



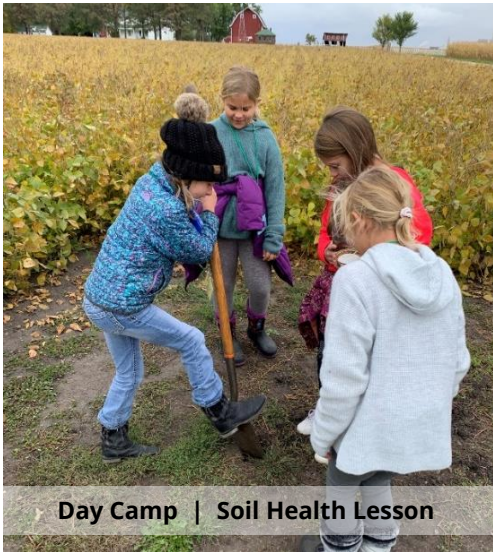
FARMAMERICA

Minnesota's Center for Agricultural Interpretation

Connecting People to the Evolving Story of Minnesota Agriculture



Hands-on Learning for the Family



Day Camp | Soil Health Lesson



Ag Careers Day | Erosion Experiment

Request for Inclusion in HF 1952, as included in SF 1831: Article 1, Sec. 23, Subd 3(d), Lines 12.1-12.5

- ▶ **A one-time appropriation increase from \$115,000 to \$365,000 in the first year of the biennium to allow for site improvements including classroom upgrades, visitor center remodeling, and expansion of agricultural literacy programs.** This is a one-time appropriation, and reduced to its typical \$115,000 in the second year, an amount that has been a tradition since legislators created FarmAmerica in 1978. (Original: HF 1338 and SF 2175. Now [SF 1831](#))

The Challenge

Very few Minnesotans feel connected to agriculture or understand its relevance in their lives. FarmAmerica's current budget cannot accommodate its deferred maintenance *and* also develop experiences and exhibits to re-connect people to today's agriculture.

FarmAmerica's Solution & Results

- ▶ Capital campaign to upgrade facilities to offer year-round educational programs and experiences that highlight yesterday's agriculture, celebrate today's technology and everyone's personal connection to their food, fuel, fiber and natural resources. Upgrade feed mill classroom. (Project currently 50% funded)
- ▶ Offer new agriculture education experiences for K-12 students and young adults, specifically highlighting sustainability and careers in ag.
- ▶ Repair historic buildings and farmland used to illustrate Minnesota's rich agricultural heritage.
- ▶ Increase awareness and outreach to double annual attendance to 20,000+ from a 70+ mile radius.

Background

- ▶ The Minnesota Agricultural Interpretive Center - FarmAmerica is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created by the Minnesota Legislature in 1978 to promote and celebrate the evolving story of agriculture.
- ▶ Vision: Connect people with the evolution of agriculture through sensory experiences, historic farm tours, interactive activities, educational programs like in-person and virtual field trips, Ag Career Exploration, farm camps, family events, and crop research.
- ▶ Target Audience: Third graders to adults within a 70+ mile radius who are not directly connected to agriculture.
- ▶ Agriculture business partners like Crystal Valley Coop and Birds Eye Foods utilize 200 of FarmAmerica's 360 acres for crop research to further farmer sustainability.

Learn more: www.FarmAmerica.org

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Feed Mill (Current)



Current

Welcome Center
(Updates Coming soon!)



AFTER:
Renovated 3-Season
Classroom in the Feed Mill



AFTER:
"Ag Around You" Discovery Center

EXPLORE. **CONNECT.** **DISCOVER.**



Ag Careers | Biotechnology
Experiment



Interact with farm animals



Fully-preserved 1930s farm site



1850s log cabin repairs needed



Family Farm Nights