



Market Location

The Butler Building
301 Minnesota Ave N Aitkin, MN 56431

Mailing Address

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February 28, 2023

Chair Vang, and Members of the MN House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee,

The Aitkin Farmers' Market Hub supports H.F. 1981 The Good Food Access Fund grant program.

The Aitkin Farmers' Market applied for a GFAP grant in 2022 for much needed infrastructure for our small, rural farmers. Increasing capacity for individual farmers is difficult without increasing storage, and upgrading coolers and freezer space is burdensome for individuals. The Aitkin Farmers' Market applied for the grant to buy coolers and freezers to be available for all its members. We have purchased an enclosed trailer and will equip it with two refrigerators and a freezer. This way, farmers can increase production without expensive outlays for storage.

We're very excited for the opportunities this grant has afforded our small community. Interest and support for local food is booming in our community. Our online food hub sales increased by 35% from 2021 to 2022, and these are all to outlets in the county and sourced from farmers in the county. This upgrade in infrastructure would not be possible for us without the GFAP grant. With this equipment, we can continue that growth.

Allison Rian
Aitkin Farmers' Market Hub, Manager
AlliCat Farm, owner