

# AGRICULTURAL GROWTH, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2019



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# AGRICULTURAL GROWTH, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION

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# AGRICULTURAL GROWTH, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Sarah Brouwer and family rotationally graze sheep on their strawberry fields for the Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant.

The Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Program, established at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) by Minn. Stat. 41A.12, advances Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy industries. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2019, the seventh year of the program, we awarded nearly \$14 million to farmers, agricultural businesses, and schools through:

- Livestock Investment Grants
- Dairy Farm Improvement Grants
- Value-Added Equipment Grants
- Value-Added Feasibility Study Grants
- Farm to School and Early Care and Education Grants
- Milk Cooler Grants
- New Market Development support
- Crop Research Grants
- Minnesota Biofuels Infrastructure Partnership Cost-Share
- Bioincentive Program payments
- Bioenergy/Biochemical Pilot Project Grants
- Biofuel Blending Infrastructure Grants
- Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grants
- Farm Business Management Scholarships
- Urban Agriculture Grants
- Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) Certification Cost-Share
- County Fair Grants
- Good Food Access Program Grants

Significant economic impacts include increased production and use of Minnesota agricultural products. In part, these impacts were achieved through growing demand for local products by developing new products, supporting marketing efforts, and promoting entry into new markets. AGRI has also supported the growth of producers and processors by assisting them with increasing their capacity and efficiency. Highlights from FY 2019 include:

1. Over \$75 million leveraged of non-state investment.
2. Nearly \$2.6 million in targeted investments to support Minnesota's dairy industry, leveraging over \$10 million in non-state investments.
3. 19 meat processors improving efficiency and/or expanding the amount of livestock they process.
4. Estimated increased sales of nearly \$17 million by Minnesota food and beverage companies that participated in trade events.

For FY 2020 and FY 2021, \$14,353,000 and \$14,354,000 were appropriated for AGRI. Requests for proposals remain open for County Fair Grants, Farm Business Management Scholarships, and GAP/GHP Certification Cost-Share programs. Livestock Investment, Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration, Value-Added, and Crop Research Grant proposals are under review.

# Introduction

The Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Program was established through Minnesota Statute 41A.12 in 2009 to promote the advancement of the state's agricultural and renewable energy industries. Funds for this program were made available after the state fulfilled its 10-year commitment to support the ethanol industry. Through this statute, the Commissioner of Agriculture is authorized to issue grants, loans, and other forms of financial assistance. Financial assistance can be 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.<sup>1</sup>

Funds were first available to the AGRI Program in FY 2013 when \$641,422 in excess funds from the FY 2012 appropriation for ethanol producer payments were combined with \$2.30 million appropriated by the Legislature for FY 2013 (Laws of Minnesota 2011 Ch. 14 sec. 3 subd. 4). For FY 2014 to FY 2017, the AGRI Program's annual appropriation grew to \$10.235 million. In FY 2018 and FY 2019, \$13.256 million and \$13.311 million were appropriated.

In FY 2019, the Commissioner implemented programs in the following areas:

- Livestock Investment Grants to initiate or expand livestock production and processing.
- Dairy Farm Improvement Grants to assist dairy producers in making improvements to their operations to comply with the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance.
- Value-Added Equipment Grants to purchase equipment in order to create, upgrade, or modernize value-added businesses, including meat processing.
- Value-Added Feasibility Study Grants to assist the development of profitable businesses that add value to Minnesota agricultural products.
- Farm to School and Early Care and Education Grants to help schools and early care and education organizations purchase more Minnesota grown food by investing in processing equipment and storage.
- Milk Cooler Grants to increase purchase and consumption of Minnesota milk products in schools and early care settings.
- New Market Development to help Minnesota's small- to medium-sized food businesses and value-added agriculture producers explore new markets and expand their market reach.
- Crop Research Grants to catalyze research that will improve quality, quantity, and value of crops grown in Minnesota.
- Minnesota Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership Cost-Share to increase availability of renewable liquid fuels.
- Bioincentive Program to encourage production of advanced biofuel, renewable chemical, and biomass thermal energy. Details about the Bioincentive Program are contained in a separate legislative report.
- Bioenergy/Biochemical Pilot Project Grant to advance production technologies beyond the bench scale and into operation.
- Biofuel Blending Infrastructure Grant to promote economic growth and environmentally friendly practices in biofuel industries.
- Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grants to enhance the environmental, economic, and social sustainability of Minnesota farms through farmer-led, on-farm research.
- Farm Business Management Scholarships to support beginning farmers and facilitate the intergenerational transfer of farmland.
- Urban Agriculture Grants to stimulate urban youth agricultural education and/or urban agricultural community development.
- GAP/GHP Certification Cost-Share to increase the number of GAP/GHP certified farms and food processors.

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<sup>1</sup> The NextGen Energy statute, Minn. Stat. 41A.105 that created the NextGen Energy Board and authorized NextGen grants expired on June 30, 2015.

- County Fair Grants to support development and activities at county fairs.
- Good Food Access Program to assist grocery stores and small food retailers in food deserts and low – to moderate-income areas. Program outcomes are reported in the GFAP Legislative Report.

These programs are described in the following sections. Details about recipients are provided in the appendices.

## Livestock Investment Grants

The AGRI Livestock Investment Grant (LIG), (Minn. Stat. 17.118), encourages long-term industry development for Minnesota livestock producers through investments in infrastructure and equipment. The program also assists new farmers and generational transitions in order to sustain the livestock industry. Grantees are reimbursed for 10 percent of qualifying purchases with a maximum award of \$25,000 per year and a lifetime cap of \$50,000 per operation.

Grants are awarded competitively based upon recommendations made by a panel of MDA and external reviewers with experience in the livestock industry. Evaluation criteria promoted new farmers, generational transitions, recovery from natural disasters, farm management plans/programs, accessibility improvements, improving profitability, and positive environmental impacts. The Commissioner of Agriculture also uses geographic diversity to make the final award decisions.

We received 174 grant applications requesting \$2.66 million and awarded just over \$2 million to 104 grantees. Participating farmers invested \$51.84 million in private funding, a 25.7 to 1 ratio of private to public funds leveraged to enhance livestock operations in the state. Producers of dairy, beef, pork, sheep, goats, bison, and poultry received grants. A list of awardees and a map of their locations are available in Appendices 1 and 2, respectively.

Of the grants awarded:

- 80 percent were awarded to applicants who were either entering farming or helping to transition the operation to the next generation.
- 70 percent of recipients had 10 years of farming experience or less.
- 99 percent foresee a positive economic outcome from their investment.
- 25 recipients are adding technology to their operation; five intend to start or transition to a robotic dairy system.
- Five recipients are responding to a natural disaster.

Proposals for FY 2020 grants were due on December 18, 2019. We received 146 applications requesting \$3.4 million. Approximately \$768,000 is available for funding of new projects. Grants are set to be awarded in late-February.

For an example of a funded project, we interviewed Brenda and Sam Fessenden who are using their Livestock Investment Grant to build a new robotic dairy in Eyota. They are planning to join Brenda's parents, Craig and Cathy, who transitioned several years ago to raising dairy steers following a traumatic farm accident. Brenda and Sam will focus on milking dairy cows.

As the young couple works towards transitioning into the operation, they see the addition of a robotic milk facility as a key element to supporting both families and providing an opportunity for Brenda's father to continue maintaining his livelihood as a farmer. Robots have been shown to allow more flexible work schedules by removing the structured milking times. Their chosen livestock production methods are expected to provide environmental benefits by reducing nutrient loss and carbon dioxide production. Their family farm mission is, "To create a trusted and innovative farm business centered on faith, family, and respect for each other, our animals, and our land across generations."

Both Brenda and Sam have jobs outside of the farm: Brenda as a senior scientist working in dairy genetics and Sam working with dairy nutritionists and dairy farms across North America and Europe, but they both hope to someday work on the farm full-time.

## Dairy Farm Improvement Grants

As a one-time program, the AGRI Dairy Farm Improvement Grant assisted producers in maximizing their profitability through investments necessary to produce Grade A milk. The grant program reimbursed the cost of equipment, services, or physical improvements that help the dairy operation meet the requirements for Grade A milk production as established by the Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO). We anticipated awarding up to \$250,000 through this program; however, demand far exceeded original expectations. We received 117 grant applications requesting \$1.53 million and awarded 87 grants totaling \$746,000. A list of awardees and a map of their locations are available in Appendices 3 and 4, respectively.

One recipient, Edward Boehlke, farms with his brother, Ronald, near Waverly. Since taking over the family farm in 2011, it has been his long-term goal to upgrade from Grade B to Grade A production. The Grade A PMO, which sets the minimum standards for production, processing, and packaging of Grade A milk, has specific standards for location and construction of a farm's water supply. To meet this requirement, Edward used grant funding to assist the relocation of his well. This change allows his operation to be more profitable and provides his cattle with higher quality water.

## Value-Added Grants

The AGRI Value-Added Grant offers funding for value-added businesses to invest in equipment, physical improvements, and feasibility studies. The intent of the program is to increase sales of Minnesota agricultural products by investing in production capacity, market diversification, and market access for value-added products. For the purposes of this grant, value-added is defined as the addition of value to an agricultural product through processing.

Two types of projects were eligible for awards:

- Equipment purchases or physical improvements to improve the capacity of business to process Minnesota grown/raised products. Awards cover up to 25 percent of expenditures, with a maximum award of \$199,000. In addition, the budget rider for FY 2018 and FY 2019 allowed for us to award up to two \$1 million grants.
- Feasibility studies to determine if a proposed value-added business is technically feasible and likely to be profitable. Awards covered up to 50% of costs, with a maximum award of \$35,000.

The FY 2020 target is \$1.1 million for grants to fund feasibility studies and equipment. We received 59 proposals requesting \$3.2 million, which are currently under review. For FY 2020, there is a maximum award of \$150,000 for equipment projects and \$25,000 for feasibility studies.

## Value-Added Equipment Grants

Priority for grant awards of up to \$199,000 was given to projects that involved meat processing, institutional sales, and implementation of food safety plans, or serving Native American Tribal Communities or communities of color, and applicants who were a minority or veteran-owned business. Together, the fall and spring rounds of funding, received 92 applications requesting a total of \$4.6 million. A total of 50 projects were funded, totaling \$2.8 million.

Priority for grant awards between \$200,000 and \$1 million was given to proposals from businesses that use 50 percent or greater Minnesota grown inputs/ingredients or where a feasibility study had been conducted. We received six proposals requesting a total of \$3.7 million. Grants totaling \$1.6 million were awarded for two projects. Epite Energy received funding for the startup of a new soybean crushing facility in Crookston, and Lindsey and Kevin Borst received funding to build Moo House Craft Dairy, a new venture to bottle milk produced on their farm.

In summary, a total of \$4.4 million was awarded to 52 projects for equipment grants. Private investment of \$23.2 million<sup>2</sup> resulted in a 5.6 to 1 ratio of private to public funds leveraged to expand and modernize value-added businesses that use Minnesota grown agricultural products. A list of awardees and a map of their locations are available in Appendices 5 and 7.

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<sup>2</sup>The private to public investment ratio excludes a grant to Epite Energy with an estimated private investment of \$100,000,000, which greatly skews the metric due to its size.



## Value-Added Feasibility Study Grants

Letters of Interest were reviewed by MDA staff and external partners on a rolling basis throughout the year until all funds were expended. Approved applicants are offered free consulting services from the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute to help them refine project goals, develop a scope of work, and identify a third-party consultant to conduct the feasibility study. After selecting a consultant, the applicant submits a final application to the MDA for review.

We received 13 letters of interest and contributed a total of \$137,500 toward ten feasibility studies. Grantees are exploring business ventures related to advanced biofuels, flour, hemp, organic dried distiller's grains, meat processing, flowers, and garlic. For a full list of funded applications, and project locations and descriptions, see Appendices 6 and 7.



Grantee, Josh Lingen, serving customers from his ice cream trailer.

One stand-out grantee from FY 2019 was Josh Lingen of Lingen Soft Serve Dairy in Balaton who received a grant to start his soft serve ice cream business. Partnering with the dairy family's milk processor, Land O'Lakes, the business uses Minnesota produced commercial ice cream mixes. With the help of the grant, Josh was able to move his operation from tents into two trailers that can be seen dispensing cool treats throughout southern and central Minnesota, especially during the summer. Lingen Dairy Soft Serve helps the family continue to operate their small, family-owned dairy.

When asked about his experience with the program, Josh said, "the AGRI Value-Added Grant has been a very big part of my business. It helped me to take that next step, turning my passion into a true business. The Department of Ag made the whole process easy and fun, especially fun with Commissioner Thom Peterson visiting the farm. The grant can really be adapted to many farms, families, and business situations. Thank you all again!"

## Farm to School and Early Care and Education (ECE) Grants

The AGRI Farm to School and ECE Grant Program's goal is to increase the sales of Minnesota agricultural products by enhancing the ability of schools and early care organizations to purchase, store, and serve Minnesota grown and raised products.

We offered three types of Farm to School and ECE Grants:

- Equipment purchases or physical improvements to allow sites to purchase, prepare, and serve more Minnesota grown food. Awards cover up to 50 percent of expenditures, with a maximum award of \$50,000.
- Feasibility studies to determine product availability and cost of the specific equipment, tools, training, or policies that a site or school district needs 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.
- Milk cooler grants to assist schools and ECE organizations increase sales and acceptance of Minnesota milk products. Each organization could apply for up to \$1,500 per cooler, with a maximum of three coolers per organization or school district and a maximum of one per school.

In response to the first Request for Proposals for equipment and planning applications, we received 25 applications totaling over \$500,000 and awarded nearly \$250,000 for 15 projects. A list of awards and a map showing their locations are located in Appendices 8 and 10.

In the fall of 2019, we established a new opportunity for schools and ECE organizations to request funding for milk coolers. Response to the milk cooler grant opportunity was overwhelmingly positive. While we initially only anticipated offering the program in the Fall with just \$22,500 available, we ultimately re-opened the Request for Proposals in the Spring. Between the two rounds, we awarded over \$230,000 to 114 organizations for the purchase of 160 milk coolers. A list of awardees and a map showing their locations are in Appendices 9 and 10.

In FY 2020, we received 21 proposals requesting \$368,000 for equipment and planning grants, and we are in the process of awarding about \$150,000 to 12 school districts. We anticipate making \$200,000 available in Spring 2020 for another round of milk cooler grants.

## New Market Development

The New Markets program supports Minnesota food and beverage companies explore new markets and expand their market reach. The program assists startups and entrepreneurs with business development assistance and resources, and helps companies gain a competitive advantage in regional, national, and international markets.

In FY 2019, 160 food and beverage companies participated in a Minnesota Pavilion at a trade event or benefitted from cost-sharing provided by the Tradeshows and Demonstration Support Program (TSP). Those companies projected \$19.2 million in new sales as a result of their participation in AGRI-supported New Markets programs.

### Minnesota Pavilions

Minnesota Pavilions are a flagship part of the New Markets program. A Minnesota Pavilion is designated space at a domestic or international tradeshow that features Minnesota food and beverage companies. The MDA coordinates the space rental and then provides booth space to companies at a subsidized cost. The MDA hosted pavilions at seven food and beverage tradeshow events in FY 2019 using AGRI funds. These events included Anuga (Germany), Gulfood (Dubai), Winter Fancy Food Show (San Francisco), Natural Products Expo West (Anaheim), National Restaurant Association/American Food Fair Pavilion (Chicago), Sweets & Snacks Expo (Chicago), and the Summer Fancy Food Show (New York City). Just over \$340,000 in AGRI funds were used to support events. A list of participating companies and their locations can be found in Appendices 11 and 12.

Overall, the MDA supported 62 companies to show at domestic and international events. Based on self-reported data from the companies, sales occurring 6 to 12-months after a pavilion event were estimated to increase by \$16,792,500 over baseline projections as a result of the connections made during the shows.

Minnesota food and beverage businesses have also been able to create 229 new relationships with distributors and create over 2,300 new business contacts.

In FY 2020, the MDA is coordinating Minnesota Pavilions at the Winter Fancy Food Show (San Francisco), Gulfood (Dubai), SIAL Canada (Montreal), Natural Products Expo West (Anaheim), National Restaurant Association/American Food Fair (Chicago), Sweets & Snacks Expo (Chicago), and BrewExpo America (San Antonio).

### Tradeshows and Demo Cost-Share

The second core part of the New Markets program is cost-sharing to support small- to medium-sized food and beverage businesses expand their market reach. The cost-share program (formerly the Tradeshows Support Program, or TSP) includes two support areas: business-to-business trade shows and in-store demos. The cost-share program helps companies exhibit at business-to-business food events where there is not a Minnesota Pavilion. The program also shares some of the high cost of executing in-store demos, including reimbursement for mileage and labor. In-store demos are a key way that companies can drive sales, by introducing products to new customers directly. A list of participating companies and their locations can be found in Appendices 13 and 14.

The MDA invested nearly \$300,000 in AGRI funds to cost-share with 98 Minnesota food and beverage companies for eligible expenses. Evaluations were sent to participating companies at the end of the fiscal year, and 58 companies responded to the survey. According to the voluntary and self-reported evaluation survey, the cost-sharing program had the following impacts:



- \$2.4 million in projected sales over the next 6 to 12 months;
- 343 new markets explored;
- 1,123 new stores added, and;
- 68 new distributor relationships initiated.

## Walk-the-Floor Mentorships

The Minnesota Pavilion “Walk-the-Floor” Mentorship was a new initiative in FY 2019 based on feedback from the New Markets Advisory Committee. This program provides the opportunity for leaders of companies founded in Minnesota to attend a national tradeshow with a Minnesota Pavilion and learn from current exhibitors. The MDA provides cost-share support for travel expenses up to \$500 and connects participants with companies in the Minnesota Pavilion to learn about tradeshow preparation and execution.

In FY 2019, the MDA supported 12 “Walk-the-Floor” mentorships and received positive feedback from participants. Mentorships are being offered in FY 2020 as well, with several mentees already signed up for shows.

## Crop Research Grants

The AGRI Crop Research Grant generates university-level applied crop research that will improve the quality, quantity, or value of crops grown in Minnesota. Awards of up to \$250,000 fully reimburse grantees for their project costs. Research projects must provide near-term benefits for Minnesota agriculture and include a robust outreach component to transfer results and technology to farmers.

This program differs from other funding sources, such as federal grants, by supporting research that can focus on emerging and chronic crop production issues that are specific to Minnesota. With the goal of seeing positive outcomes from projects in three to seven years, these grants are uniquely positioned to agilely support the research needs of local farmers.

In FY 2019, we received 28 applications totaling \$5.2 million in requested awards. Based upon recommendations made by MDA and external evaluators, ten projects were awarded a total of \$2.2 million in grant funds. A list of projects is provided in Appendix 15, and we have highlighted a few projects below. In FY 2020, we received 25 applications totaling \$4.5 million and expect to award \$2 million in February.



A field of progeny from Dr. Smith's oat breeding program at the University of Minnesota.

As an example of a project, we funded research into oat breeding. Dr. Kevin Smith will be working to help Minnesota become one of the leading oat producing states. Until recently, no breeding research was conducted for oats in Minnesota. However, renewed interest in bolstering oat supply chains from food ingredients companies, including PepsiCo, has resulted in restarting this breeding program. This project makes strategic investments into a breeding program so that rapid progress can be made using modern plant breeding methods. The research team will be using tools such as genomic selection and advanced phenotyping to achieve their goals. This enhanced breeding pipeline will accelerate the release of high-performing, valued-added cultivars. The project will support Minnesota farmers through the development of economically viable crop options. Food companies will also benefit through a more stable supply of high-quality oats.

## Minnesota Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership Cost-Share

In September 2015, we were awarded \$8 million through the United States Department of Agriculture's Biofuel Infrastructure Partnership (BIP). Funding is intended to promote infrastructure for stores that dispense renewable liquid fuels such as E15 and Flex-Fuel blends such as E30 and E85. The ultimate goal is to increase the use of ethanol in Minnesota. The Federal funds were leveraged by \$3.1 million in AGRI funding between FY 2016-2019. An additional \$3.01 million was contributed by the Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council, 17 of Minnesota's ethanol plants, and a separate fund for E15 infrastructure created by the Minnesota Legislature. Projects were solicited through competitive Request for Proposals. A team comprised of MDA and American Lung Association in Minnesota staff evaluated grant proposals and recommended awards based on projects' scope and potential to meet the goal of BIP.

In FY 2019, eight additional stations were awarded funds, including five sites that received a total of \$168,820 of AGRI funding. With these additional stations the BIP program funded 137 grantees and all projects were completed as of December 31, 2018. Of the \$8 million in Federal funds we were awarded, just \$2,311 went unused.

## Bioincentive Payments

The AGRI Bioincentive Program makes payments to eligible producers of advanced biofuel, renewable chemical, and biomass thermal energy production. Minnesota Statutes 41A.15 through 41A.19 detail a program that sets up minimum production levels to receive payments; payment for categories of what is produced; duration of program participation; and requirement for feedstock used to produce the reimbursed products. The FY 2018 and FY 2019 budget rider allowed for \$1.5 million each year for this use.

In FY 2019, payments totaled \$1.5 million, broken down among the following three categories: Advance Biofuels (\$0), Renewable Chemical (\$1,264,495.15), and Biomass Thermal Energy Production (\$235,504.85). Six producers received payments. One company was not reimbursed \$26,889.77 of their final claim as the entire \$1.5 million had been allocated with their claim exceeding available funds.

In FY 2020 and FY 2021, there is \$2.5 million available for each year. We anticipate using the full amounts each year and not having the resources to pay the entire number of expected claims. More information about this program can be found in the Bioincentive legislative report.

## Bioenergy/Biochemical Pilot Project Grant

The AGRI Bioenergy/Biochemical Pilot Project Grant provided funding that would advance a bioenergy or biochemical production technology beyond the bench scale/proof-of-concept scale toward commercial scale, through construction and operation of a pilot plant. We made \$150,000 available for this one-time grant opportunity and required a 1:1 match from applicants.

Plasma Blue, LLC of Mankato received a grant for the full amount available. With the funding, they will build a "road show" unit of the original prototype developed by the University of Minnesota to produce biodiesel using plasma technology. Building and testing of the road show unit will be conducted, and then the unit will be moved to different locations around the state for demonstration to prospective buyers and investors. The road show unit will assist Plasma Blue in moving the technology to commercial implementation.

## Biofuel Blending Infrastructure Grant

The AGRI Biofuel Blending Infrastructure Grant provided funding for biofuel blending infrastructure equipment, with the intent to promote economic growth and environmentally friendly practices in Minnesota's biofuel industries. It was expected that projects develop new markets or enhance markets that improve biofuel blending outcomes, such as increasing sales and providing greater access to fuels.

For this one-time grant opportunity, we made \$650,000 available with a maximum award of \$199,000 per project and required that applicants cover 65% of the costs. We received three applications and awarded grants to all three applicants, totaling \$380,000.

## Renewable Energy Group

This project integrates a tank and computer operated manifold system for fleet vehicles in three separate heavy-duty truck fleets. In conjunction with this integration, they will install biodiesel tanks/retail dispensers at the business' fueling locations. The conversion system will allow fleet vehicles to operate on B100 fuel, leading to reduced fuel costs and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

### Kwik Trip #996, Eyota Biofuel Blending Facility

Kwik Trip, Inc. is expanding their existing biofuel blending facility located in Eyota. This expansion will allow for Kwik Trip to create a winter biodiesel that is currently not available. In addition, storage capacity will be added to the existing biodiesel system as well as adding capacity to the existing ethanol system. This added capacity will allow Kwik Trip to increase its marketing of ethanol and biodiesel blended fuels to the public.

### Denco II

This project will enable Denco II to offer wholesale E15 to the local marketplace. In order to make the upgrades to their site to offer E15 they will install a 36,000 gallon above ground tank, second blending skid, a new transfer pump, and some additional piping and electrical work. In addition, they will be able to create an E85 product using regular gasoline in order to comply with the proposed Environmental Protection Agency rule regarding the E15 Reid vapor pressure waiver for summertime sales.

## Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grants

Since 1989, the AGRI Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Program (Minn. Stat. 17.116) has encouraged farmers, nonprofit groups, agricultural researchers, and educators to explore ways to enhance the sustainability of a wide range of farming systems. The program was originally funded through a dedicated biennial appropriation with funding shifting to the AGRI program in FY 2013. Grantees are required to provide information on their research

projects for the *Greenbook*. The *Greenbook*, published annually by the MDA, features the description, results, and management tips from all funded projects.

In FY 2019, projects could last two to three years and receive a maximum award of \$50,000. Projects needed to research or demonstrate the energy efficiency, environmental benefit, and/or profitability of sustainable agriculture techniques or systems from production through marketing on Minnesota farms. We received 22 applications requesting just over \$650,000 and made nine awards totaling \$240,000. Grants were awarded competitively, and applications were ranked by MDA and external reviewers. Appendix 16 contains a list of the projects funded.

In FY 2020, we received 22 applications requesting over \$650,000 with \$200,000 available for funding. Grants are set to be awarded in late February.

A look into the Anishinaabe Agriculture project gives an idea of the projects supported by this program. With her grant funding, Winona LaDuke of Anishinaabe Agriculture is working to develop intercropping methods and crop rotation



Winona LaDuke stands in a field next to hemp harvested for fiber production.



for hemp. With hemp recently legalized in the United States, it is important for growers to establish best agronomic practices. In addition, LaDuke is looking for culturally appropriate methods to cultivate hemp based on indigenous practices. To this end, they are trialing the use of corn, beans, squash, tobacco, and Jerusalem Artichokes as well as other varieties in intercropping.

## Farm Business Management Scholarships

Farm Business Management (FBM) helps farm operators learn profitable business management strategies. The program teaches farmers how to use their own farm records to make sound business decisions. Instruction is offered by Minnesota State Colleges and University campuses statewide. Instructors meet with students 1 on 1 and/or in small group settings.

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. The FBM Scholarship Program 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.

In FY 2019, we awarded over \$600,000 in scholarships to 698 beginning farmers. As of January 1, 2020, the MDA had awarded scholarships to 515 beginning farmers, for a total of \$463,000 in FY 2020.

## Urban Agriculture Grants

The AGRI Urban Agriculture Grant Program offers funding to stimulate urban youth agricultural education and/or urban agriculture community development. For-profit businesses, nonprofit organizations, schools, local government entities, and Native American tribal communities were eligible to apply for the program provided that their project is in an urban area or within the boundaries of a federally recognized Tribal land.

Grants were awarded competitively. A panel of external reviewers and MDA staff evaluated the proposals based on long-term sustainability, capacity to implement the project, and commitment to serving communities of color and Native American tribal communities.

For FY 2019, we received 33 proposals, totaling over \$1.1 million. Eleven grants were awarded. See Appendix 17 for a list of recipients.

In FY 2020, we received 30 applications requesting \$1.08 million. We're in the process of awarding a total of \$281,500 to 12 organizations.

Frogtown Farm, a FY 2019 grantee, used their award to provide farm tours and age-appropriate activities on the farm to local schools and youth organizations. Additionally, local youth apprentices work on the farm during the season to learn hands-on lessons about urban agriculture. The Frogtown area in St. Paul is home to many new Americans, including Hmong, Vietnamese, Laotian, and African immigrants. The 5.5-acre farm operated by Frogtown Farm offers locals a connection to agriculture and access to fresh foods. Frogtown Farm is committed to inspiring commitment to urban agriculture and an equitable food system through their educational offerings.



A youth apprentice works at Frogtown Farm in St. Paul.

## GAP/GHP Certification Cost-Share

The AGRI Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)/Good Handling Practices (GHP) Certification Cost-Share program defrays farmer and processor costs for GAP/GHP certification for food safety, a certification that is increasingly required to sell produce to schools, to 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. Farmers and handlers who meet USDA standards as accessed by an accredited certifier were eligible to receive a reimbursement of 75 percent of their certification costs of up to \$2,500.

For FY 2019, we received 40 applications and funded all of them, disbursing \$23,000. On average, farmers and processors spent \$580 on certification costs, and we reimbursed 75 percent of these expenses.

In FY 2020, we have set aside \$15,000 for this program. We are adjusting program criteria to ensure that the limited funds are available to producers and processors who are new to GAP/GHP certification. We will begin accepting applications in the spring.

## County Fair Grants

The AGRI County Fair Grant enhances access to the preservation and promotion of Minnesota's agriculture at county fairs.

In FY 2019, \$1 million was available to Minnesota's 95 county fairs. Each fair was eligible for up to \$11,002. The program distributed \$970,410 in AGRI funds to 90 county fairs. Fairs used the funding in a variety of ways, such as purchasing sound equipment for judging in their livestock barns, making structural repairs or updating outdated electrical in livestock barns, and creating displays for agricultural education.

County fairs were also able to apply for up to \$1,701 through the Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund to support projects and events that provide access to the arts of the state's agricultural, historical, or cultural heritage.

For FY 2020, this AGRI opportunity will continue to focus on the preservation and promotion of Minnesota agriculture. A total of \$1 million is available in equal amounts to the 95 active county fairs. The Legacy Amendment will allocate an additional \$414,630 to provide access to the arts or to the state's agricultural historical and cultural heritage.

## Livestock Investment Grant Recipients

Producer	City	County	Category
Raquel Amberg	Bird Island	Renville	Beef
Michael Bakker	Sacred Heart	Renville	Beef
Gene Bertram	Morristown	Rice	Beef
Sarah Brouwer	Raymond	Kandiyohi	Sheep
Craig Correll	Brewster	Nobles	Hog
Paul Daley	Pine Island	Dodge	Dairy
Robin DeWitt	Clearwater	Wright	Sheep
Tanner Differding	Taunton	Lyon	Hog
Sean Driessen	Canby	Yellow Medicine	Dairy
Willis Dropik	Nelson	Douglas	Dairy/Beef
Robert Ellenz	Caledonia	Houston	Dairy
Thomas Fast	Bingham Lake	Cottonwood	Dairy
Brenda Fessenden	Eyota	Olmsted	Dairy
Jason Fischer	Saint James	Watsonwan	Hog
James Flintrop	Janesville	Waseca	Hog
Kristine Fuller	Sherburn	Martin	Beef
Adam Goblisch	Hector	Renville	Beef
Brady Gramm	Hancock	Stevens	Beef
Joshua Green	Morgan	Brown or Redwood	Hog
Matthew Green	Greenbush	Roseau	Dairy
Trevor Gruis	Adrian	Nobles	Hog
Joylynn Hadrich	Avon	Stearns	Dairy
Adam Harguth	Waseca	Waseca	Beef
Tom Herkenhoff	Freeport	Stearns	Dairy
Michael Hess	Foley	Benton	Beef
Paul Hiltner	Melrose	Stearns	Dairy
Laurie Hinrichs	Red Wing	Goodhue	Hog
Connor Hoffman	Luverne	Rock	Hog
Robert Jansen	Pierz	Morrison	Poultry
Brevan Jasper	Edgerton	Pipestone	Hog
Adam Kalthoff	Melrose	Stearns	Dairy
Adam Kasel	Marshall	Lyon	Hog
Joshua Kellen	Rushmore	Nobles	Hog



## Livestock Investment Grant Recipients

Producer	City	County	Category
Darren Keranen	Osage	Becker	Dairy
Nicholas Kerfeld	Melrose	Stearns	Dairy
Shawn Kilpela	Pine City	Pine	Hog
Mark Kimman	Pierz	Morrison	Poultry
Jamie Klaphake	Albany	Stearns	Poultry
Keith Klinghagen	Clara City	Chippewa	Beef
Luke Klingsporn	Pine Island	Goodhue	Dairy
Derek Kloss	Royalton	Morrison	Poultry
Carter Kotewa	Fairmont	Martin	Hog
Jordan Kramer	Hector	Renville	Hog
Alex Kremer	Adrian	Nobles	Hog
Chris Kremer	Hillman	Morrison	Bison
Bryce Krohn	Nicollet	Nicollet	Hog
Noah Krzmarzick	Sleepy Eye	Brown	Hog
Christine Leonard	Norwood Young America	Carver	Dairy
Casey Leonhardt	Lake City	Wabasha	Dairy
Kale Leuthold	Rushmore	Nobles	Hog
Chris Long	Cottonwood	Lyon	Hog
Jeremy Lucking	Pierz	Morrison	Poultry
Tyler Maertens	Wabasso	Redwood	Hog
Nathan Magedanz	Richmond	Stearns	Dairy
Tyler Magedanz	Richmond	Stearns	Dairy
Steven Michels	North Mankato	Nicollet	Hog
Nathan Middendorf	Long Prairie	Todd	Dairy
Amber Mielke	Little Falls	Morrison	Beef
Bryton Miller	Kellogg	Wabasha	Beef
David Moos	Gaylord	Sibley	Dairy
James Mueller	Melrose	Stearns	Dairy
Joseph Norman	Pine River	Cass	Beef
Alexander Obermoller	Brewster	Nobles	Hog
William O'Brien	Duluth	Saint Louis	Beef
Jarad Olson	Rushford	Houston	Dairy
Seth Orr	Foley	Benton	Beef

## Livestock Investment Grant Recipients

Producer	City	County	Category
Lane Otreмба	Pierz	Morrison	Hog
Ronald Pagel	Eyota	Olmsted	Dairy
Daniel Persons	Kensington	Grant	Sheep
Zackary Pettersen	Madelia	Watsonwan	Hog
Shawn Pollard	Foley	Benton	Beef
Paul Reitsma	Sauk Centre	Stearns	Dairy
Matthew Rewitzer	Eagle Bend	Todd	Beef
Michael Ripplinger	Holdingford	Morrison	Beef
Jacob Roers	Garfield	Douglas	Dairy
Glenn Ruble	Albert Lea	Freeborn	Beef
Rachael Rusch	Stewart	Meeker	Dairy
Greg Sabolik	Kensington	Grant	Dairy
Randy Saehr	Pierz	Morrison	Hog
Brian Scherping	Long Prairie	Todd	Dairy
Daniel Scherping	Belgrade	Kandiyohi	Dairy
Keith Schlaak	New Richland	Waseca	Hog
Matthew Schouviller	Callaway	Becker	Dairy
Jack Schouweiler	Alexandria	Douglas	Dairy
Jason Schroeder	Courtland	Nicollet	Hog
Megan Schrupp	Paynesville	Meeker	Dairy
Christopher Schueler	Willmar	Kandiyohi	Dairy
Mike Singlestad	Waseca	Waseca	Hog
Nathan Sommer	Winthrop	Sibley	Hog
Mike Stang	Richmond	Stearns	Dairy
Colton Thompson	Hayfield	Dodge	Hog
Robert Tifft	Dunnell	Martin	Hog
Jeremy Van Ede	Adrian	Nobles	Hog
Matthew VanGrootheest	Luverne	Rock	Hog
Bradley Vold	Glenwood	Pope	Dairy
Cory Walker	Villard	Pope	Beef
Ross Wiertsema	Rushmore	Nobles	Hog
James Will	Saint Clair	Blue Earth	Hog
Sarah Winscher	Royalton	Morrison	Dairy
Kurt Woitalla	Avon	Stearns	Dairy

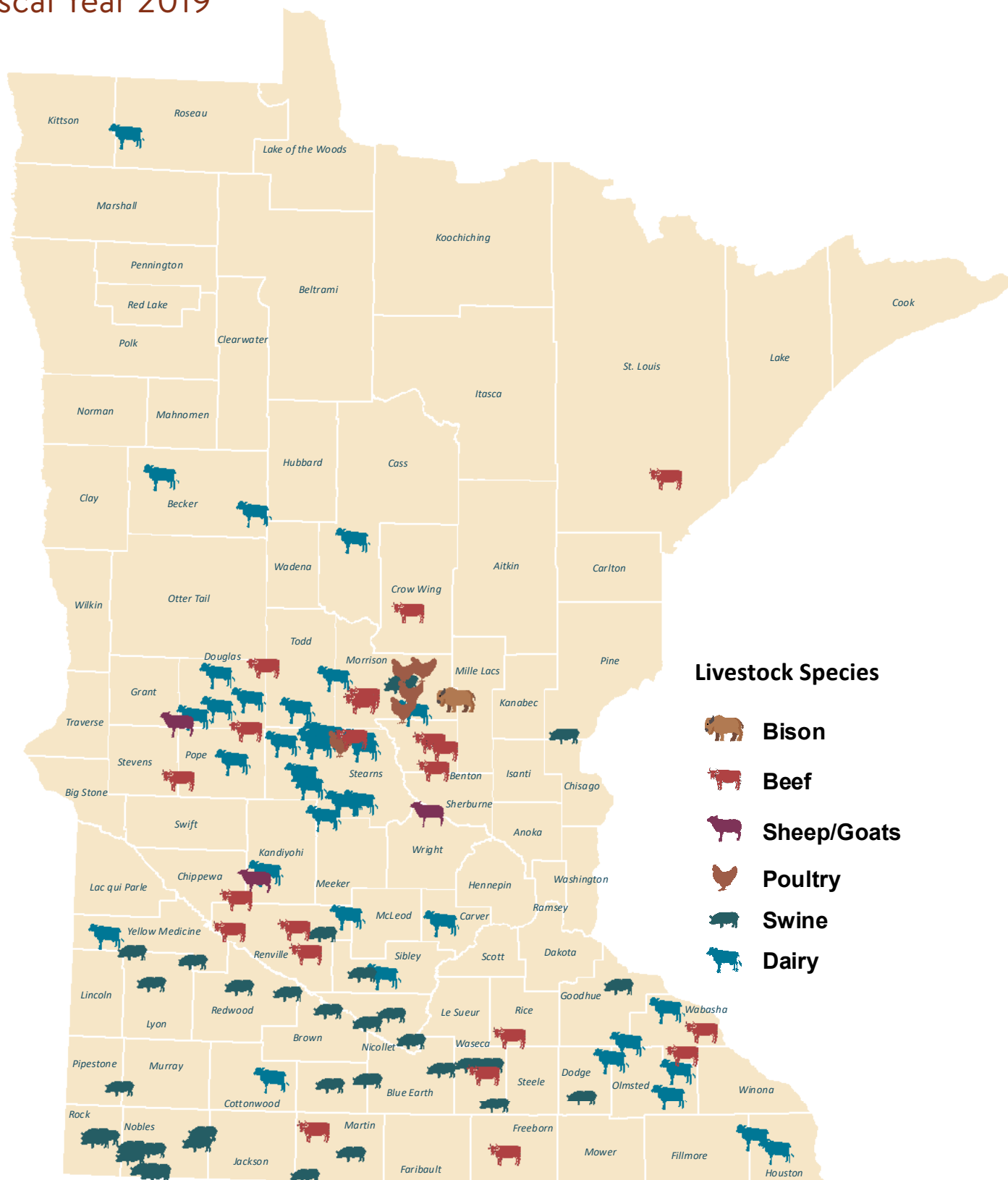
## Livestock Investment Grant Recipients

Producer	City	County	Category
Judy Worm	Brainerd	Crow Wing	Beef
Ryan Wynia	Luverne	Rock	Hog
Kathy Yamry	Albany	Stearns	Beef
Patty Zabel-Duden	Plainview	Wabasha	Beef



## Livestock Investment Grants by County

Fiscal Year 2019



## Dairy Farm Improvement Grant Recipients

Producer	Farm Name	City	County
James Barthel	West Ridge, LLC	Bellingham	Lac qui Parle
Jeffrey Beavins		Mahnomen	Mahnomen
Shawn Bergey		Harmony	Fillmore
Mark Blowers		Evansville	Douglas
Edward Boehlke III	Southview Jerseys, LLP	Waverly	Wright
Kevin Borst	Borst Family Dairy, LLC	Rochester	Olmstead
Beth Brekke	Brek-Clay Dairy Farm	Goodhue	Goodhue
Becky Clark	Clark Farms, LLC	Rollingstone	Winona
Mark Czech	Czech's Roadside Acres	Foley	Benton
Mark Dicke	Mark Dicke Dairy	Goodhue	Goodhue
Robert Durovec	Durovec Dairy, LLC	Meadowlands	Saint Louis
Garret Duske	Duske Dairy	Waverly	Wright
Robert Ellenz		Caledonia	Houston
Jason Felling	Felling Dairy, LLC	Sauk Centre	Stearns
Corey Feltmann	Feltmann Dairy Farm, LLC	Norwood	Carver
Mark Fernholz	Little Brook Dairy	Kensington	Douglas
Frederick Fredrickson	Zumbrota	Goodhue	
Larry Gartner	Rumpus Ridge Farms, LLP	Preston	Fillmore
Gene Gatewood	Gatewood Farm	Willmar	Kandiyohi
Gerald Gill	Gill Dairy	Albany	Stearns
Paul Gjerde	Gjerde Family, Ltd., Partnership	Sunburg	Kandiyohi
Kyle Goeller	Style-Heaven Holsteins	Sebek	Otter Tail
Jacob Gohl	JNJ Dairy	Foley	Benton
Ross Greden	Greden Farms, LLC	Altura	Winona
Darin Grimsgard	Oaklawn Farm	Grove City	Meeker
Lisa Groetsch	Groetsch Dairy, Inc.	Albany	Stearns
Terry Groskreutz	Groskreutz Dairy	Wells	Waseca
Alan Grunhord	ALG Farms	Gary	Norman
Nicole Guisewhite		South Haven	Stearns
Adam Hinckley	Hinckley Holsteins, LLC	Chatfield	Fillmore
Steven Hoffman	SKH, Inc.	New Ulm	Brown
Mark Hoffmann	Hoffmann Dairy	Morgan	Redwood
Richard Holdvogt	Holdvogt Bros.	Melrose	Stearns
Joshua Holt	Holt Dairy	Avon	Stearns

## Dairy Farm Improvement Grant Recipients

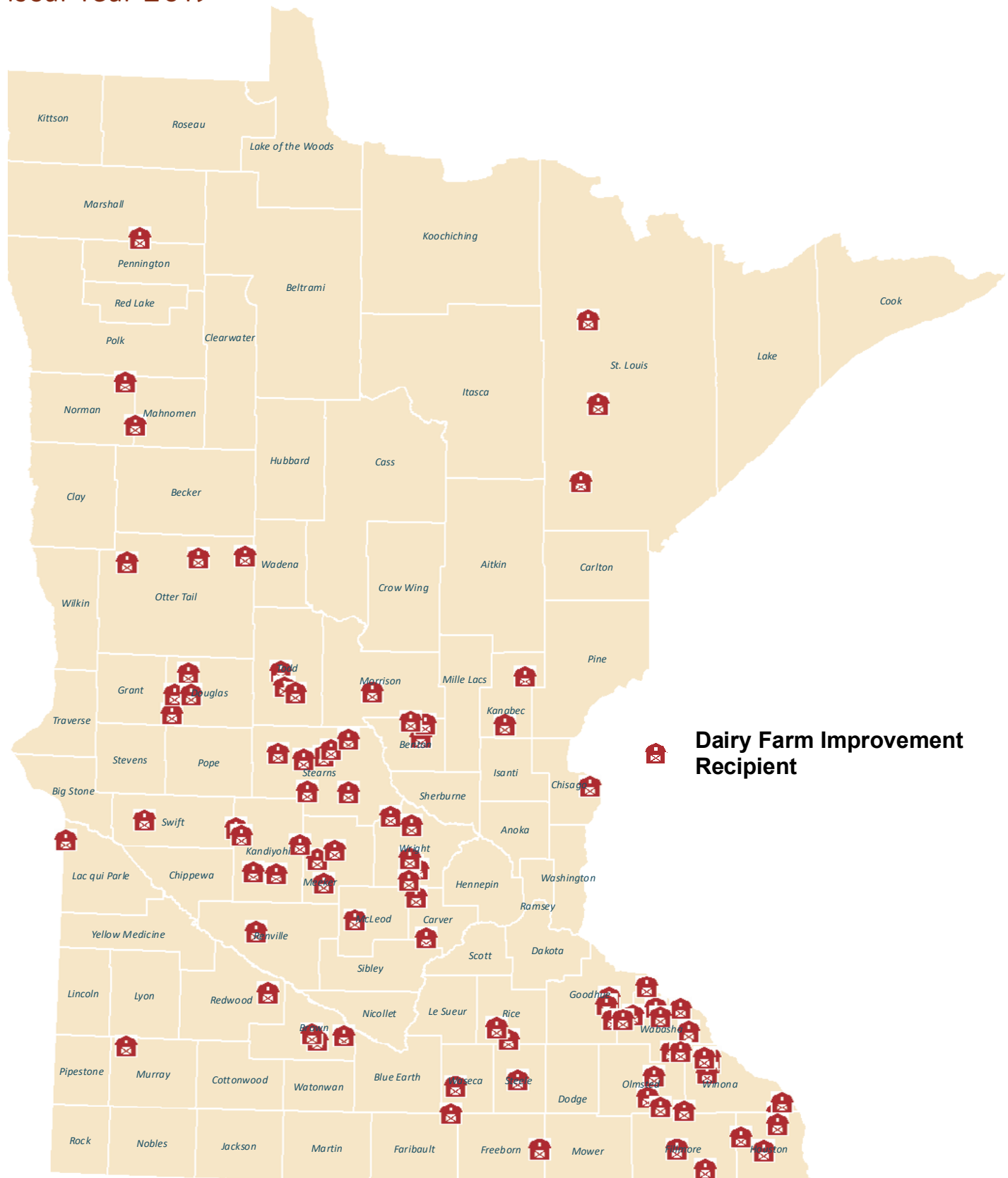
Producer	Farm Name	City	County
Jaren Howe	Howe Holsteins	Hutchinson	McLeod
Joel Jansen	Jansen Dairy	Danube	Renville
Paul Johnson	Pine Creek Farms, Inc.	La Crescent	Houston
Ryan Jopp	Jopp Century Farm	Mayer	Carver
Karen Kasper	Kasper Family Dairy Farm	Owatonna	Steele
Colleen Kelm	Kelm Dairy	Faribault	Rice
Eric Klein	Klein's Cow Palace	Lake City	Wabasha
Russ Koch	Kochkey Dairy	Brook Park	Kanabec
Marshall Korn	Korn Dairy	Atwater	Kandiyohi
Paul Kruger	Kruger Dairy	Wabasha	Wabasha
Jeff Lee	Lee Dairy	Lake City	Wabasha
John Lerum		Evansville	Douglas
Randy Lingen	Lingen Dairy	Balaton	Murray
Steven Luhmann	Luhmanns Hilltop Holsteins	Mazeppa	Wabasha
Nick Lundberg	Lundberg Dairy	Holloway	Swift
Tyler Magedanz	Magedanz Dairy	Cold Spring	Stearns
Brandon Marshik	Marshik Family Dairy	Rice	Benton
Thomas Marzinske	Marzinske Dairy	Janesville	Waseca
Theodore May	Ted May Farm	Browerville	Todd
Bonita Meyer	Bluff View Farms	Plainview	Wabasha
Trenton Michels	Michels Bros.	Pelican Rapids	Otter Tail
Denise Middendorf		Long Prairie	Todd
Jack Miller	Miller Farms	Albert Lea	Freeborn
Ron Miller	Enchanted Dairy, LLP	Little Falls	Morrison
Tom Miller		Kellogg	Wabasha
John Miller	JM Dairy	Plainview	Wabasha
Deborah Mills	Mills Dairy	Lake City	Goodhue
Wesley Moechnig	Moechnig Farm	Lake City	Wabasha
Dain Moldan		Sleepy Eye	Brown
Brian Moldenhauer	Moldenhauer Dairy Farm	Dakota	Winona
Josh Nehring		Ogilvie	Kanabec
Brad Olson	Brad Olson Dairy	Brandon	Douglas
Jarad Olson	High Meadows	Rushford	Houston
Elinor Opitz-Hopfer	New-Vue Ayrshires	Maple Lake	Wright

## Dairy Farm Improvement Grant Recipients

Producer	Farm Name	City	County
Jeff Pearson	Rice River	Angora	Saint Louis
Kim Pronschinske	Do Over Dairy	Rollingstone	Winona
Justin Reeck	Greenwood Dairy	Paynesville	Stearns
Dale Rupprecht	Sherdale Farms	Thief River Falls	Marshall
Charles Sachs Jr.	Towerview Dairy	Eyota	Olmsted
John Sandberg	Sandberg Farms	Taylors Falls	Chisago
Casey Sazama		Perham	Otter Tail
Paul Scheffler	Scheffler Dairy	Faribault	Rice
Chris Schueler	Deerview Dairy	Willmar	Kandiyohi
Steven Seifert	Seifert Dairy	Sleepy Eye	Brown
John Speltz	Speltz Dairy, LLC	Altura	Winona
John Takala	Takala Farms, Inc.	Iron	Saint Louis
James Tews	Tews Dairy Farm	Litchfield	Meeker
Colette Thorson	Diers Corporation	Waverly	Wright
David Tomsche	DairyRidge, Inc.	Long Prairie	Todd
Steve Trogstad	Triple T Organics	Chatfield	Olmsted
James Turck	Turck's Dairy Farm	Litchfield	Meeker
Steven Uter	Merryville Farm	Waverly	Wright
Adam Von Moos		Houston	Houston
Dean Youngren	Youngren Dairy Farms, Inc.	Pennock	Kandiyohi

## Dairy Farm Improvement Grants by County

### Fiscal Year 2019





## Value-Added Equipment Grant Recipients

Business Name	County	Summary
4 Directions Development, Inc. dba Red Lake Fishery	Beltrami	Equipment and facility converting fish waste to liquid fertilizer
Auntie Annie's Fields, LLC	Rice	Walk-in cooler and egg washer; Pouring concrete to improve truck loading and unloading
Baker's Field Flour and Bread, LLC	Hennepin	Doughnut making equipment, burr mill, freezer
Brand Farms	Dakota	Apple washing equipment, sizer, and conveyor
CannonBelles Cheese	Dakota	Cheese processing facility
Concept Processing, LLC	Stearns	Creamery equipment and refrigerated transportation
Dehmer's Meats Inc.	Wright	Food safety software and data loggers, utensil washer, meat slicer
Dombrovski Meats	Benton	Three smokehouses, slicer, drying room
Doppeleichen Vineyards	Brown	Wine production building and equipment
Doubting Thomas Farms	Clay	Grain cleaning equipment, bag sewer, bird spikes, auger, and storage area
Epitome Energy	Goodhue	Equipment for soybean crush and bio-diesel production facility
First District Association	Meeker	Cheese processing equipment for block cheese
Fresha, LLC	Stevens	Facility and equipment to store, sort, wash, and package fresh carrots for the wholesale market
Grandma's Gourmets, LLC	Freeborn	Copacking facility
Greg's Meat Processing, LLC	Dakota	Remodeled sausage and smokehouse production areas; refrigeration for production area
Grlk, LLC	Dakota	Food processor, piston filler, utility cart, and air compressor
Heartland Corn Products	Sibley	Stillage tank; Converts distiller grains to animal feed
Heartland Corn Products, Inc.	Sibley	Upgrades to corn milling and grain receiving pit & leg at ethanol plant
Itasca County	Itasca	Gas-fired kiln, six-way splitter, and baskets to allow for improved drying of lumber for campfire wood
Lake Haven Custom Meat Processing, LLC	Pine	Data logger, smoker, stuffer, slicer, and mixer for poultry processing
Lakes Area Cooperative	Otter Tail	Meat smoker
L'Etoile du Nord Vineyard, LLC	Douglas	Winemaking equipment
Lindsey Borst (Moo House Craft Dairy)	Olmsted	On-farm milk processing plant to bottle milk for direct sale to consumers
Lingen Dairy Soft Serve	Murray	Soft serve ice cream truck
Mackenthun's Meats & Deli	Hennepin	Concrete floor; circulation venting for freezer floor
McDonald's Meats, Inc.	Sherburne	Remodeled meat processing facility to meet food safety standards
Medford Creek Natural Apiaries	Steele	Automatic capper

## Value-Added Equipment Grant Recipients

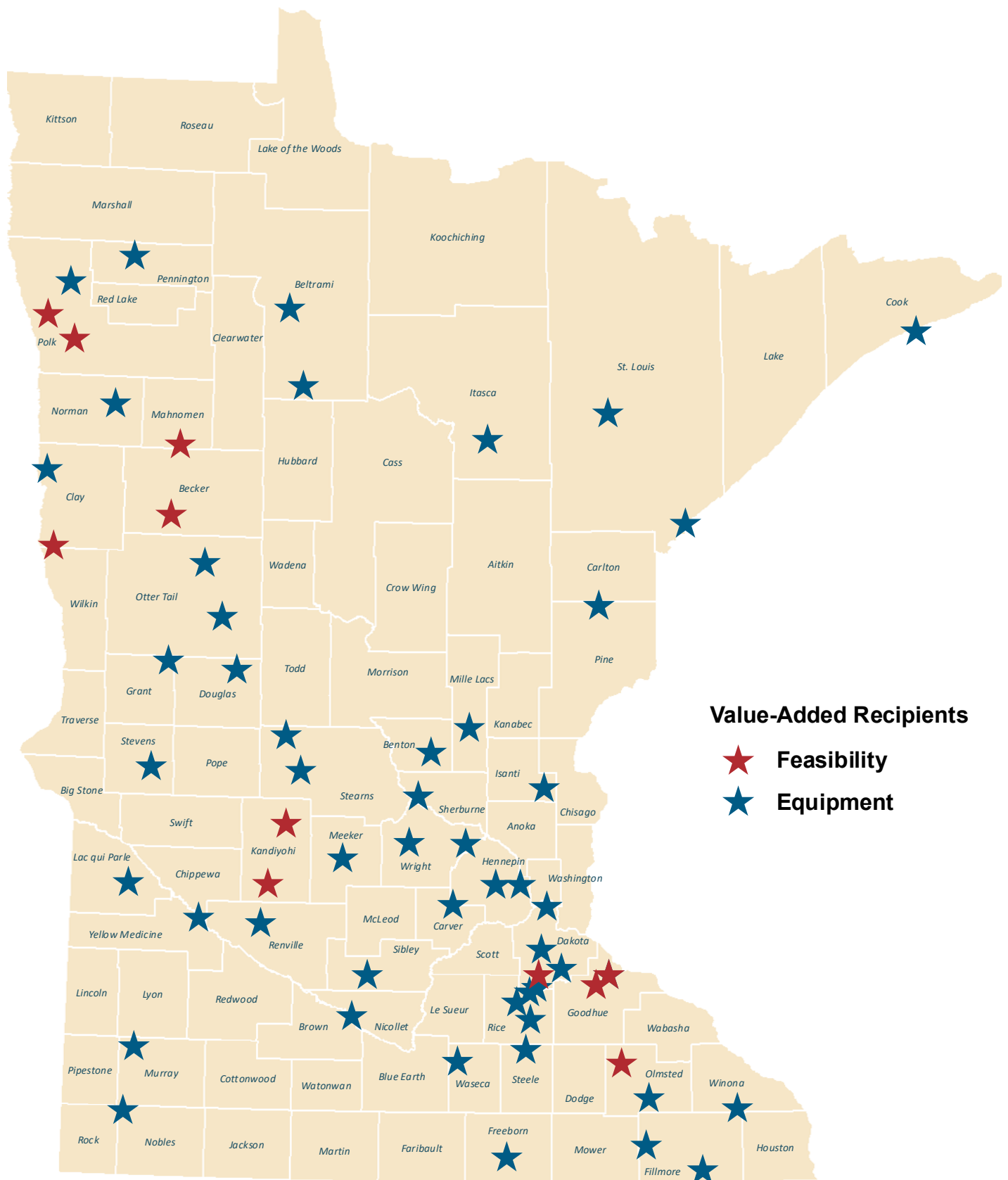
Business Name	County	Summary
Metz's Hart-Land Creamery	Winona	Vat pasteurizer, holding tank, hardening cabinet, freezer, and delivery vehicle for gelato production
NewStarch Solutions, LLC	Hennepin	Modified single screw extruder to convert corn starch resin into corn starch sheets
Northern Pride	Pennington	Upgraded packaging equipment with case erector, box former, and robotic palletizing capabilities; Automated injection equipment
Oak Meadow Meats	Dakota	Horizontal slicer
Ole's Up Nort Meats & Processing	Otter Tail	Meat processing facility
Organic Breezy Hill, LLC	Wright	Pasteurizer for the bottling of organic apple juice and associated physical improvements to address food safety issues
Owl Forest Farm	Saint Louis	Storage and processing facility with walk-in cooler for produce and cut flowers
Peterson Farms	Lac qui Parle	Grain cleaning facility
Prairie Meats Inc.	Renville	Meat processing and retail facility
Regeneration Farms	Rice	Mobile poultry processing unit
RGI Rental, LLC dba Backroad Meats	Mille Lacs	Meat processing facility and equipment
Rod's Berry Farm	Chisago	Used cooler to store berries post-harvest
RS Grain, LLC	Polk	Cleaning and sorting equipment for small grains
Sawtooth Mountain Maple Syrup Co.	Cook	Maple syrup evaporating equipment
Schaefer's Market	Stearns	Smokehouse
Spring Wind Farm, LLC	Dakota	Construction of a packshed and related equipment to support CSA
Star of the North Bean, LLC	Norman	Cleaning, packaging, and conveyor equipment to put dry beans into reusable square plastic containers
Stittsworth Smokehouse Co.	Beltrami	High throughput meat processing equipment
TFC Poultry	Grant	X-Ray machine for turkey processing to detect physical contaminants in boneless turkey products
V&M Grocery Locker	Nobles	Retail store and sausage kitchen
Valley Butchery and Meat Market, LLC	Fillmore	Smokehouse, walk-in cooler, saw, grinder, linker, cutting tables, and freezer
Wiste's Meat Market, LLC	Waseca	Meat processing, packaging, and refrigeration equipment
Yellow Medicine Distilleries	Yellow Medicine	150-gallon distillery system
Yker Meat Co, LLC	Carlton	Equipment and facility to process and retail meat
Yker Meat Co, LLC	Saint Louis	Butchering facility; mobile sausage making unit

## Value-Added Feasibility Study Grant Recipients

Business Name	County	Summary
Benson and Turner Foods, LLC	Mahnomen	Developing plan for a farm to table butcher shop with a USDA or state equivalent slaughter floor and processing plant
Blue Water Farms, LLC	Goodhue	Creating a strategic plan and business roadmap for a sustainable, intensive system for production of walleye and saugeye
Dennis Egan, Epite Energy	Goodhue	Planning for the construction of a crush facility to produce oil and meal from specialty bean crops
Lynn Brakke	Clay	Evaluating the feasibility of selling a ground, dried, organic sugar beet product as a feed ingredient to certified organic dairies
MANNA Food Co-op	Becker	Investigating ways to improve the food distribution system between farmers/producers and businesses purchasing food (retail and food service) within a 100-mile radius of Detroit Lakes
Simply Shrimp, LLC	Kandiyohi	Evaluating the opportunities and risks of establishing two additional aquaculture facilities at the businesses current location
Squash Blossom Farm	Olmsted	Assessing the feasibility of producing and marketing mead (honey wine) using locally sourced honey and fruits
Robbin Brekken Farms, Inc.	Polk	Evaluating the market feasibility of Minnesota grown and produced organic pellets for livestock feed
Vertical Malt	Polk	Developing a plan for a Vertical Malt processing plant
Hanappe Ranch, LLC	Dakota	Creating a feasibility study for a butcher shop
Lettuce Abound, LLC	Kandiyohi	Investigating value-added strategies to increase production and sale of local, organic lettuce

## Value-Added Grants by County

Fiscal Year 2019



## Farm to School and Early Care and Education Grant Recipients

Organization	City	Summary
Minneapolis Public Schools	Minneapolis	Purchase conveyer to inspect and sort foods
Foley Public Schools	Foley	Purchase combi-ovens
Eastern Carver County	Chaska	Purchase two combi-ovens
Orono Public Schools	Long Lake	Purchase combo-ovens, blender and utensils
Richfield Middle School	Richfield	Purchase two combi-ovens
Robbinsdale Area Schools	New Hope	Purchase combo-oven, juicer and vacuum sealer
Robbinsdale Area Schools	New Hope	Establish new vendor partnership with The Food Group
Jackson County Central	Jackson	Purchase cooler, two convection ovens
Shakopee Public Schools	Shakopee	Purchase two stackable combi-ovens
Winona Public Schools	Winona	Purchase tilting skillet and two salad bars
Mesabi East Schools	Aurora	Purchase refrigerator, freezer, vacuum packaging and dehydrator
Playhouse Child Care Center	Saint Cloud	Purchase Robot Coupe, patty press and portable workstation
The Good Acre	Falcon Heights	Assist metro schools to increase procurement



## Milk Cooler Grant Recipients

School	City
Academia Cesar Chavez Charter School	Saint Paul
Academy for Sciences & Agriculture High School	Vadnais Heights
Ada-Borup School District	Ada
Alden Conger Public Schools	Alden
Alexandria, Early Education Center	Alexandria
All Saints Catholic School	Lakeville
Anna Bremer Education Center	Brooklyn Park
Aspen Academy	Savage
Augsburg Fairview Academy	Minneapolis
Bdote Learning Center	Minneapolis
Becker, Primary School	Becker
Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa	Brooten
Blessed Trinity School	Richfield
Braham, Elementary	Braham
Braham, High School	Braham
Brainerd, Garfield Elementary	Brainerd
Brainerd, Harrison Elementary	Brainerd
Brainerd, Lowell Elementary	Brainerd
Buffalo-Hanover-Montrose, Buffalo High	Buffalo
Burnsville-Eagan-Savage, Marion W. Savage Elementary	Savage
Caledonia Elementary School	Caledonia
Career Pathways	Saint Paul
Cass Lake-Bena Elementary School	Cass Lake
Cass Lake-Bena Middle School	Cass Lake
Chisholm Public Schools	Chisholm
Chokio Alberta Schools	Chokio
Cleveland Public School	Cleveland
Close to My Heart	Maplewood
Cologne Academy	Cologne
Cori's Kidz	Maplewood
Dover-Eyota, Jr/High School	Eyota
Dover-Eyota, Jr/High School	Eyota
Duluth, Lakewood Elementary	Duluth

School	City
Duluth, Lowell Elementary	Duluth
Duluth, Stowe Elementary	Duluth
ECHO Charter School	Echo
Elk River Area, Lincoln Elementary	Elk River
Elk River Area, Twin Lakes Elementary	Elk River
Elk River Parker Elementary	Elk River
Fillmore Central, Elementary	Preston
Fillmore Central, High School	Harmony
Fillmore Central, One Block at a Time	Preston
Forest Lake Area, Forest View Elementary	Forest Lake
Forest Lake Area, Lindwood Elementary	Forest Lake
Forest Lake Area, Scandia Elementary	Scandia
Fridley, Community Center	Fridley
Fridley, Stevenson Elementary	Fridley
Future Scholars Childcare, Inc.	Minneapolis
Glencoe-Silver Lake, Lincoln Elementary	Glencoe
Glenwood Child Care Center	Minneapolis
Global Academy	Columbia Heights
Hallie Q. Brown Community Center	Saint Paul
Hayfield Community Schools	Hayfield
Hendricks Public School	Hendricks
Hinkley-Finlayson, Elementary	Hinckley
Hope Lutheran High School	Winona
Immanuel Lutheran School	Lewiston
Kids-R-It	Worthington
Kimball Elementary	Kimball
Kimball High School	Kimball
Kipp Minnesota Campus 2	Minneapolis
Kipp NorthStar Academy	Minneapolis

## Milk Cooler Grant Recipients

School	City
Kipp NorthStar Primary	Minneapolis
Lake Park Audubon Elementary	Lake Park
Lakes International Language Academy	Forest Lake
Lakeville, Century Middle	Lakeville
Lakeville, Huddleston Elementary	Lakeville
Lakeville, Orchard Lake Elementary	Lakeville
Lanesboro, Child Care Center	Lanesboro
Lanesboro, Elementary	Lanesboro
Lanesboro, Kids Korner	Lanesboro
Little Falls, High School	Little Falls
Little Falls, Grant-Lincoln School	Little Falls
Little Falls, Middle School	Little Falls
Loyola Catholic School	Mankato
Maple Lake, Elementary School	Maple Lake
Marshall, High School	Marshall
Mesabi East Schools	Aurora
Mid-State Education District	Little Falls
Milaca, Alternative Learning Center	Milaca
Minneapolis, Anderson United Community School	Minneapolis
Minneota Public School	Minneota
Monticello School District	Monticello
Most Holy Redeemer School	Montgomery
Mountain Lake School	Mountain Lake
Mt. Iron-Buhl Public Schools	Mt. Iron
Nashwauk Keewatin Public Schools	Nashwauk
New Heights School	Stillwater
New London-Spicer, Prairie Woods Elementary	New London
New Prague, Falcon Ridge Elementary	New Prague
New Ulm, Jefferson Elementary	New Ulm

School	City
New Ulm, Learning Center	New Ulm
New Ulm, Middle School	New Ulm
Nokomis Daycare	Minneapolis
Nompeng Academy	Brooklyn Center
Nompeng Academy Noble	Brooklyn Center
North Branch Sunrise	North Branch
North Saint Paul-Maplewood, Cowen Elementary	North Saint Paul
North Saint Paul-Maplewood, Oakdale Elementary	Oakdale
North Saint Paul -Maplewood, Tartan High	Oakdale
Owatonna Public Schools Wilson Elementary	Owatonna
Parnassus Preparatory School of Grammar	Maple Grove
Parnassus Preparatory School of Logic	Maple Grove
Parnassus Preparatory School of Rhetoric	Maple Grove
Partnership Academy	Richfield
Pierz, Healy High School	Pierz
Pierz, Pioneer Elementary	Pierz
Pipestone, Brown Elementary	Pipestone
Plainview-Elgin-Millville, Elgin Elementary	Elgin
Plainview-Elgin-Millville, High School	Plainview
Plainview-Elgin-Millville, Jr High School	Elgin
Prairie Seeds Academy	Brooklyn Park
Redwood, Middle/High School	Redwood Falls
Redwood, Reede Gray Elementary	Redwood Falls
Richfield, Centennial Elementary	Richfield
Richfield, Middle School	Richfield
Robbinsdale, Sonnesyn Elementary	New Hope

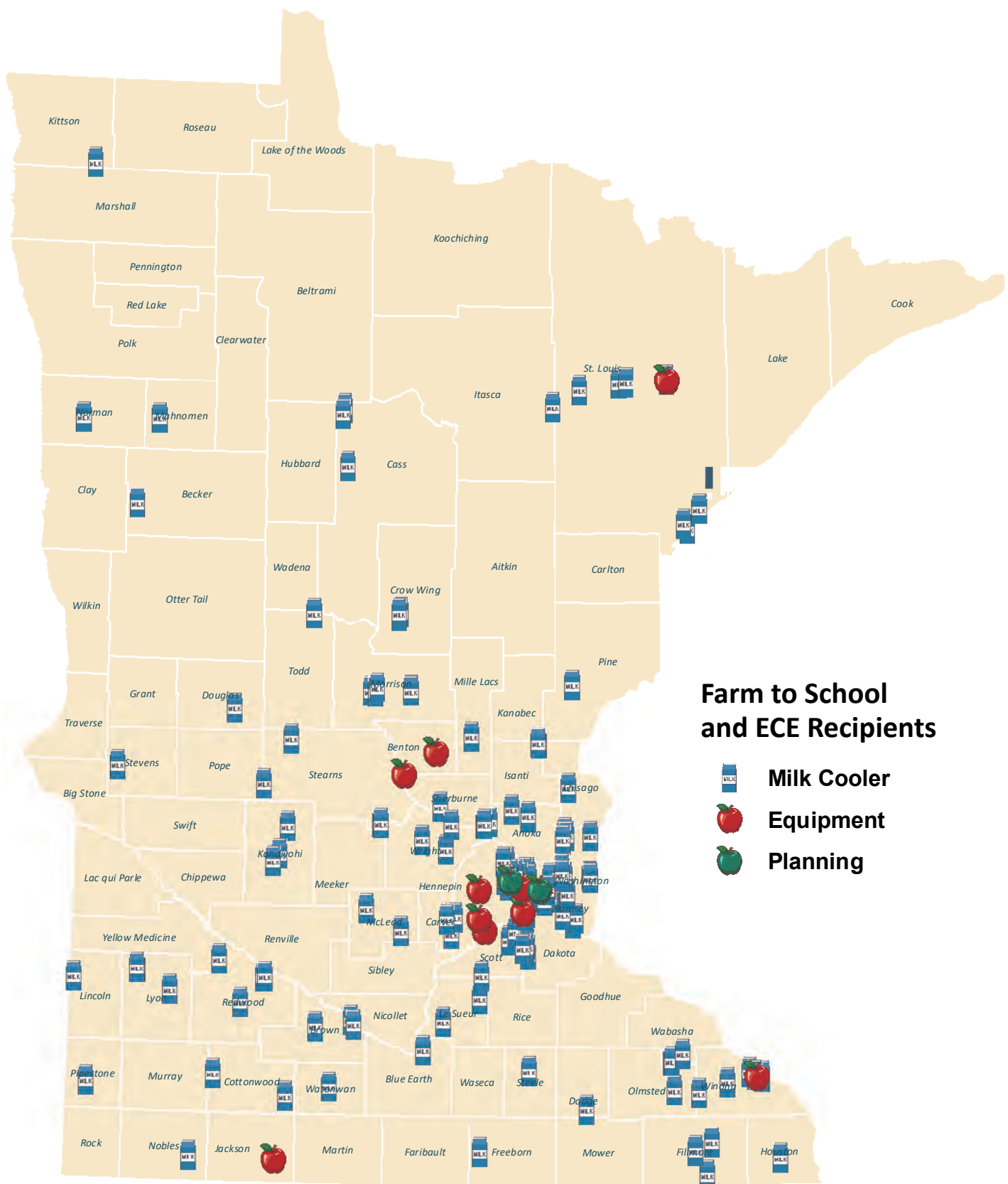
## Milk Cooler Grant Recipients

School	City
Robbinsdale, Spanish Immersion	New Hope
Robbinsdale, Zachary Lane Elementary	Plymouth
Sauk Centre, Elementary	Sauk Centre
Sauk Centre, Elementary	Sauk Centre
Sleepy Eye, Elementary	Sleepy Eye
South Washington County, Armstrong Elementary	Cottage Grove
South Washington County, Grey Cloud Elementary	Cottage Grove
South Washington County, Newport Elementary	Newport
Southside Child Development Center LLC	Minneapolis
Saint Anastasia Elementary	Hutchinson
Saint Charles Elementary	Saint Charles
Saint Edward School	Minneota
Saint Francis, Cedar Creek Elementary	East Bethel
Saint Francis, East Bethel Elementary	East Bethel
Saint Francis, Saint Francis Elementary	Saint Francis
Saint James, Middle/Senior High School	Saint James
Saint Michael's School	Mahnomen
Saint Paul, Hamline Elementary	Saint Paul
Saint Paul, Linwood Monroe Arts Upper Campus	Saint Paul

School	City
Saint Paul, Washington Technology	Saint Paul
Staples-Motley, Elementary School	Staples
Stillwater, Stillwater Middle School	Stillwater
Success Academy	Bloomington
Tri-County Schools	Karlstad
Virginia, Senior High School	Virginia
Wabasso Public School	Wabasso
Waconia, High School	Waconia
Waconia, Laketown Elementary	Waconia
Waconia, Southview Elementary	Waconia
Walker-Hackensack-Akeley	Walker
Westbrook Walnut Grove	Westbrook
White Bear Lake, Lakeaires Elementary	White Bear Lake
White Bear Lake, Matoska International	White Bear Lake
White Bear Lake, North Campus	White Bear Lake
Willmar, Kennedy Elementary	Willmar
Willmar, Senior High School	Willmar
Winona Area Catholic Schools, Preschool and EduCare	Winona
Winona Area Catholic Schools, Saint Stan's Elementary	Winona
Winona Area, Goodview Elementary	Goodview
Winona Area, Jefferson Elementary	Winona
Winona Area, Washington Elementary	Winona

## Farm to School and Early Care and Education Grants by County

Fiscal Year 2019



## Minnesota Pavilion Participants

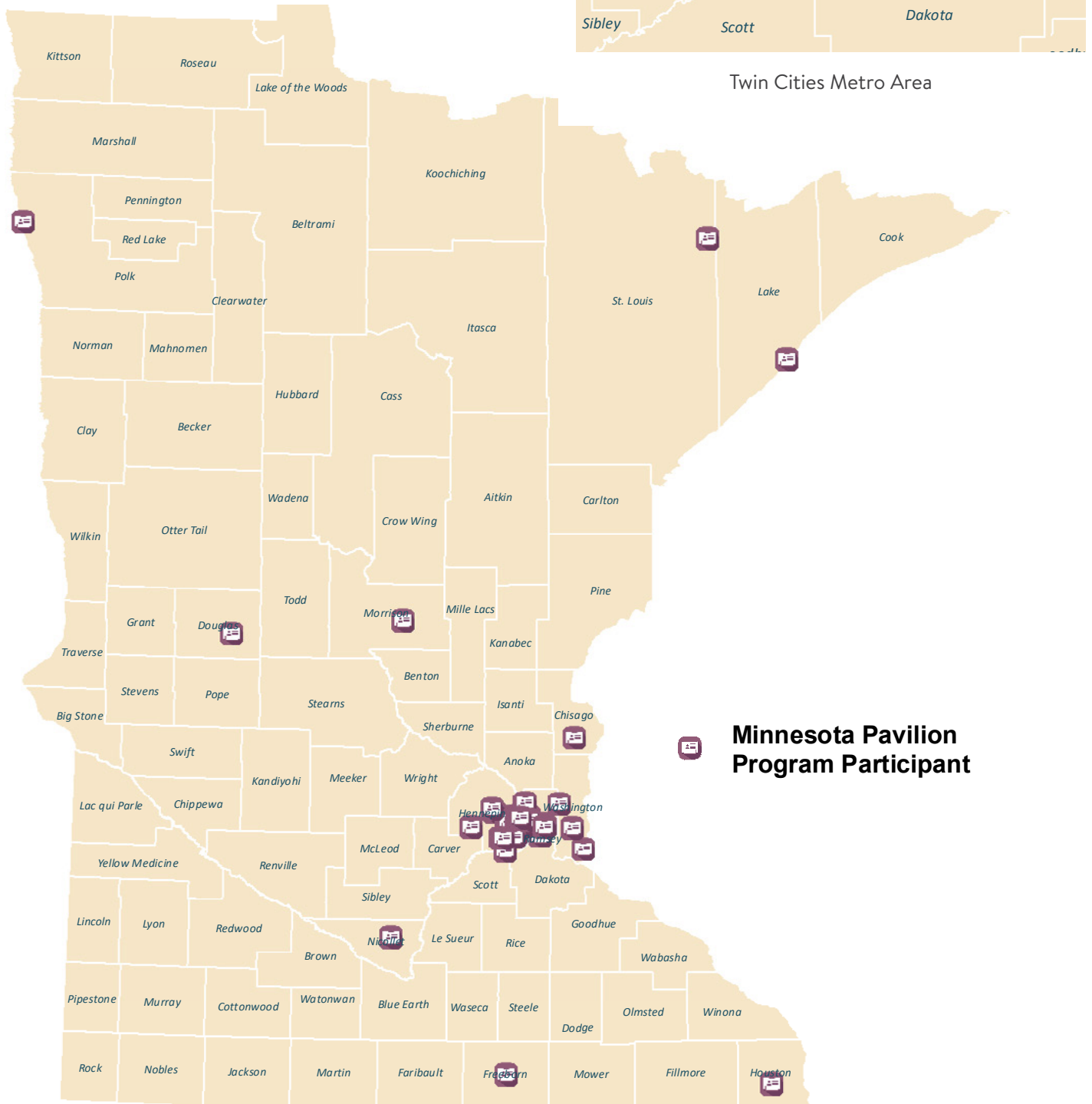
Business Name	City	County
Acme Organics	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Big Watt	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Bliss Gourmet Foods	Saint Paul	Ramsey
Captain Ken's Foods	Saint Paul	Ramsey
Compart Family Farms	Nicollet	Nicollet
Crapola	Ely	Saint Louis
Double Take Salsa	Edina	Hennepin
Dr. In the Kitchen	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Dutch House Confections	Nelson	Douglas
Five Friends Food, LLC (nomi Snacks)	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Freak Flag Foods	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Get Bizzy (Bizzy Coffee)	Brooklyn Center	Hennepin
Grandma's Gourmets LLC	Albert Lea	Freeborn
Healthy America, LLC (The Amazing Chickpea)	Silver Bay	Lake
Henke Foods, LLC (Annie B's/BT McElrath)	Mahtomedi	Washington
Hope Products, LLC	Excelsior	Hennepin
Jonny pops	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Joyce Foods (Toom)	Mendota Heights	Dakota
Kakookies	Plymouth	Hennepin
Kay's Naturals	Clara City	Chippewa
K-Mama Sauce	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Log House Foods (WholeMe)	Plymouth	Hennepin
Lotus Pops (Atlas Provisions, LLC)	Saint Paul	Ramsey
Maddy & Maize (S Brand, LLC)	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Magic Straws (Reach Co.)	Bloomington	Hennepin
Make it Simple	Woodbury	Washington
Mama Kicks!	Edina	Hennepin
Maude Borup	Plymouth	Hennepin
Minnesota Hemp Farms	Hastings	Dakota
Nordic Waffles	Saint Paul	Ramsey
North Mallow	Golden Valley	Hennepin
Punk Rawk Labs	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Purely Seed	Chisago City	Chisago



## Minnesota Pavilion Participants

Business Name	City	County
Red River Valley Potatoes	East Grand Forks	Polk
River Hills Harvest Marketers, LLC	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Route To India (Yoga Pops)	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Seven Sundays	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Smude's	Pierz	Morrison
SnoPac	Caledonia	Houston
So Good Brands (So Good So You)	Minneapolis	Hennepin
SunOpta	Edina	Hennepin
Superior Switchel Co.	Saint Louis Park	Hennepin
TC Chocolate	Fergus Falls	Otter Tail
Way Better Snacks	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Wildly Organic (Wilderness Family Naturals)	Silver Bay	Lake

# Minnesota Pavilion Participants by County Fiscal Year 2019



## Tradeshow and Demo Cost-Share Recipients

Business Name	City	County
3 Bear Oats	Minneapolis	Hennepin
3 Lonetti Sisters	Saint Paul	Ramsey
4 MK, LLC	Eden Prairie	Hennepin
Abdallah Candies	Apple Valley	Dakota
Ames Farm LTD	Delano	Wright
Atlas Provisions	Saint Paul	Ramsey
Baker's Field Flour and Bread	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Bare Honey	Saint Paul	Ramsey
Beautiful Necessity (Cocco Amour Foods)	Minneapolis	Hennepin
BET Vodka	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Big Watt Coffee	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Bliss Gourmet Foods	Saint Paul	Ramsey
Blue Earth Valley Trading Co.	Mankato	Blue Earth
Blume Brauhaus	Roseville	Ramsey
Bodylish	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Bolton Bees	Saint Paul	Ramsey
Bongards Creameries	Chanhassen	Hennepin
Bootlegger Brewing	Apple Valley	Dakota
Brody's 579	Mahtomedi	Washington
CannonBelles Cheese	Randolph	Dakota
CaPRA Nera Creamery	Altura	Winona
Clover Valley Farms	Duluth	Saint Louis
Coco, Bee & Nut	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Coconut Whisk	Rosemount	Dakota
Creative Confectionaire	Hastings	Dakota
Crooked Water Spirits	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Darling Foods	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Shokolade Haven	Lindstrom	Chisago
Desserts by Alighieri	Saint Paul	Ramsey
Dombrovski Meats	Foley	Benton
Dumpling and Strand Noodlers at Large	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Dutch House Confections	Alexandria	Douglas
Eichtens Cheese	Center City	Chisago

## Tradeshow and Demo Cost-Share Recipients

Business Name	City	County
ENKI Brewing Co.	Victoria	Carver
Envy Brands	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Five Friends Food/Nomi	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Freak Flag Foods	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Frederick Sound Fish Co.	Rochester	Olmsted
Get Bizzy Coffee	New Brighton	Ramsey
Grandma's Gourmets	Albert Lea	Freeborn
Gray Duck	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Grlk	West Saint Paul	Dakota
Gustola Granola	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Double Take Salsa	Edina	Hennepin
Amazing Chickpea	Saint Louis Park	Lake
Hellraising Hot Sauce	Richfield	Hennepin
Henke Foods	Mahtomedi	Washington
Hoyo, SBC	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Humble Nut Butter	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Jazzy Foods	Saint Paul	Ramsey
Jen's Jars LLC	Minnetonka	Hennepin
Keepsake Cidery	Dundas	Rice
KellyG's Inc.	Bovey	Itasca
KISS LLC	Milaca	Mille Lacs
Lake Country Libare	Waconia	Carver
Mama Kicks	Edina	Hennepin
Mama Stoen's	Owatonna	Steele
Metz's Hart-Land Creamery	Rushford	Fillmore
Midwest Elderberry Cooperative	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Minnesota Hemp Farms	Hastings	Dakota
Minnesota Nice Spice	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Mixmi Brands	Eden Prairie	Hennepin
Mostly Made	Wayzata	Hennepin
Mr. B's Chocolate	Willmar	Kandiyohi
Mucci's Frozen Pizza	Saint Paul	Ramsey
My Sweet Greens	Zumbrota	Goodhue
Nordic Waffles	Saint Paul	Ramsey

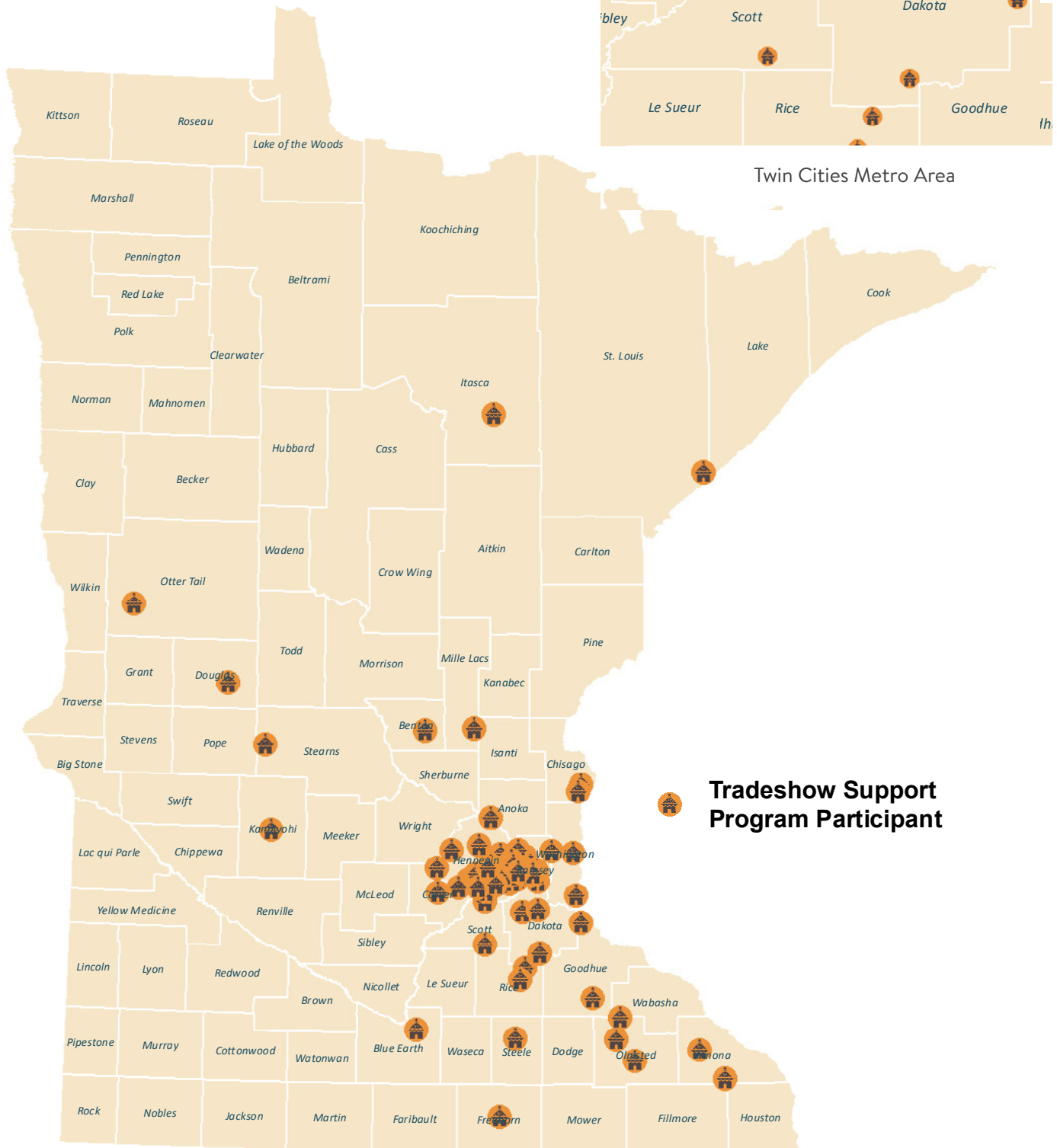
## Tradeshow and Demo Cost-Share Recipients

Business Name	City	County
North Mallow	Golden Valley	Hennepin
Origin Meals	Excelsior	Hennepin
Pam's Pepper Jam	Robbinsdale	Hennepin
Panache	Saint Paul	Ramsey
Papa George	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Peace Coffee	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Planet Princess Foods	Saint Paul	Ramsey
Punk Rawk Labs	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Putting on the Ritts	Maple Plain	Hennepin
Qwiznibet Foods	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Red Table Meat Co.	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Redhead Creamery	Brooten	Stearns
River Hills Harvest Marketers, LLC	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Route to India	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Sara's Topsy Pies	Stillwater	Washington
S Brand LLC	Saint Paul	Ramsey
Salsa Del Diablo	Rochester	Olmsted
Seven Sundays	Minneapolis	Hennepin
So Good Brand	Minneapolis	Hennepin
Spoon Optional	Minnetonka	Hennepin
Stone Gate Foods	Shakopee	Scott
Superior Switchel	Saint Louis Park	Hennepin
Sweetland Orchard	Webster	Rice
Taking Stock Foods	Saint Paul	Ramsey
Tantalizing Taste	Otsego	Wright
Terroir Chocolate	Fergus Falls	Otter Tail
The Bee Shed	Oronoco	Olmsted
Think Mint/AKA Farm You	Northfield	Dakota
Thirty-two Degrees	Maple Grove	Hennepin
West End Enterprises	Maple Grove	Hennepin
You Betcha Kimchi	Minneapolis	Hennepin



## Tradeshow and Demo Cost-Share Recipients by County

Fiscal Year 2019



## Crop Research Grant Recipients

Project Title	Organization Name	Principal Investigator	Crop
Going Greener: Improving Cultivated Wild Rice Integrated Disease Management to Reduce Fungicide Use	Minnesota Cultivated Wild Rice Council	Beth Nelson	Wild Rice
Wheat Variety and Sourdough Product Analysis for Anti-Nutrient Levels Related to Digestibility	Agricultural Utilization Research Institute	Shannon Schlecht	Wheat
Novel cropping systems for economic and environmental improvement in hard fescue seed production	Regents of the University of Minnesota	Eric Watkins	Turf Grass
Addressing Trade-Offs Between Weed Control and Cover Crops Using a Systems Approach	Regents of the University of Minnesota	Gregg Johnson	Cover Crops
Developing Two-Rowed Barley Varieties for Farmers, Maltsters, Brewers, and the Environment	Regents of the University of Minnesota	Kevin Smith	Barley
Building on the foundation of the Minnesota Oat Breeding Program	Regents of the University of Minnesota	Kevin Smith	Oat
Evaluating 2nd Generation Hybrid Hazelnut Germplasm for Minnesota	Regents of the University of Minnesota	Lois Braun	Hazelnut
Development and Evaluation of Cold Hardy Table Grapes	Regents of the University of Minnesota	Matthew Clark	Grapes
Management Practices to Improve Seed Yields and Stability of Tall Fescue in Northern Minnesota	Regents of the University of Minnesota	Nancy Ehlke	Turf Grass
Developing seed tests for regulatory compliance and improving Minnesota industrial hemp	Regents of the University of Minnesota	George Weiblen	Hemp

## Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant Recipients

Organization	County	Summary
Anishinaabe Agriculture Institute	Becker	Create an integrated hemp and traditional foods working and demonstration farm, utilizing rotational planting, natural fertilizers, and greenhouses
Brouwer Berries	Kandiyohi	Test the effectiveness of sheep grazing on grass cover crops as a method of improving soil health, reducing weed pressure, and increasing strawberry yield
Cannon River Watershed Partnership	Rice and Goodhue	Determine a pathway for greater farm profitability and practice adoption by testing the effect of corn row width on cover crop biomass and corn grain yields
Canosia Grove, LLC	Saint Louis	Evaluate rotational grazing in an orchard to improve pasture health, reduce energy input, and increase profit
Environmental Initiative	Stearns, Todd, Morrison, Benton, Wright, Meeker, Kandiyohi, Pope, and Douglas	Investigate and create case studies for farming practices that benefit both cost of production for farmers and natural resource conservation and demonstrate the benefits of these practices
Keith and Anna Johnson Farm	Sibley	Test two pasture types to finish lambs and evaluate economics and meat quality from each type compared to lambs on a feedlot ration
Main Street Project	Dakota and Rice	Evaluate hazelnuts as a soy protein replacement in free-range poultry systems for feed quality, nutrition and palatability
North Star Farm Tour	Dakota, Faribault, Fillmore, Goodhue, Olmstead, Ramsey, Rice, Scott, and Wright	Explore North Star Farm Tour as a sustainable agri-tourism model for small fiber producers
WillowSedge Farm	Aitkin, Ramsey, and Rice	Determine the viability of a Forever Green poultry ration built on small grains and perennial crops for production of small-flock meat chickens

## Urban Agriculture Grant Recipients

Organization	City	Summary
Appetite for Change	Hennepin	Train youth in urban agriculture and expand garden to increase the amount of produce grown
Duluth Community Garden Program	Saint Louis	Expand the One Vegetable, One Community program through after school programming and community garden improvements
Fairmont Area Kinship	Martin	Create mentorship program for youth and adults surrounding the life cycle of plants
Fairmont Area Schools	Martin	Enhance science and math lessons through educational tower gardens
Frogstown Gardens DBA Frogstown Farm	Ramsey	Provide farm tours to local schools and youth organizations. Apprentice local youth in urban farming techniques
Little Earth Residents Association	Hennepin	Teach local youth about traditional Native American methods of nurturing, harvesting, preparing, and distributing crops
Our Community Food Projects	Washington	Develop a sustainable method of growing Cassava in Minnesota
Spark-Y	Hennepin	Expand current urban agriculture farm into the Northeast Sustainability Hub
Regents of the University of Minnesota, Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and related Sciences	Ramsey	Establish an after-school program and chapter at three high schools for minority students to be exposed to agriculture, food and natural resources academic programs
Urban Roots	Ramsey	Develop a site on Saint Paul's Eastside into an educational urban farm and production destination
Victory Neighborhood Association	Hennepin	Teach families in North Minneapolis how to grow produce along their alleyways and boulevards