasonal produce. With Equipment funds, they will purchase a commercial freezer, refrigerator, stove griddle, and a double oven.
Aitkin Public Schools	Aitkin	Full Tray	Continue purchasing local meat, produce, wild rice, and honey through the Aitkin Farmers Market Hub. Expand weekly orders to support Minnesota Thursday meals and salad bar offerings that highlight seasonal produce from local farmers.
Alexandria School District	Douglas	Full Tray	Purchase Minnesota-raised poultry to serve as a feature in monthly Farm to School meals. Continue to strengthen partnerships with local and emerging farmers to expand access to unprocessed, sustainably grown and raised foods.
Aurora Waasakone Community of Learners	Beltrami	Full Tray	Purchase locally grown fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and proteins, focusing on indigenous and regionally significant foods.
Becker Public Schools	Sherburne	Full Tray, Equipment	Add locally raised hamburger patties to the menu and expand sourcing of unique specialty crops, raw turkey breasts, cheeses, wild rice, produce, and maple syrup. With Equipment funds, they will purchase multifunctional cooking system units to enable boiling, pan frying, and browning of local foods at elementary sites, improving cooking speed and food quality.
Bloomington School District	Hennepin	Full Tray	Continue purchasing raw beef patties and turkey breasts and add Minnesota-produced cheese, produce, wild rice, and maple syrup from small Minnesota farms to strengthen local food sourcing.
Brooklyn Center Community Schools	Hennepin	Full Tray	Partner with local farmers and food hubs to source culturally diverse ingredients and introduce seasonal menus, cooking demos, and taste tests that celebrate community food traditions and promote student engagement.
Butterfield-Odin Public School	Watsonwan	Full Tray	Partner with local producers and a local meat locker to source fresh, regionally raised produce and proteins. Local products will be featured as they launch their Minnesota Thursday initiative.
Cannon Falls Schools	Goodhue	Full Tray	Continue purchasing and serving fresh, locally grown and raised foods while working to increase classroom and community education efforts around their Farm to School partnerships.
Clinton-Graceville-Beardsley Schools	Big Stone	First Bite	Partner with local farmers to source fresh Minnesota-grown fruits and vegetables and purchase frozen and canned items to ensure year-round access to nutritious, community-grown foods for students.
Crosby-Ironton Public Schools	Crow Wing	Full Tray	Expand scratch cooking with minimally processed, locally grown foods, and engage students through taste tests and grower profiles to promote local foods throughout the district.
Crosslake Community School	Crow Wing	Full Tray	Expand local menu items for Minnesota Thursday meals and the breakfast program, and introduce new food items through taste tests, grower profiles, and farmer visits to promote local agriculture.

Exceed Office of Grants Management (OGM) guidelines

- We reconcile every payment request
 - OGM only requires that agencies review one payment request on a grant of more than \$50,000
- For payment requests for more than \$25,000, we have two staff members review and sign off on the payment
 - This is not required by OGM
- We make site visits on every grant over \$25,000
 - OGM only requires site visits on grants over \$50,000

Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) Audit

- Bioincentive Program and Biofuels Infrastructure Grant Program (BIP) were reviewed by the OLA
- They reviewed roughly \$14.5 million in expenditures between the two programs
 - Of that amount, only 1/10th of 1%, was recommended to be reclaimed
- We processed more than \$12.1 million in Bioincentive Program payments without a single finding
- *“We were happy to release a report with such positive results.”* Judy Randall, Legislative Auditor during Legislative Audit Commission hearing

Fraud Prevention



Shared expectation of detecting and reporting fraud across all staff



Identified 12 fraudulent applications across seven programs requesting more than \$160,000, before any money left the State



Developed targeted strategies for identifying fraud and trained staff

Natural Products Expo West



Make it [★]
MINNESOTA

2/27/2026





Value-Added Grants Make it Minnesota Cost-Share





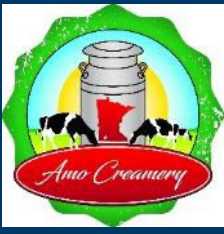
Sno Pac Foods, Pete Gengler

Value-Added Grants
Make it Minnesota Cost-Share
Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure



Value-Added Grants Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Grants





Amo Creamery, Ethan Johnson

Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Processing Grants



Thank you!

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