

# Financial Assistance Programs





# Additional Grants, Rebate, Compensation and Advocate Programs

## **Agricultural Chemical Response & Reimbursement Account**

Reimburses costs incurred while cleaning up agricultural chemical (pesticide and fertilizer) incidents. [www.mda.state.mn.us/acrra](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/acrra)

## **Compensation for Crops Damaged by Elk**

Reimburses farmers and ranchers for crop damage caused by elk in parts of Minnesota. [www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/disaster/elk.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/disaster/elk.aspx)

## **Wolf Depredation Compensation**

Reimburses livestock owners for losses caused by wolves and offers tips to prevent wolf depredation. [www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/disaster/wolf.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/disaster/wolf.aspx)

## **Dairy Profitability & Enhancement Teams**

Teams of professionals help producers increase farming profitability and make a plan to transfer their farm to the next generation. [www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/diagnostics.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/diagnostics.aspx)

## **Dairy Business Planning Grant**

Grants encourage dairy business planning and modernization activities of Minnesota dairy farms. [www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/dbgrant.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/dbgrant.aspx)

## **Specialty Crop Grants**

Grants help specialty crop growers increase the competitiveness of fruits and vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops, including floriculture. <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/specialty.aspx>

## **Forest Protection Reserve Appropriation**

Grants aid municipalities and organizations in preparing for new infestations of emerald ash borer or to respond to existing infestations. [www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/fprappropriation.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/grants/fprappropriation.aspx)

## **Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) Financial Assistance Grant**

Grants of up to \$5,000 for producers seeking certification under the MAWQCP. [www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/waterprotection/awqcprogram/mawqcprgrant.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/protecting/waterprotection/awqcprogram/mawqcprgrant.aspx)

## **Minnesota ROPS Rebate Program**

70% rebates for tractor rollover protective structures (ROPS) with a maximum out-of-pocket cost of \$500. Call 1-877-ROPS-R4U and press 2, or visit [www.ropsr4u.org](http://www.ropsr4u.org) or [www.mda.state.mn.us/farmsafety](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/farmsafety) for more information.

## **Farm Advocate Program**

Our Farm Advocate Program provides farmers, small business operators and other residents with one-on-one assistance in accessing federal aid and other resources available to them in a time of crisis. [www.mda.state.mn.us/about/commissionersoffice/farmadvocates.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/about/commissionersoffice/farmadvocates.aspx)

## **Bee Kill Compensation Program**

Allows for compensation to beekeepers when an MDA investigation determines “acute pesticide poisoning” as the cause of hive death. [www.mda.state.mn.us/beekillcompensation](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/beekillcompensation)

## **For more information about these programs, contact:**

Minnesota Department of Agriculture  
625 Robert Street North  
St. Paul, MN 55155  
Office: 651-201-6000

All financial assistance programs are subject to changes and applicant eligibility. Please visit the MDA’s Grants, Loans, & Financing webpage for more information at [www.mda.state.mn.us/grants.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants.aspx).



In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

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# Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation (AGRI) Program

The AGRI Program awards grants and other forms of financial assistance to create agricultural jobs and support profitable businesses. For a complete list of AGRI Grants, visit [www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/agri.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/agri.aspx) or call the MDA Grant Line at 651-201-6500.

## **Livestock Investment Grants**

Grants provide 10% reimbursement for the purchase, construction, or improvement of buildings or facilities for livestock production. Livestock farmers residing and operating within the state of Minnesota are eligible.

## **Value-Added Equipment Grants**

Grants provide 25% of the cost of equipment or physical improvements that will add value to and increase sales of agricultural products grown in the state. Minnesota farmers, for-profit businesses, cooperatives, local government, and other individuals involved in the production, processing, or marketing of Minnesota agricultural products are eligible.

## **Farm to School Grants**

Grants provide 50% of equipment purchases and 75% of plan development to increase use of Minnesota grown and raised foods in school food service programs. The Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota contributes additional funding to help schools and child care providers meet matching requirements for equipment purchases.

## **Crop Research Grants**

Grants fund applied research to improve agricultural product quality, quantity and/or value.

## **Minnesota Pavilion Space Cost-Share**

This program offsets up to 50% of the costs associated with domestic and international trade event exhibit space at regional, national, and international trade-only events. Minnesota companies that grow, make, or process food and agricultural products are eligible.

## **Tradeshaw & Demonstration Support Program (TSP)**

Cost-sharing of booth space and other expenses at wholesale food shows (not consumer-focused events) and support for in-store product sampling demonstrations is available through this program. Small to medium-sized Minnesota food companies attending wholesale trade shows and those who do product sampling events, at retail, are eligible.



# Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation (AGRI) Program

## Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grants

Funding is available for on-farm research and demonstrations exploring sustainable agricultural practices and systems. Minnesota farmers nonprofit or educational organizations involving farmers are eligible.

## Bio-incentive Program

This program provides production payments to companies to encourage commercial-scale production of advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, and thermal energy production from biomass. Payments are available for chemicals containing at least 51% bio-based content, and biomass thermal energy; or for fuels that meet the greenhouse gas benefit requirements of the EPA's Renewable Fuels Standard.

## Beginning Farmer Farm Business Management (FBM) Scholarships

Scholarships pay 50% of tuition costs to make FBM education more affordable for beginning farmers (those who have owned and operated a farm or ranch for 10 years or fewer). Funds support 8-10 credits per academic year, with a maximum of 40 cumulative FBM credits per

student.

## Good Agricultural Practices/Good Handling Practices (GAP/GHP) Cost-Share Program

This program offers up to 75% reimbursement of costs associated with GAP/GHP certification. Producers and agricultural handlers who are GAP/GHP certified and located in Minnesota are eligible.

## Value-Added Feasibility Study Grants

Partial reimbursement is available for conducting a feasibility study for a business that will add value to Minnesota agricultural products and increase sales of agricultural products grown in the state.

## County Fair Grants

All Minnesota county fairs receive funds to preserve and promote Minnesota agriculture.



	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Livestock Investment												
Value Added: Equipment												
Farm to School												
Crop Research												
MN Pavilion Cost Share												
Tradeshaw and Demo Support												
Sustainable Ag Demo												
Bioincentive Program												
Beginning Farmer Scholarship												
GAP/GHP Cost Share												
Value Added: Feasibility Study												
County Fair												

Applications and/or proposals accepted during these application periods.



# Low Interest Loans

Program	Funding Limits	Use of Proceeds	Terms and Maturity	Fees	Qualifications
<b>AgBMP Loans</b> <a href="http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/agbmploan">www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/agbmploan</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$200,000 maximum loan</li> <li>May have multiple loans</li> <li>Total of all outstanding loans cannot exceed \$200,000</li> </ul>	Any project or practice that helps water quality such as conservation tillage equipment, feedlot improvements, manure management equipment, well improvements, and any septic system, as well as many other practices that can be individually reviewed by your local government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maximum loan length of 10 years</li> <li>Maximum interest rate of 3%</li> <li>Lender may require collateral</li> <li>Borrower must meet lender's lending criteria</li> </ul>	<p>Lender may charge customary fees</p> <p>AgBMP: no fee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project must protect or improve water quality</li> <li>Farmer, Rural Landowner, or Farm Supply Business may apply</li> <li>Any feedlot or manure management projects &lt; 1,000 AU</li> <li>Contact your local government to review and approve projects. Local contacts can be found at <a href="http://gis.mda.state.mn.us/agbmploan/">http://gis.mda.state.mn.us/agbmploan/</a></li> </ul>
<b>RFA Beginning Farmer Loan Program</b> <a href="http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/basic.aspx">www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/basic.aspx</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFA participation: 45% of first mortgage with a maximum of \$400,000</li> </ul>	Purchase of farm real estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFA portion - 3.00% interest rate</li> <li>Lender and seller portion - negotiate</li> <li>Pay at least 10% down of appraisal value</li> <li>15-30 year terms</li> <li>RFA participation will balloon after 10 years</li> </ul>	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicant must farm unit and be or intend to become a full-time farmer</li> <li>Net worth of less than \$800,000 (including spouse and dependents)</li> <li>Sufficient education or experience to succeed in intended farming practice</li> <li>Agree to enroll in farm business management program and consult with your local Soil and Water Conservation District office</li> <li>Agree to obtain credit life insurance to cover the purchase the property</li> </ul>
<b>RFA Seller-Assisted Loan Programs</b> <a href="http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/seller.aspx">www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/seller.aspx</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFA participation: 45% of loan up to a max. of \$400,000</li> </ul>	Purchase of farm real estate from seller willing to finance a portion of the purchase	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFA portion - 3.00% interest rate</li> <li>Seller portion - negotiate</li> <li>15-30 year terms</li> <li>RFA participation will balloon after 10 years</li> </ul>	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as Beginning Farmer Loan, plus</li> <li>Certify as the principal operator of the farm, and guarantee that farming is the principal future occupation and that the farm will be used for agricultural purposes only</li> </ul>
<b>RFA Agricultural Improvement Program</b> <a href="http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/improvement.aspx">www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/improvement.aspx</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFA participation: 45% of first mortgage with a max. of \$400,000</li> </ul>	Finance capital improvements to farming operation. Can be used to improve land and/or structures, efficiency, productivity, or increase farm income. Also includes wind energy conversion up to one megawatt (limited refinancing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFA portion - 3.25% interest rate</li> <li>Lender portion - negotiate</li> <li>1-15 year terms</li> <li>RFA participation will balloon after 10 years</li> </ul>	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applicant must farm unit and be or intend to become a full-time farmer</li> <li>Net worth of less than \$800,000 (including spouse and dependents)</li> <li>Have sufficient education or experience to succeed in intended farming practice</li> <li>Consult with your local Soil and Water Conservation District office</li> </ul>

# Low Interest Loans

Program	Funding Limits	Use of Proceeds	Terms and Maturity	Fees	Qualifications
<b>RFA Livestock Expansion Program</b> <a href="http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/expansion.aspx">www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/expansion.aspx</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFA participation: 45% of first mortgage with a max. of \$525,000</li> </ul>	Finance improvements to livestock facilities (purchase of livestock not allowed) (no refinancing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFA portion - 3.50% interest rate</li> <li>Lender portion - negotiate</li> <li>1-15 year terms</li> <li>RFA participation will balloon after 10 years</li> </ul>	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must farm unit full-time; at least one of the applicants must be the principal operator and actively engaged in a livestock operation</li> <li>Net worth of less than \$1,700,000 (including spouse and dependents)</li> <li>Show financial need and ability to repay loan</li> </ul>
<b>RFA Restructure II Program</b> <a href="http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/restructure2.aspx">www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/restructure2.aspx</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFA participation: 45% of first mortgage with a max. of \$525,000</li> </ul>	Restructure of agricultural debt for farmers in good credit standing experiencing trouble meeting cash flow due to adverse events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFA portion - 3.50% interest rate</li> <li>Lender portion - negotiate</li> <li>1-30 year terms</li> <li>RFA participation will balloon after 10 years</li> </ul>	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Net worth of less than \$1,700,000 (including spouse and dependents)</li> <li>Have received 50% of gross income from farming in past three years</li> <li>Have operating expenses that do not exceed 95% of income</li> <li>Consult with your local Soil and Water Conservation District office</li> </ul>
<b>RFA Livestock Equipment Loan Program</b> <a href="http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/liveequip.aspx">www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/liveequip.aspx</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFA participation: 45% of equipment loan with a max. of \$40,000</li> </ul>	Finance the purchase of livestock equipment for housing, confinement, feeding, watering, fencing, milk production and waste management (no refinancing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFA portion - 2% fixed interest rate</li> <li>Lender portion - negotiate</li> <li>1-10 year terms</li> </ul>	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must farm unit full-time; at least one of the applicants must be the principal operator and actively engaged in a livestock operation</li> <li>Net worth of less than \$455,000 (including spouse and dependents)</li> <li>Show financial need and ability to repay loan</li> </ul>
<b>RFA Disaster Recovery Loan Program</b> <a href="http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/disaster/disasterloan.aspx">www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/disaster/disasterloan.aspx</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFA participation: 45% of loan with a max. of \$200,000</li> </ul>	Finance, repair or replacement of structures and resources not covered by insurance after natural disaster. Replace flocks, make building improvements, or cover loss of revenue due to avian influenza	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0% or less fixed interest rate</li> <li>1-10 year terms</li> </ul>	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Certify that the damage or loss was sustained within a county that was subject of a state or federal disaster declaration, or due to avian influenza</li> <li>Have received 50% of average gross annual income from farming in past three years</li> </ul>



# Low Interest Loans

Program	Funding Limits	Use of Proceeds	Terms and Maturity	Fees	Qualifications
<b>RFA Value-Added Stock Loan Program</b> <a href="http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/stockloan.aspx">www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/stockloan.aspx</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RFA participation: 45% of loan with a maximum of \$40,000</li> <li>No more than 95% of purchased stock value will be loaned</li> </ul>	Finance the purchase of stock shares in commodity processing business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2% fixed interest rate</li> <li>1-8 year terms</li> </ul>	RFA: \$50 application fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Producer must grow the ag product which is to be processed by an agricultural product processing facility</li> <li>Have a total net worth of less than \$455,000 (indexed for inflation), including the assets and liabilities of spouse and dependents</li> <li>Security value must be 150% of total loan amount</li> </ul>
<b>Methane Digester Loan Program</b> <a href="http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/digester.aspx">www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/digester.aspx</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$250,000</li> </ul>	Finance the purchase and construction of a system designed to produce electricity from manure May be used as match for Federal loan/grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0% interest rate</li> <li>1-10 year terms</li> </ul>	\$100 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide evidence that the practices implemented and capital assets purchased will be properly managed and maintained</li> <li>Have not previously received a loan under this program</li> </ul>
<b>Farm Opportunity Loan Program</b> <a href="http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/farmopploan.aspx">www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/farmopploan.aspx</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>45% of the principal amount up to \$45,000 per individual;</li> <li>45% of the principal amount up to \$180,000 per group</li> </ul>	Finance machinery or equipment to add value to crops or livestock; adopt best management practices; reduce or improve management of ag inputs resulting in environmental improvements; or increase production of on-farm energy (no refinancing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2% fixed interest rate for 10 years</li> </ul>	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must farm unit and farm full-time</li> <li>Show financial need and ability to repay loan</li> </ul>
<b>RFA Beginning Farmer/Aggie Bond</b> <a href="http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/aggiebond.aspx">www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/aggiebond.aspx</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$524,200 max loan</li> <li>\$250,000 for new depreciable property</li> <li>\$62,500 max for used depreciable asset</li> </ul>	Purchase of farmland, buildings, new or used depreciable ag property such as breeding livestock, dairy livestock, and machinery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced interest rate for buyer and tax benefit for lender</li> </ul>	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)  1.50% origination fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Net worth less than \$800,000</li> <li>Never have owned more than 30% of county median sized farm</li> <li>Agree to enroll in farm business management program and consult with local Soil and Water Conservation District</li> </ul>

For More Information on Low Interest Loans

► RFA: 651-201-6004 [www.mda.state.mn.us/agfinance](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/agfinance) ► AgBMP: 651-201-6618 [www.mda.state.mn.us/agbmploan](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/agbmploan)