

MN House Agriculture  
Finance and Policy  
Committee

February 2024



**auri**  
Agricultural  
Utilization  
Research  
Institute

# AURI Vision and Mission

**Mission:** Accelerate the expansion of the agricultural economy by empowering expanded uses and markets of agriculturally derived products

**Vision:** We are relentless in our focus to generate impact for the MN agricultural economy. We collaborate globally, act regionally, and are known as an economic catalyst. This will enable us to deliver \$500 million in economic activity for MN by 2026.



# AURI Board of Directors

- 3 - Research and Promotion Council
- 2 - General Farm Orgs
- 2 - Agribusiness
- 2 - At Large
- 2 - Legislative

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Federico A. Tripodi, Chair**  
At-Large Board Member

**Jerry Hasnedl, Vice Chair**  
Minnesota Farmers Union

**Carolyn Olson, Secretary/Treasurer**  
Minnesota Farm Bureau

**Sen. Aric Putnam**  
Minnesota Senate

**Rep. Samantha Vang**  
Minnesota House of Representatives

**Lauren McNamara**  
Agribusiness, SunOpta

**Joe Serbus**  
Minnesota Soybean Research  
& Promotion Council

**John Schafer**  
Minnesota Beef Council

**Jon Veldhouse**  
Agribusiness, Qore

**Ken Asp**  
Minnesota Wheat Research  
& Promotion Council

**Jeff Grev**  
At-Large Board Member, Hormel Foods

### Just Elected

- Ted Winter – MN Farmers Union
- Mikayla Tabert – MN Wheat Research and Promotion Council

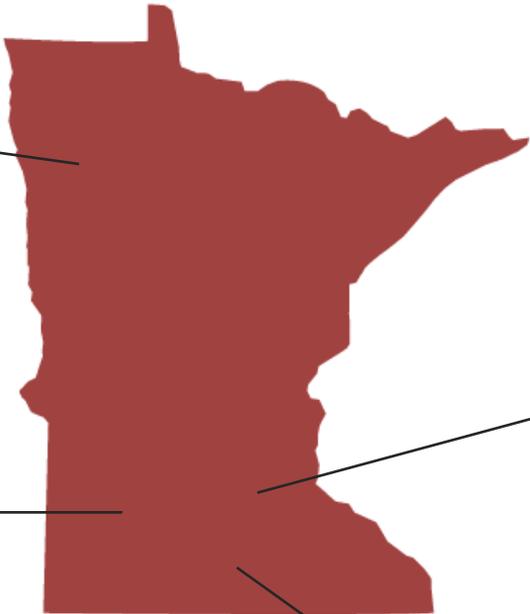


# Statewide Locations and Staffing



**Crookston**  
Administrative Office  
Ag Innovation Campus\*

*34 full and 1 part time staff*  
*[Auri.org/staff](http://Auri.org/staff)*



**Metro**  
UMN St. Paul

**Marshall**  
Meat and Food lab  
Biobased and Renewable Energy  
Analytical lab  
Product Evaluation/Sensory

**Waseca – New Site**  
Pilot Lab  
Densification, Dewatering, Drying  
Food lab  
Anaerobic Digestion



# AURI Programs



COMMERCIALIZATION  
SERVICES

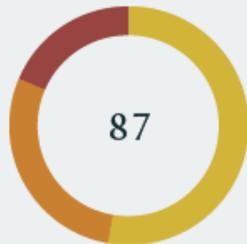


PUBLIC RESEARCH  
INITIATIVES



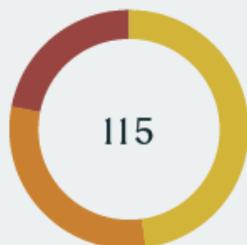
AURI CONNECTS

# FY23 Activity



## New Projects and Initiatives Opened

46 Food  
25 Bio-Industrial  
16 Multi-Area



## Projects and Initiatives Closed

55 Food  
35 Bio-Industrial  
25 Multi-Area



## Total Projects and Initiatives Serviced

114 Food  
60 Bio-Industrial  
46 Multi-Area



## Project Hours by Focus Area

10% Food  
27% Bio-Industrial  
63% Multi-Area

## FY23 Events

20  
Number of events

1,675  
Number of participants

482  
New participants

1,028  
MN participants

42  
Number of states represented

4  
Number of countries represented

## EVENTS BY FOCUS AREA

6  
Food

7  
Bio-Industrial

7  
Multi-Area (both Food & Bio-Industrial)



# Food

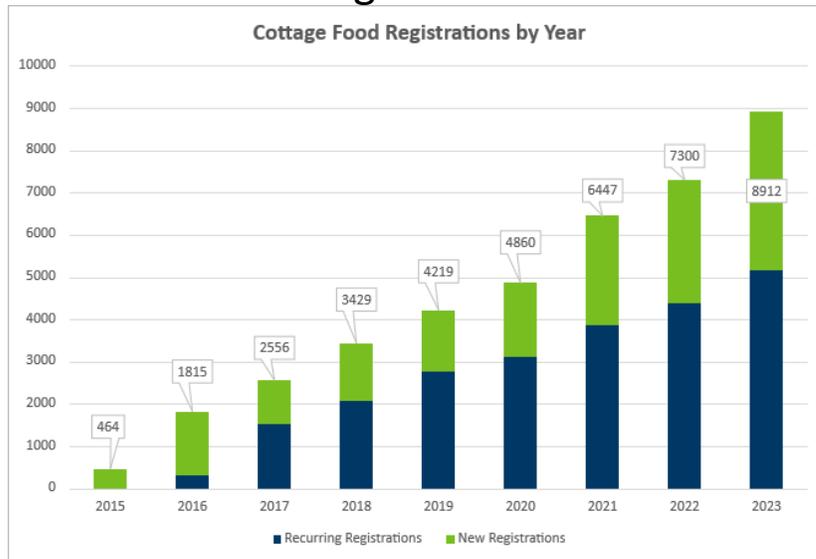
## FOOD

46  
NEW PROJECTS  
AND INITIATIVES  
OPENED

55  
PROJECTS AND  
INITIATIVES  
CLOSED

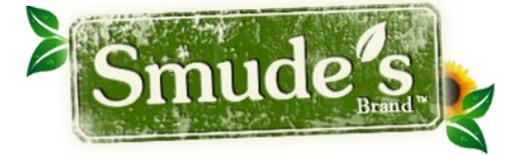
114  
TOTAL PROJECTS  
AND INITIATIVES  
SERVICED

## MN Cottage Food Licenses



Source: MN Dept of Ag

- ▶ Vibrant Food Ecosystem
- ▶ Small Meat Processors
  - ▶ Finance
  - ▶ Needs Assessment
  - ▶ Resource Map
  - ▶ Cold Storage
  - ▶ Benchmarking Pilot
- ▶ Initiatives
  - ▶ Commercial Kitchens
  - ▶ Co-manufacturing
  - ▶ Bold Growth Scaling
- ▶ Business Development



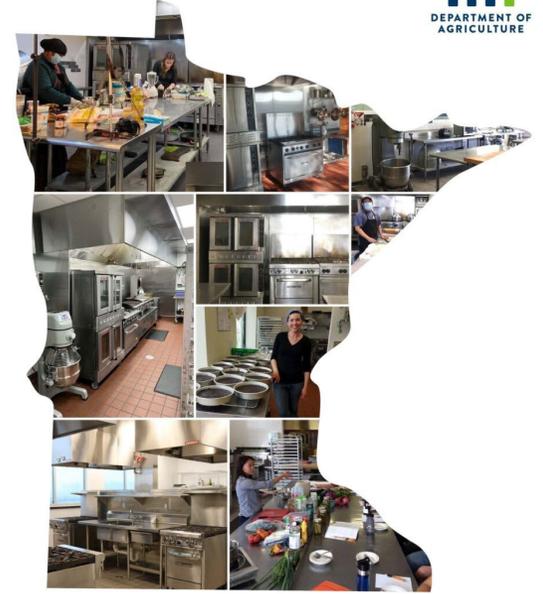
- ▶ Technical assistance
  - ▶ Shelf Life
  - ▶ Nutrition Labels
  - ▶ Product Evaluation
  - ▶ Sourcing
  - ▶ Product Development
  - ▶ Process Development
  - ▶ Oilseed Processing



# Food Project Examples



MARCH 2023



**MINNESOTA SHARED-USE  
COMMERCIAL KITCHEN**

FINAL REPORT



- CannonBelles
- Hoyo
- Co-Manufacturing or Commercial Kitchen reports
- Ecosystem Support



# Bio-industrials

## BIO-INDUSTRIAL

25  
NEW PROJECTS  
AND INITIATIVES  
OPENED

35  
PROJECTS AND  
INITIATIVES  
CLOSED

60  
TOTAL PROJECTS  
AND INITIATIVES  
SERVICED



- ▶ Circular Approaches
  - ▶ Food, Feed, Fuel, Fertilizer
- ▶ Technical Assistance
  - ▶ Dewatering
  - ▶ Drying
  - ▶ Densification/Pelleting
  - ▶ Product Development
  - ▶ Process Development
  - ▶ Nutrient Analysis
  - ▶ Fermentation
- ▶ Hemp Decorticator
- ▶ Business Development
- ▶ Hydrogen
- ▶ Anaerobic Digestion



# Bio-industrial Project Examples

- Ag Innovations LLC/High Island Organics
- Fond du Lac Composting
- Soymeal Fertilizer
- Hemp Erosion Control Initiative



High Island Organics  
Ag Innovator of the Year 2023





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Thought Leaders

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Fields of Innovation

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Webinar Wednesday

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Renewable Energy Roundtable

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New Uses Forum



# One Time Funding Allocations



## Equipment Purchases & Plans

Small-scale Fermentation Processes

Mass Spectrometry

Solvent Extractor

New Elemental Analyzer

Inductively Coupled Plasma Instrument

Microwave Digester

Pilot Digester Upgrades,

Biomethane Potential Analysis

Rotary Dryer, Bale Grinder



## New Waseca Site

Bioindustrial Innovation Center

Food Grade Area

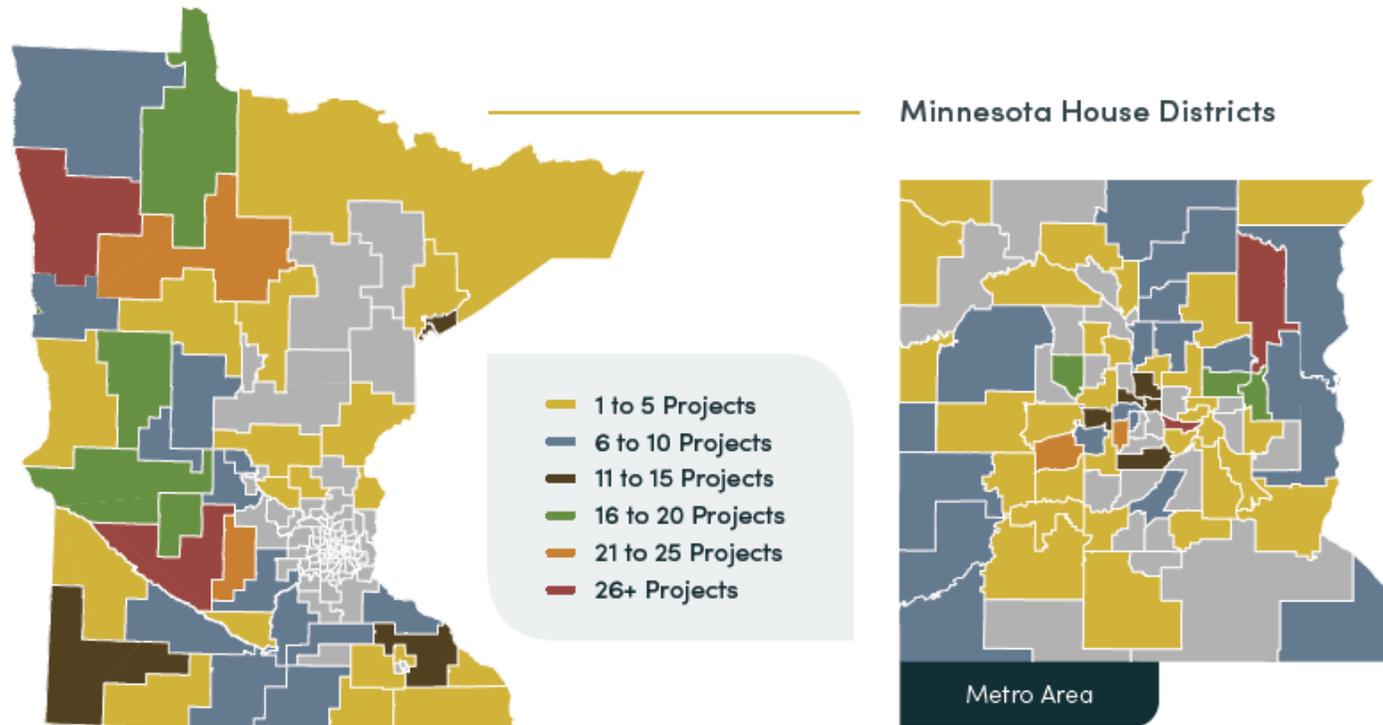
Open House – April 8<sup>th</sup>

# Looking Forward



- Biomass processing
- Fermentation
- Nutrient recovery and green fertilizer
- Renewable natural gas and anaerobic digestion
- Protein – traditional and alternative
- Right-sized food manufacturing
  
- 2024 New Uses Forum – Bio-industrial Focus

# Focused on Impact



MN House Districts - 10 yr client project counts

Client Impact:  
JULY 2018-JUNE 2023

929  
Estimated Future Jobs Created/  
Retained

\$363,371,602  
Estimated Future Capital  
Investment

\$261,935,502  
Estimated New Gross  
Annual Sales

\$147,706,500  
Estimated New Capital  
Investment

451  
Estimated Jobs  
Created/Retained





## Thank You

- Appreciate the long-term partnership with the MN legislature to benefit the economy and agriculture industry.
- Many exciting opportunities on the horizon