



Farm Safety & Farm Stress

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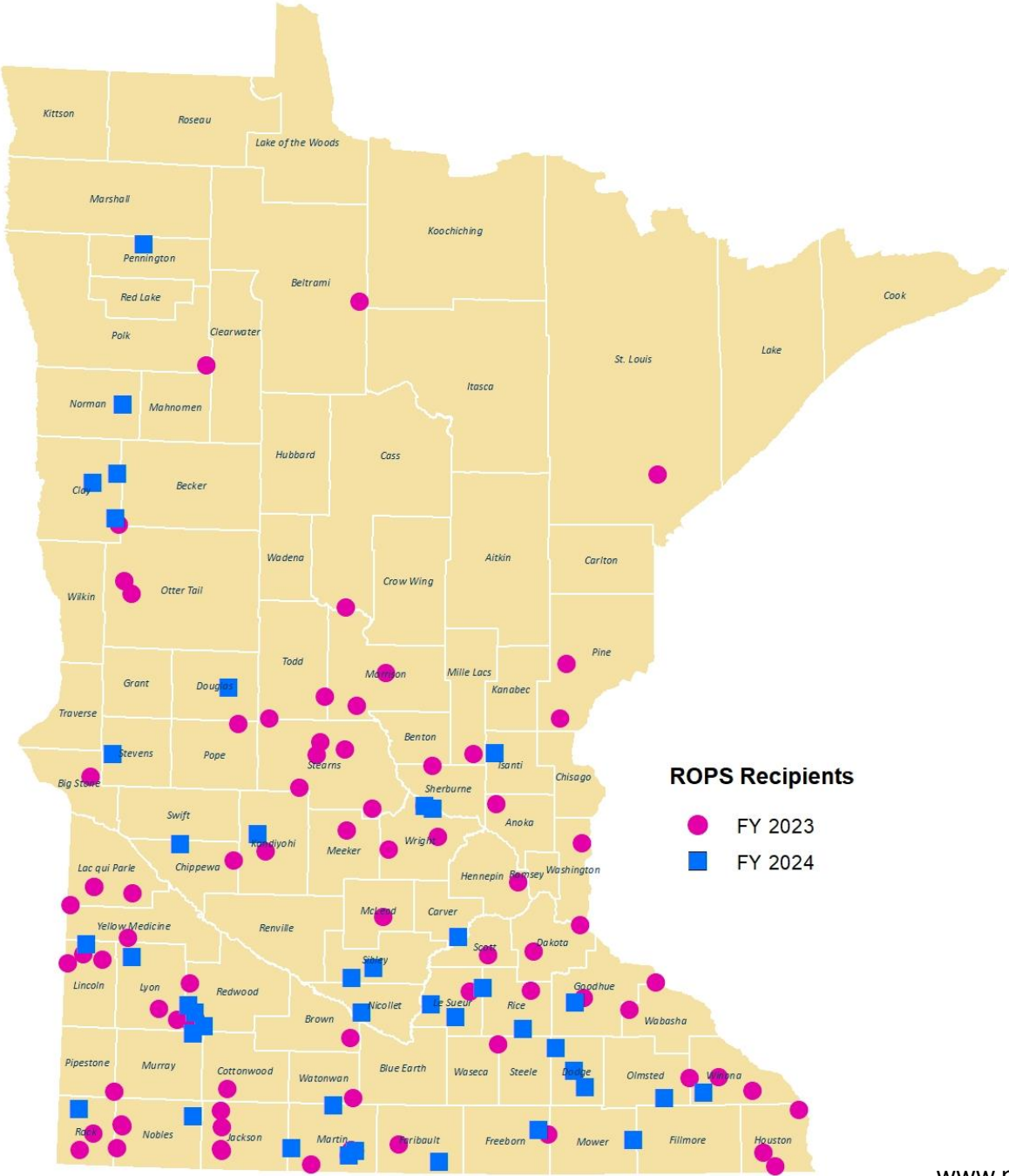
Rollover Protective Structure (ROPS) Rebate



Helps Minnesota farmers retrofit tractors built before 1987 with a certified rollover protection kit (rollbar and seatbelt)

- Covers 70% of cost
- Farmers pay maximum of \$500 per tractor

Rollover Protective Structures (ROPS) Rebates



FY 2023:

- 81 Installs - \$101,611 (Average cost \$1,254)

FY 2024:

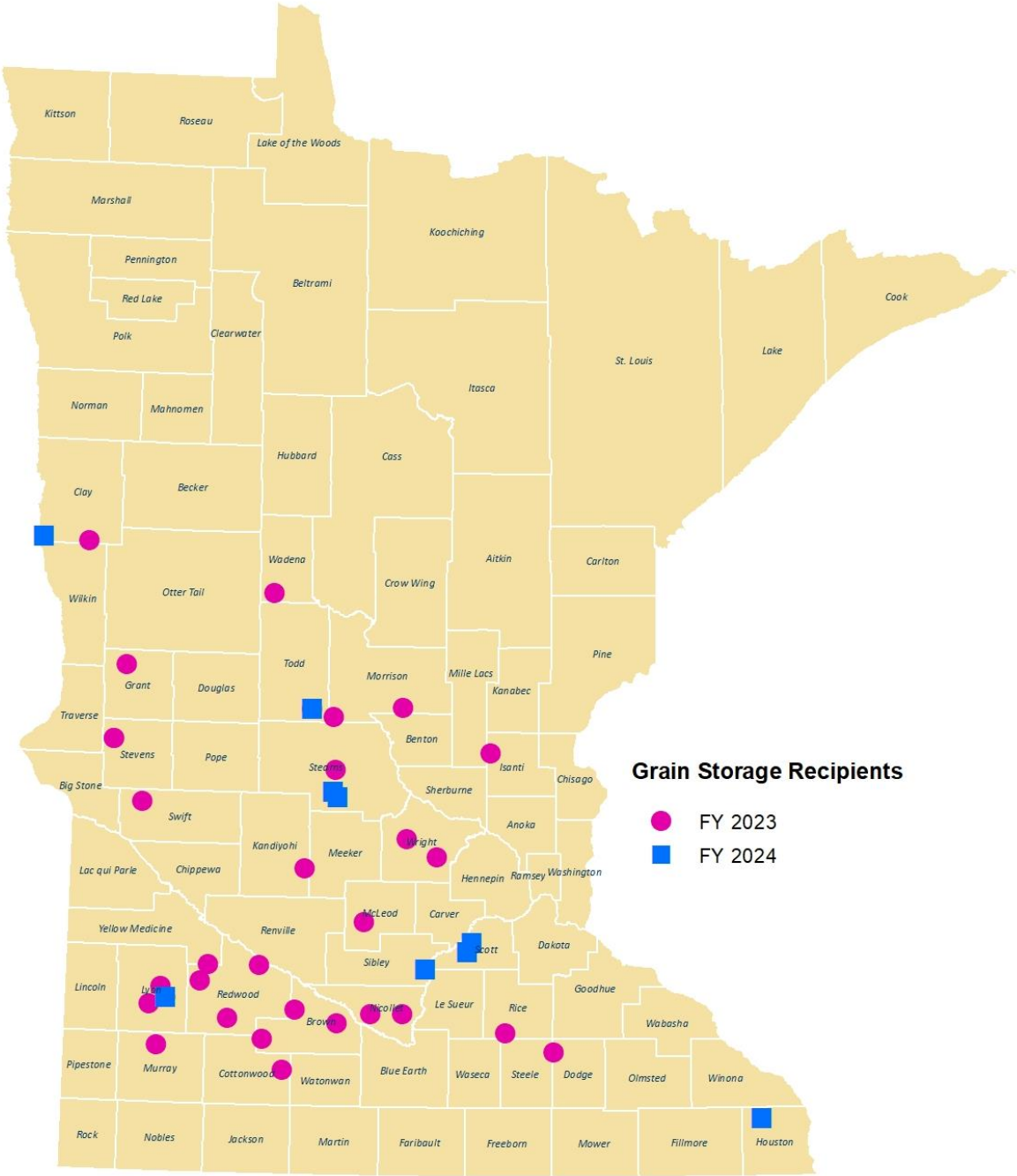
- 43 Installs - \$61,370 (Average cost \$1,427)

Grain Storage Facility Safety Grant

- Helps Minnesota farmers buy and install safety equipment for on-farm grain bins or silos
- Reimburses up to 75%
 - \$400 maximum per bin or silo
- What's eligible?
 - Fall protection systems, guardrail systems, equipment shields, and more



Grain Storage Facility Safety Grants



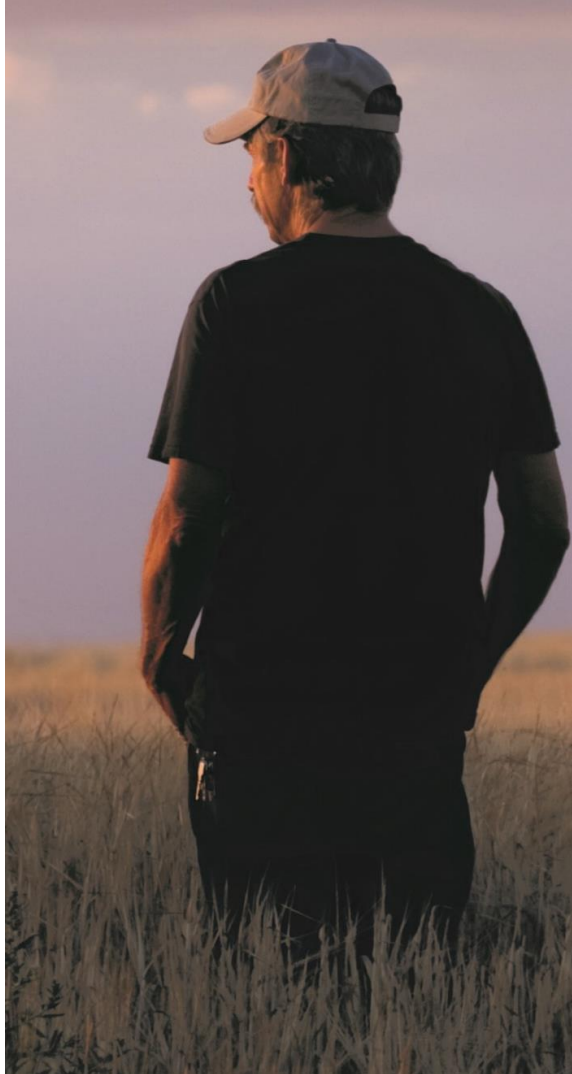
FY 2023:

- 31 Farms – Totaling \$27,956 (Average per farm \$901)

FY 2024:

- 9 Farms – Total \$10,173 (Average per farm \$1,130)

Farm Stress and Farmer Mental Health



Key Assumptions

1. Different people need different things
2. Make help as normal and easy to find as possible
3. Lots already exists



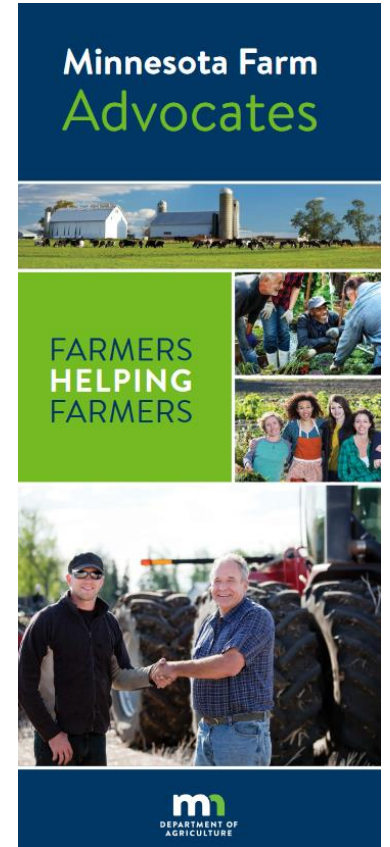
- Minnesota Corn Growers
- Minnesota Department of Health
- Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs
- Minnesota Farm Bureau
- Minnesota Farmers Union
- Minnesota FFA Foundation
- Minnesota State
- Minnesota State Mankato University – Center for Rural Behavioral Health
- Minnesota Soybean Growers
- North Central Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
- United States Department of Agriculture – Farm Service Agency
- University of Minnesota Extension

Legislative Funding is Essential

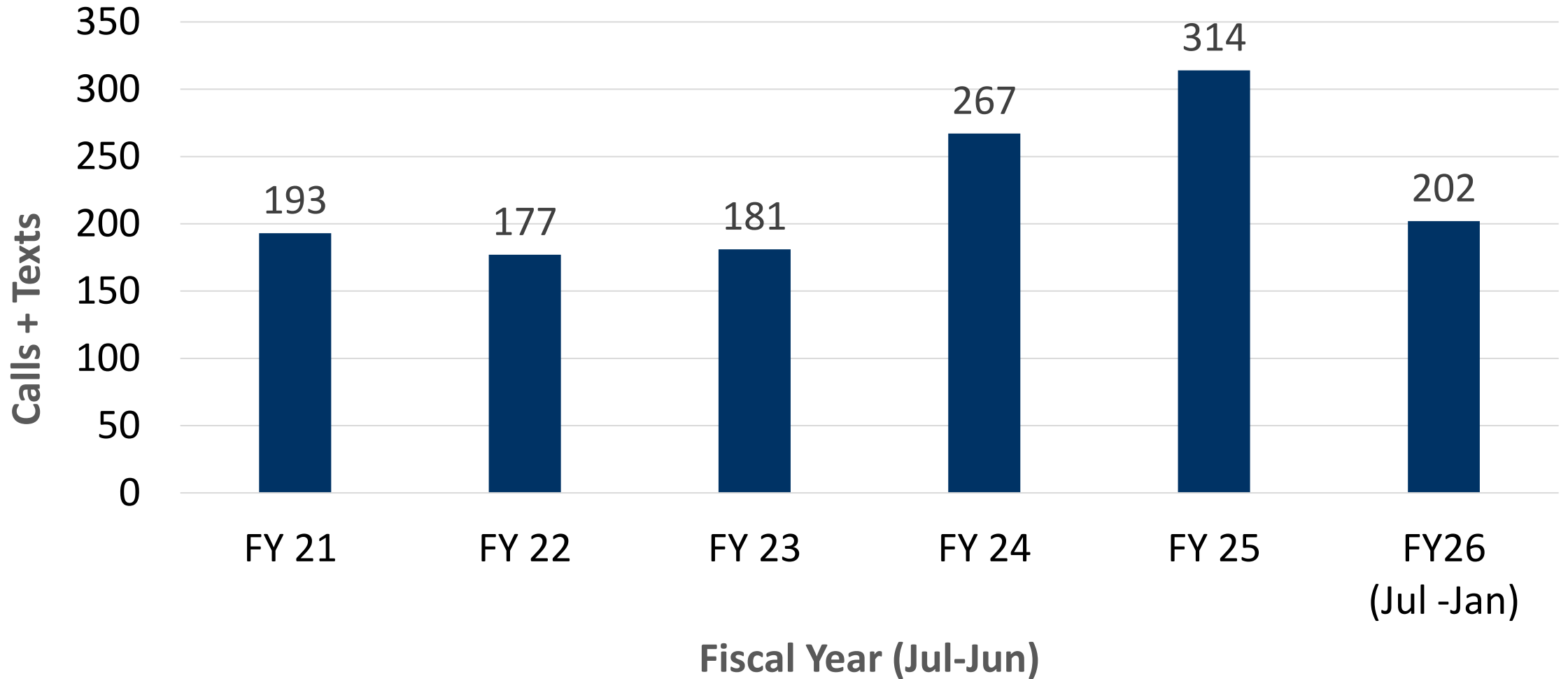
- Agricultural Mental Health Providers
- Minnesota Farm & Rural Helpline
- Minnesota Farm Advocates
- MN FarmLink, Transition/Succession
- Outreach & Promotion



www.mda.state.mn.us



MN Farm & Rural Helpline Activity



Outreach



State Fair: Fan Mail for Farmers



Farmfest

Promotion

COPING WITH
FARM & RURAL
STRESS
IN MINNESOTA

KEY POV HWM
QOQB LOO
& LIAJ TEB
HAUV MINNESOTA

LA QABSIGA
WALWALKA
BEERAHA
& MIYIGA
EE MINISOOTA

LIDIANDO CON
EL ESTRÉS
AGRÍCOLA Y
RURAL
EN MINNESOTA

**YOU
MATTER.** TALK TO US.



No concern is too small.

MINNESOTA FARM & RURAL HELPLINE

☎ 833-600-2670

✉ Text farmstress to 898211



www.mda.state.mn.us/farmstressorders



Minnesota Farm Advocates

Minnesota Farm Advocates

- The Farm Advocate Program has been supported by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture since 1984
 - There is no charge or fee for Farm Advocate assistance
- Farm Advocates provide one-on-one assistance for Minnesota farmers who face a crisis caused by either a natural disaster or financial problems
- Farm Advocates understand the needs of agricultural families and communities
 - They are trained and experienced in agricultural lending practices, mediation, lender negotiation, farm programs, crisis counseling, disaster programs and to recognize the need for legal and/or social services

When should you see a Farm Advocate?

When you...

- Are going into mediation
- Negotiate with lenders
- Are liquidating assets of the farm operation
- Need financial information
- Suffer a devastating loss, i.e., fire, disease or natural disaster
- Receive an adverse decision from a state or federal agency
- Open accounts have substantially increased over 12 months
- Have a major drop in your equity over a period of 12 months
- Are entering into or dissolving a partnership
- Want to begin farming

Farm Advocate Impacts

- 6,223 hours of Advocate assistance in FY25
- 4,126 hours of Advocate assistance so far in FY26
- Primary uses of their time recently include:
 - Mediations
 - Bankruptcy
 - Farm transition assistance
 - Assistance with financials to help obtain operating loans

Farm Advocates

- **Steve Zenk - Danube**
 - 320-894-2517
- Wayne Schoper - New Ulm
 - 507-766-6677
- Wayne Pike - Rochester
 - 507-251-1937
- Bruce Lubitz - Perham
 - 218-841-2090
- Dan Hunz - Waverly
 - 763-772-6687
- Ruth Ann Karty - Clarkfield
 - 320-361-9307

- Bob Stommes - St. Cloud
 - 320-443-5355
- Jim Molenaar - Central MN
 - 320-894-9124
- Brigit Lozinski - Slayton
 - 507-828-9955
- Laura Cullip* - Hutchinson
 - 320-296-1569
- Friendly Vang-Johnson* - Minnetonka
 - 206-276-2284
- Ron Dvergsten - Thief River Falls
 - 218-686-5448



Thank you

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