



MAELC

Minnesota Agricultural Education
Leadership Council

House Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee

February 17, 2025

Sarah Dornink, Executive Director



Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council (MAELC)

- 16-member legislative council created in 1997
- Provides leadership to promote and expand agricultural education in Minnesota



Sarah Dornink,
Executive Director

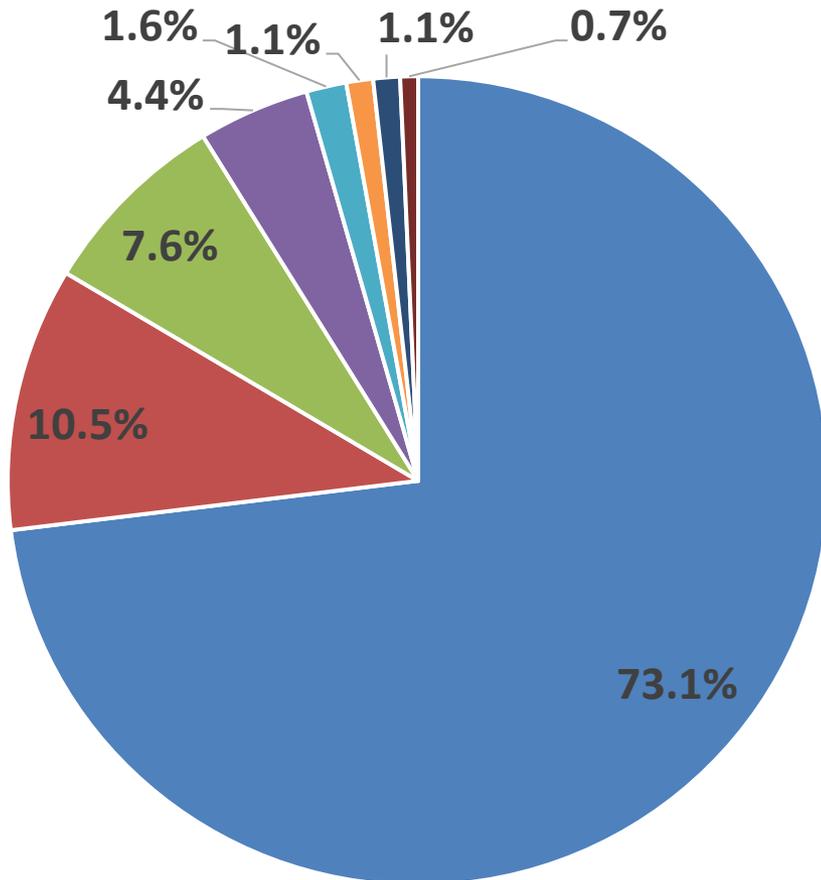
Kari Schwab, Program
Coordinator

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources (AFNR) Education

- School-Based AFNR Education
- Post-Secondary AFNR Education
- Agriculture Teacher Preparation
- Farm Business Management (FBM)



MAELC Budget Breakdown



- Farm Business Management
- Operating
- Professional Development
- Scholarships

- Program Grants
- Mentor Programs
- Communications
- Internships

Operations & Scholarships
\$252,720 (UMN base)

Grants & Special Initiatives
\$250,000
\$100,000 (one-time)

FBM, Mentor Programs &
Professional Development
\$2,250,000

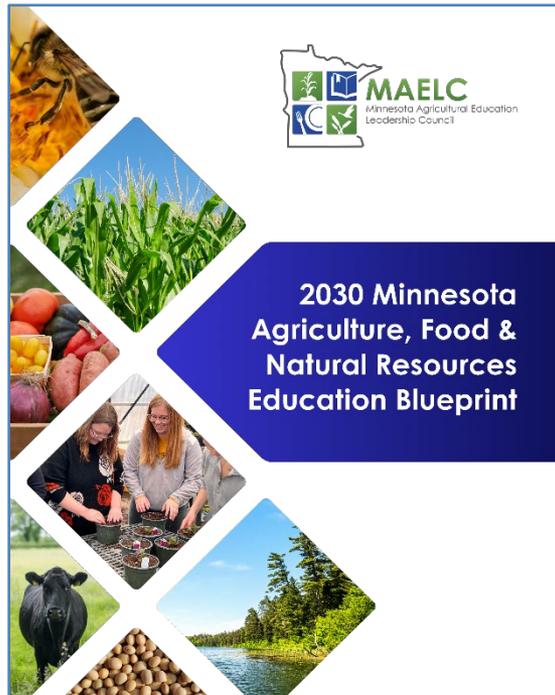
MAELC is housed at the
University of Minnesota



Meeting MAELC's Mission: Leadership, Engagement & Promotion



MAELC serves as the state leader for AFNR Education including engaging stakeholders in statewide efforts



2030 AFNR Education Blueprint

Created a statewide strategic vision for AFNR Education in Minnesota through 2030

- **Students:** Increasing student access, awareness and participation in the AFNR educational sectors
- **Programming:** Ensuring that content, facilities/equipment and methods of instruction meet the needs of the AFNR Industry
- **Instructors:** Recruiting, retaining and supporting highly qualified instructors



Meeting MAELC's Mission: Starting & Supporting AFNR Programs

FY24 - \$350,000

**Passes through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture*

Program Grants

- Common Fund Grants (Statewide Projects)
- Strategic Initiative Grants

Teacher Recruitment & Retention

- Teach Ag Communications Project
- Agricultural Education Internship

*One-time biennium funds were used in grants, Teach Ag and internship



Program Grant Funds (FY24)

\$300,000 invested in
33 projects

5 – *Common Fund*
28 – *Strategic Initiative*

- **80%** - **School-Based Programs**
- **20%** - **Post-Secondary**
- **10%** - **Agricultural Literacy**



*Nearly \$300,000 per year of grant requests go unfunded

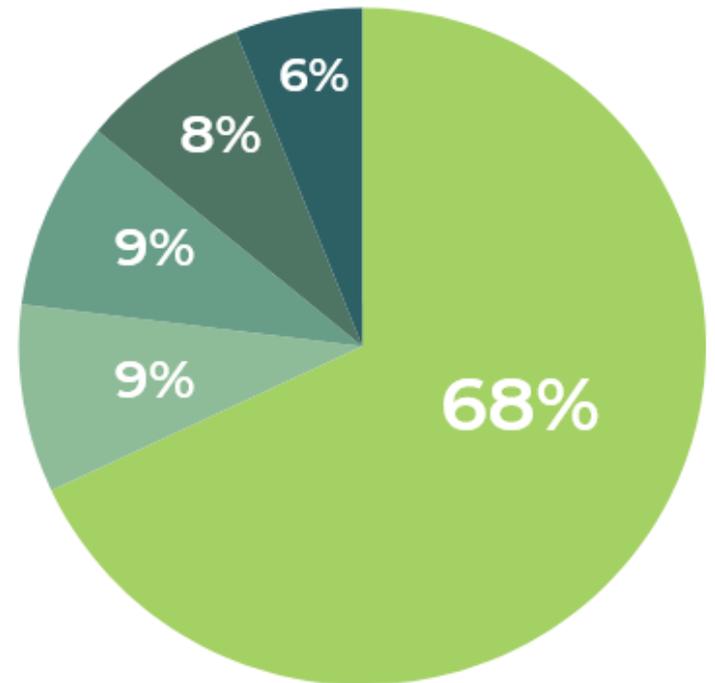


Which Category Best Describes Your Grant Project (FY23)?

GRANT PROJECT CATEGORIES

Which category best describes your project?

- Classroom Equipment
- Greenhouse / Garden
- Agricultural Literacy
- Curriculum
- Professional Development





What is the greatest impact this grant has had in your school/community?



“This grant was very helpful in **delivering years of meaningful content and skills** for my students. It will be a strong investment that expands our offerings, encourages inquiry based learning and encourages students to explore career pathways.”

“This grant truly **made it possible to get our program off the ground**, allowing me to engage students and build connections in the community. We have established an advisory board, chartered our FFA chapter, elected an officer team, and new courses are continuing to be added.”





Meeting MAELC's Mission: Teacher Recruitment & Retention



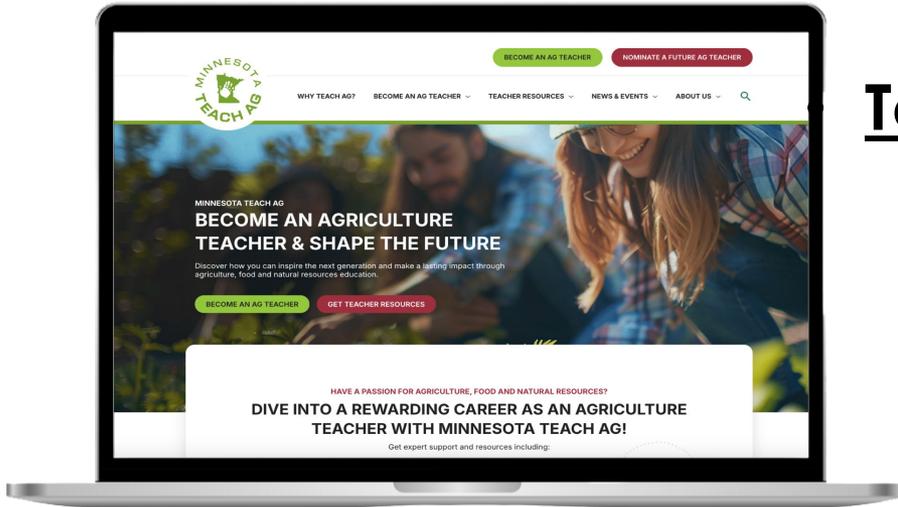
**State Teach Ag Results (STAR)
Teacher Recognition & Celebration
Teach Ag Signing
Future Agriscience Teacher Symposium**

**MAELC Scholarship Programs
Collegiate Internship Program
Mentor Programs
Professional Development**





One-Time Appropriation Funds



Teach Ag Communications

- Increased social media content
- New website created

Collegiate Internship Program

- 59 interns since 2015
- 84% of past graduated interns are teaching
- State & industry supported

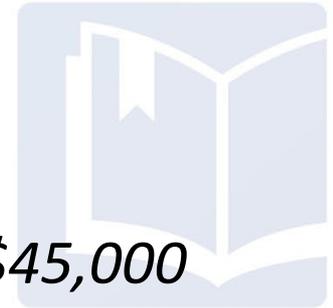




Meeting MAELC's Mission: Supporting AFNR Programs & Teacher Retention

\$2,250,000 / year

- FBM Challenge Grants - *\$2,000,000*
- FBM Instructor Capacity Building Grants - *\$70,000*
- Mentor Program Grants - *\$125,000*
- Professional Development Grants - *\$45,000*
- Evaluation - *\$10,000*





FBM Instructor Capacity Building Grants (NEW)

GOAL – Sustain and grow FBM faculty including supporting instructor transitions, additions and other FBM college faculty needs. The capacity grant efforts should be connected to one of the FBM parameters. - \$20,000 grants

Current Grant Projects

- Software & computer equipment
- Training & professional development
- Recruitment workshop
- Mentorship/transitioning faculty (x4)





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Thank you.

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www.mn.gov/maelc