



MAELC

Minnesota Agricultural Education
Leadership Council

Sarah Dornink

Executive Director

February 15, 2021

House Agriculture Finance & Policy Committee



Who are we?

- 16-member legislative council created in 1997
- Mission Statement: MAELC provides leadership to promote and expand agricultural education in Minnesota
- Staff includes Sarah Dornink, Executive Director and Kari Schwab, Program Coordinator

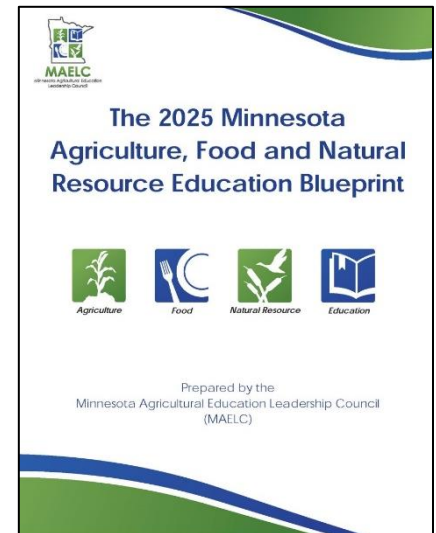


MAELC's Scope of Work

Advocacy - Engagement - Support

Agriculture, Food & Natural Resource Education (AFNR) Sectors

- Agricultural Literacy
- School-Based Agricultural Education
- Post-Secondary Education
- Teacher Preparation
- Farm Business Management (FBM)





MAELC Goals

- Increasing the **quality of instruction** to prepare strong graduates from diverse backgrounds for current and future careers in agriculture, food and natural resources (AFNR)
- Increasing the **numbers and types** of students, graduates, teachers, and community members involved in AFNR education to meet present and future needs
- Making accurate and complete information widely available to students, parents, school administrators, teachers, and employers to **improve understanding** of AFNR systems
- Ensuring AFNR education programs at all levels are **fully supported** locally and statewide



MAELC Funding

In 1997 the Minnesota Legislature provided a biennial special appropriation to the University of Minnesota base level funding for the enhancement of agricultural education programming. Original allocation was \$300,000

MAELC Operations & Scholarships (Higher Education)
\$242,882

MAELC Grants, Special Initiatives & New Programming (Ag-MDA)
\$250,000

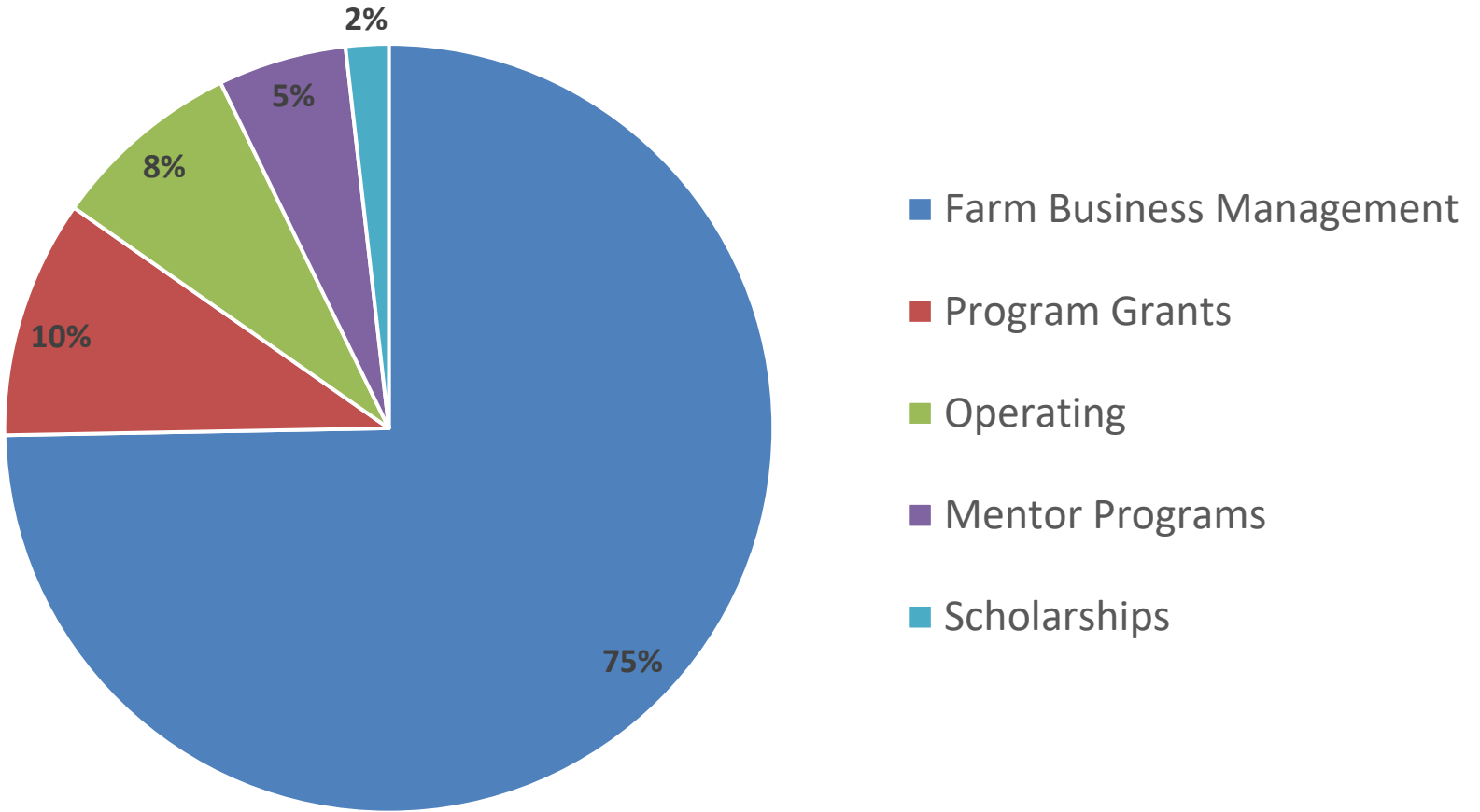
Farm Business Management & Mentor Programs (Ag-MDA/AGREETT)
\$2,000,000

Total Budget: \$2,492,882/year

MAELC is housed at the University of Minnesota – St. Paul



MAELC Budget Breakdown





Scholarship Programs

Undergraduate (Juniors & Seniors)

\$25,000

Graduate (Additional & Initial Licensure)

\$15,000

Diversity (Undergraduate & Graduate)

\$20,000 (\$10,000 MAELC/\$10,000 donor match)

**Diversity Scholarship updated this year to be more inclusive for both graduates and undergraduates entering their first year of a licensure program. Secured a five-year donor match for the program.*



Program Grant Funds

\$250,000

**Passes through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture*

Two programs – Due November 15 and April 15

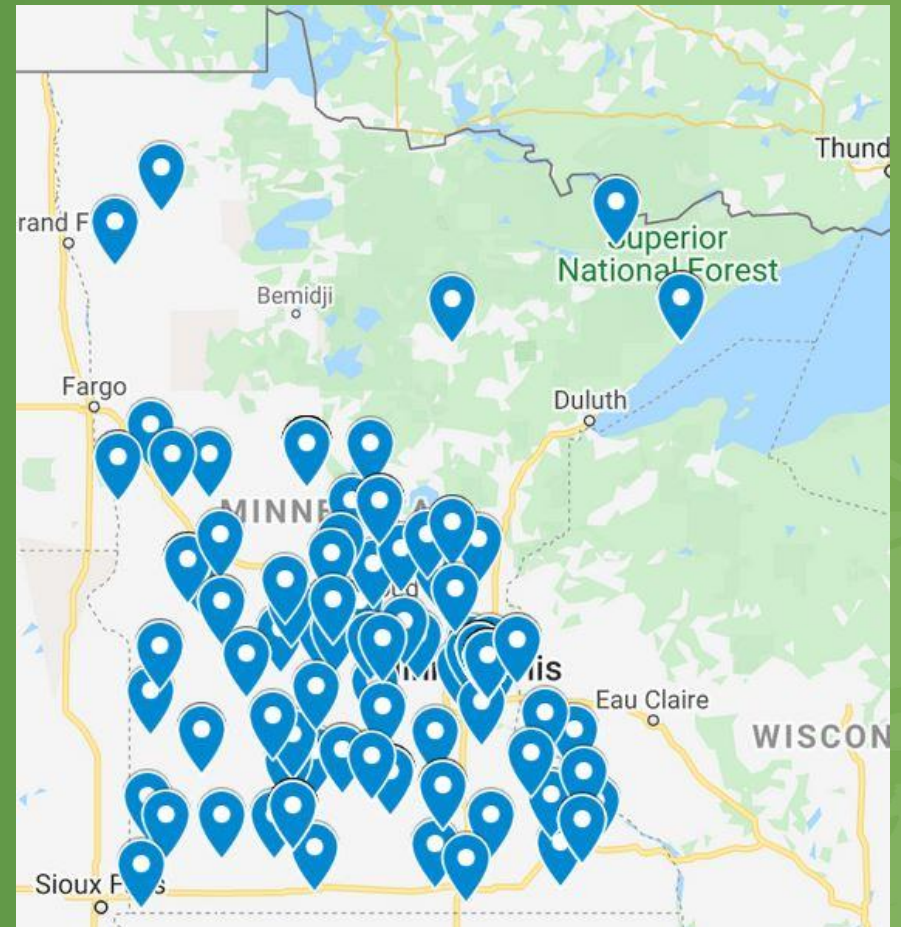
- Common Fund Grants (Statewide Projects)**
- Strategic Initiative Grants**





MAELC Program Grant Recipients

- 44% - Secondary Programs
- 26% - Post-Secondary
- 16% - Support Organizations
- 14% - Agricultural Literacy



Grants awarded in the past five years



Farm Business Management (FBM) & Mentor Program Grant Funds

\$2,000,000 / year

**Passes through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture*

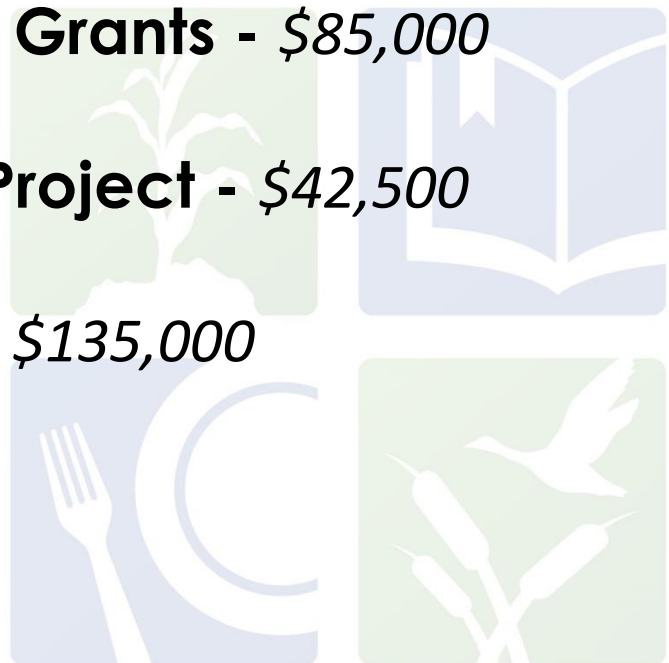
-FBM Challenge Grants - \$1,727,500

-FBM Additional Instructor Grants - \$85,000

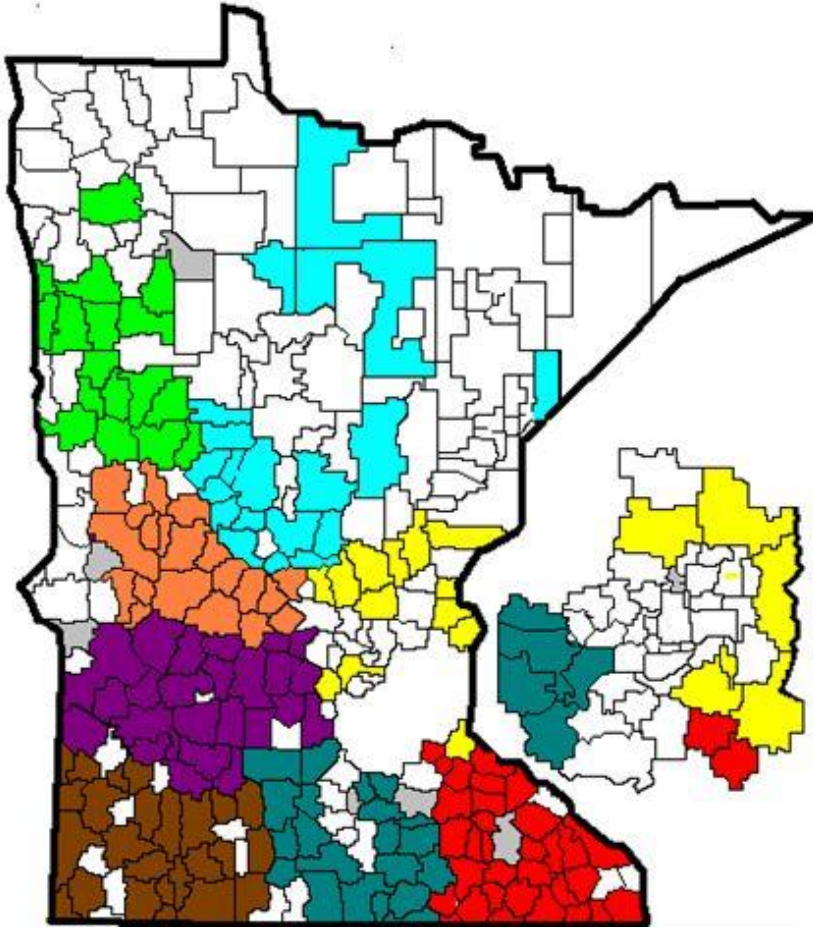
-FBM Instructor Transition Project - \$42,500

-Mentor Program Grants - \$135,000

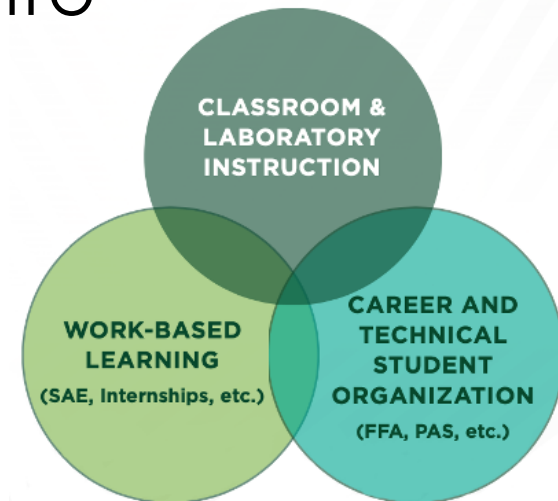
-Evaluation - \$10,000



School-Based Agricultural Education

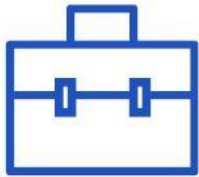


- Formal Classroom Setting
- Over 35,000 students grades 7-12 (mainly 9-12)
- 10,800 FFA members
- 202 programs in the state with 291 teachers
- 25 programs in the seven-county metro

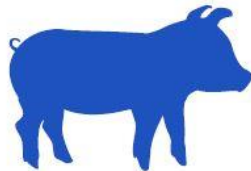


Learning by Doing - Minnesota students gain relevant industry skills and food and environmental literacy through classes and experiences related to:

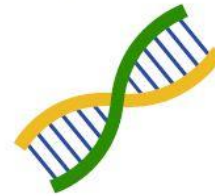
Agribusiness
Systems



Animal
Systems



Biotechnology
Systems



Environmental &
Natural Resource
Systems



Food Products &
Processing Systems



Plant
Systems



Power, Structural, &
Technical Systems





Post-Secondary and Farm Business Management

Post-Secondary

37 Minnesota State Institutions plus the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities & Crookston offer degree programs in AFNR

Over 1,000 AFNR degrees awarded between the Minnesota State and UMN systems (2020)

FBM

67 Farm Business Management Instructors

8 Minnesota State colleges

Nearly 3,000 students enrolled statewide in the program



AFNR Teacher Preparation

- Current agriculture teacher licensure programs:

- Southwest Minnesota State University-
Marshall
- University of Minnesota-Crookston
- University of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- Minnesota State Colleges & Universities
(2+2)



Approximately 80 students enrolled in teacher preparation programs statewide





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Thank you.

For more information, contact Sarah Dornink at:

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www.mn.gov/maelc