



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Agricultural Research, Education, Extension, and Technology Transfer (AGREETT) Program

Monday, March 6, 2026

House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee

Bev Durgan, Dean of Extension

Laura Molgaard, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine

Brian Buhr, Dean of the College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences

AGRETT Background

- Established in 2015 by the Minnesota Legislature
- **Purpose:** Support long-term agricultural productivity growth through research, education and extension through long-term base funding.
- **Priority:** Investment in capacity to address Minnesota's most pressing agricultural challenges:
- **Human infrastructure** to lead research, teaching & extension activities
- **Rapid response to ag issues** like plant and animal diseases and pests



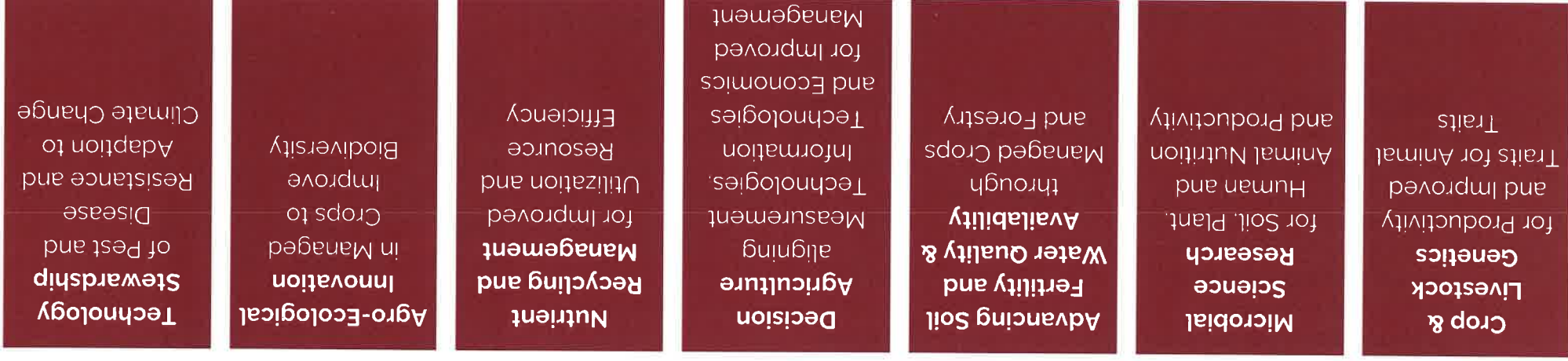
AGREETT Investments (FY26-27)

	Appropriation per year
AGREETT Capacity Funding	\$4.9 million
Rapid Response Funding	\$600,000
Potato Research	\$350,000
Natural Wild Rice Research	\$200,000
Cultivated Wild Rice Research	\$250,000
Avian Flu/Turkey Diseases	\$1 million
Forever Green	\$802,000
Prion Research	\$290,000 (FY26 only)
MARL Program (not UMN funding)	\$75,000
Farm Business Management (not UMN funding)	\$2.5 million



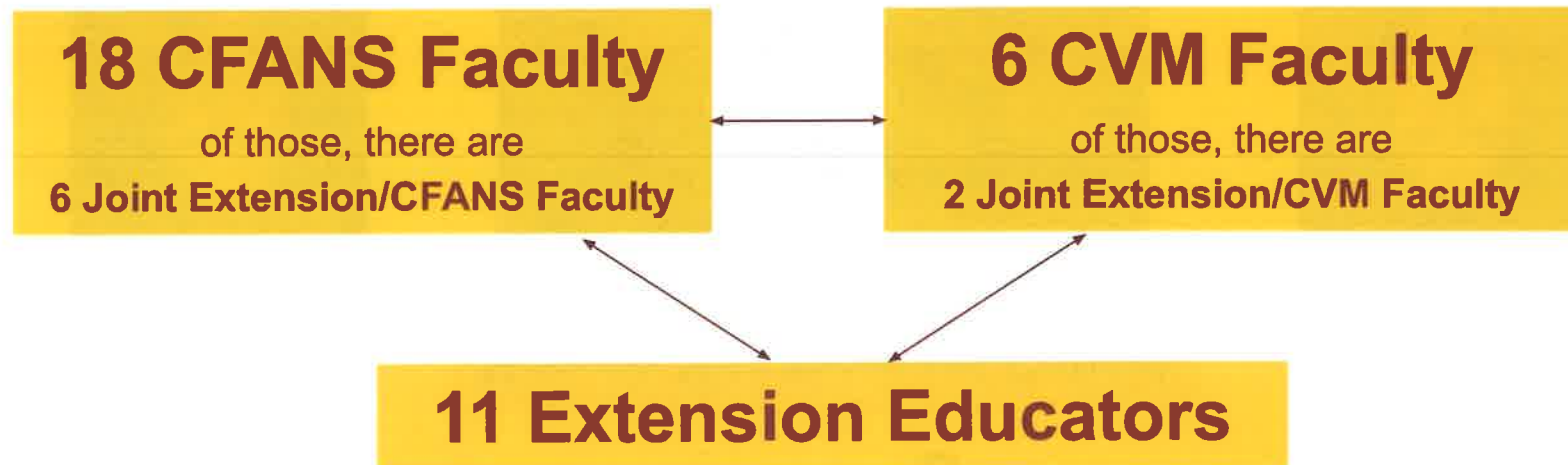
Investing in Capacity

AGREETT is to provide investments that will efficiently achieve “**long-term agricultural productivity increases**” through improved infrastructure, vision and accountability. Grants shall provide for “**long-term base funding**” that allows the research grantee to continue the research to its practical conclusion.



AGRETT Hires

Total of 35 experts in CFANS, CVM and Extension



Strategic Cohort Hiring

Manure Management Cohort



Dr. Melissa Wilson
Associate Professor and
Extension Specialist
Wilson Laboratory



Chryseis Modderman
Extension Educator, Manure
Management

AGREETT: Safeguarding Animal Health for Minnesota



- **Economic Impact:** Protects Minnesota's vital livestock industry and overall economy.
- **Risk Mitigation:** Addresses emerging global diseases and evolving food safety threats.
- **Scientific Support:** Funds diagnostics and research to improve animal health, biosecurity and production efficiency.
- **Industry Sustainability:** Helps beef, dairy, swine, and poultry producers improve efficiency and contribute to a safe food supply.

Elevate Extraordinary 2030: One Health Goals

- **Integrated Innovation:** Advances the health of people, animals, and ecosystems through a unified **One Health** approach.
- **Global Resilience:** Develops sustainable food systems and solutions for community and environmental health.
- **Disease Response:** Uses collaborative research and rapid-response strategies to mitigate infectious disease outbreaks across species.
- **Advancing Technology:** Integration of precision agriculture and plant/animal sciences to ensure food safety and security.



Impactful Research

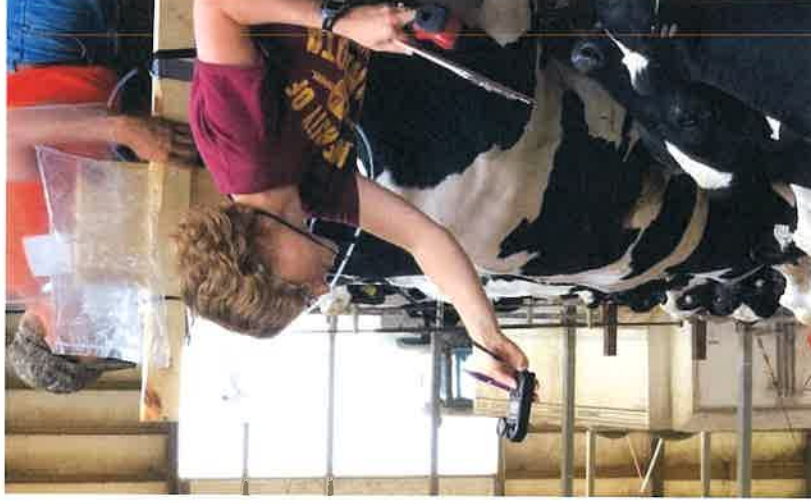


- **Environmental intelligence and early warning systems**
- **Modernizing agricultural biosecurity systems**
- **Breakthrough therapeutics and farm-side diagnostics**
- **Strengthening animal resilience and welfare**

Leveraging State Funds to Grow Minnesota's Economy Driving Jobs, Innovation, and Rural Economic Strength

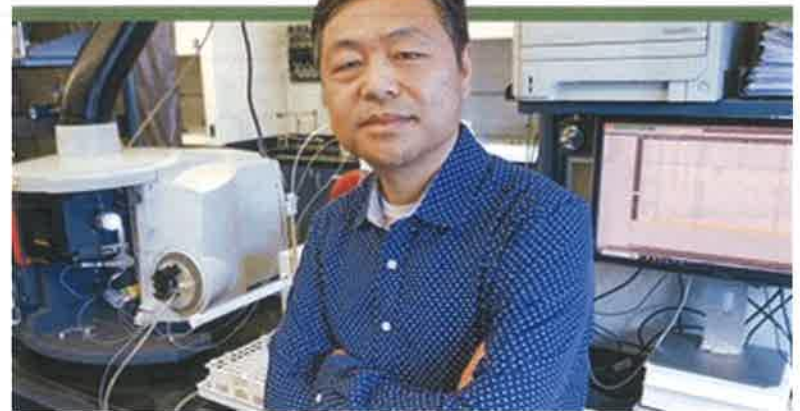
- 2025/2026 awarded **\$27,828,718** in grants.

- **397 sponsored awards** Totalling **\$92,349,911** in grants since 2016
- State of Minnesota invested **\$49.5 mm** in AGRETT & catalyzed **2.33x** in earned grants!



AGREETT Ultimately Benefits Farmers -- Agricultural

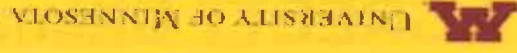
- Uses, satellite imagery, advanced computational methods and on-farm trials to **improve how farmers manage nutrients and other key inputs.**
- **Reduces costly over-application** while protecting yield potential — improving **net farm profitability per acre.**
- **Reduces excess fertilizer runoff** into Minnesota's lakes, rivers and groundwater.



AGRETT Supports Next Generation Innovators and Business Engagement



1st Place – 2023 Dairy Mgmt Inc. (DMI) Product Development Competition



Coach: AGRETT Faculty
Dr. Amamcharla

Fixed Investment in 2015 Erodes Over Time....

**Purchasing Power of
AGRETT 2015: \$4.9mm**

**Purchasing Power Erosion
of AGRETT in 2025:
\$3.1mm***

*Based on Change in U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Producer Price Inflation Index from 2015 to 2025



... and so will the farmers' yields on that investment!



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