



## Emerging Farmers' Working Group



Patrice Bailey | Assistant Commissioner | February 22, 2021

## Who is an Emerging Farmer?

Agricultural opportunity is not equally available to all Minnesotans. As one indicator, the population of Minnesota is 84.1% white, while principle operators of Minnesota farms are 99.16% white.

With the average age of a Minnesota farmer at 56 years old, farm transition and succession planning are critically important for the future of the sector.

The term 'Emerging Farmers' encompasses a number of historically underserved communities .

# EFWG Report

Race	Percent of MN Population	Percent of MN Farmers
Hispanic/Latino	5.5 %	0.58%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.4 %	0.16%
Asian	5.1%	0.36%
Black	6.8%	0.03%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.02%
White	84.1%	99.16%
Multiracial	2.5%	0.26%

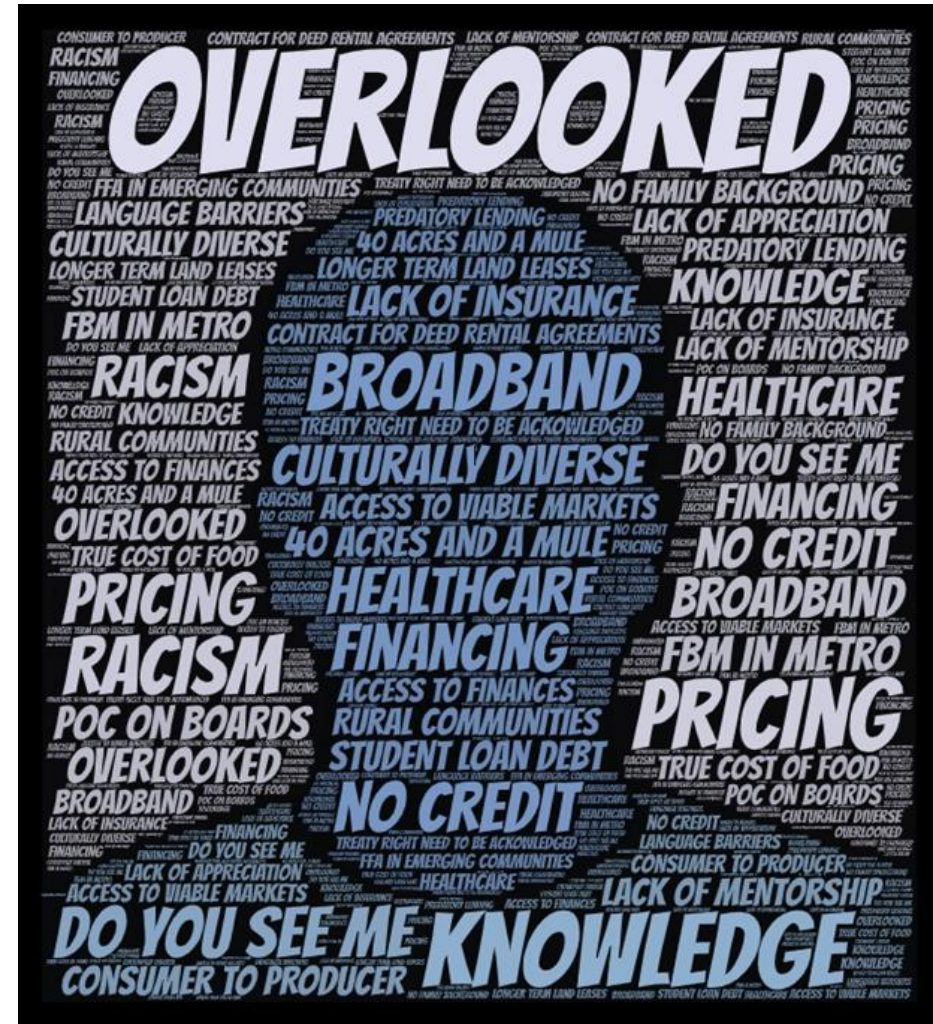
# EFWG Report

Race	Number of Farmers in Minnesota
Young	11,520
Hispanic/Latino	651
American Indian/Alaska Native	180
Asian	399
Black	39
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	22
White	110,824
Multiracial	296
<b>Total</b>	<b>111,760</b>

*Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture*

# Barriers / Challenges

- Racism
- Language
- Predatory Lending
- No Credit
- Lack of Insurance
- Longer Term Land Leases
- Do You See ME???



# Emerging Farmers' Working Group

## Establishment of EFWG:

- May 2019: Legislature requests Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) make recommendations on “how best to cultivate and support emerging farmers.”
- Fall-Winter 2019-2020: MDA holds a series of six listening sessions around the state (St. Paul, Marshall, Duluth, St. Cloud, Crookston, Rochester).
- May 2020: Legislature approves creation of Emerging Farmers' Working Group
- January 2021: MDA issues legislative report highlighting the group, its challenges, and recommendations

# Emerging Farmers' Working Group

## Purpose:

- Advise the commissioner and legislature regarding the development and implementation of programs and initiatives that support emerging farmers in MN
- Members who are, and organizations that represent, farmers or aspiring farmers who are women, veterans, persons with disabilities, American Indian or Alaskan Natives, members of a community of color, young, and urban, and any other emerging farmers as determined by the commissioner
- Commissioner must update the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over agriculture regarding the working group's activities and recommendations (no later than January 15 of each year)

# Emerging Farmers' Working Group

## Inaugural Working Group Members:

Gina Aguilar, Hennepin County

Elizabeth Bryant, Rice County

Jessika Greendeer, Washington County

Denise King, Anoka County

Erika Legros, Carlton County

Hindolo Pokawa, Hennepin County

Sai Thao, Dakota County

Michael Walgrave, Rock County

Shelly Woods, Sibley County

Hannah Bernhardt, Pine County

Naima Dhore, Ramsey County

Janssen Hang, Dakota County

Lucas Kruse, Blue Earth County

Moses Momanyi, Isanti County

Emily Reno, Otter Tail County

Miah Ulysse, Ramsey County

Kaitlyn Walsh, Carlton County



# Emerging Farmers' Working Group

## Activities to Date:

- Fall 2020 – 101 Applications for Working Group received. 17 inaugural members selected.
- Nov. 6, 2020 – Inaugural virtual meeting of Emerging Farmers' Working Group
- Winter 2020-2021 – Work Group is studying MDA funding and policy, including grant resources, Rural Finance Authority, licensing and regulation, with the goal of developing recommendations for policies and programs to assist emerging farmers

# EFWG Recommendations

## Recommendations to the Commissioner:

- Amend current language for Emerging Farmer Working Group for the ability to also accept private resources. Fund the Emerging Farmers' Working Group with appropriate levels to ensure the groups' success.
- Create budget for translation and bilingual services.
- Fund a dedicated position for community engagement within the MDA.
- Establish a one-stop shop for resources for emerging farmers, which includes training resources, grants and funding opportunities, and other materials.

# EFWG Recommendations

- Classify agriculture more broadly for apprenticeship eligible professions.
- Address health insurance costs and student loan debt for emerging farmers.
- Support equity and inclusivity training in farming communities to strengthen connections between current farmers and emerging farmers.
- Create specific grant opportunities for emerging farmers that assist with establishing a farm business, rather than improving or expanding an existing farm business. Consider higher percentages of cost-sharing, and/or longer loan terms for emerging farmer groups.

# Thank you!

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