

Bolded text represents entire LA statement
Italicized text represents partial LA statement

Minnesota Department of Agriculture Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture recognizes that Minnesota's vibrant food system is built on land which is crucial to Indigenous cultural identity. While this land acknowledgment doesn't rectify the significant cultural, physical, and emotional losses of Indigenous people due to the loss of land and connection with it, the Department hopes it is a good starting point to move forward together to both fulfill the agency's mission to enhance all Minnesotans' quality of life by equitably ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment, and the strength and resilience of our agricultural economy, and to support current Indigenous efforts to use food as a means of reaffirming their treaty rights and regaining culture, sovereignty and self-sufficiency for all tribes in Minnesota.

The name Minnesota comes from the Dakota name for this region, Mni Sota Makoce — "the land where the waters reflect the clouds." The Dakota and numerous other Indigenous peoples, whose cultural, spiritual, and economic practices are intrinsically woven to this landscape, hold this land sacred. We, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, recognize them as original stewards of this land and all the relatives within it, who had thriving and vibrant communities prior to disruption by settlers. Today, the State of Minnesota shares geography with eleven Tribal Nations, in addition to the Ho-Chunk, Cheyenne, Oto, Iowa, Hidatsa, Arikara, A'aninin, Cree, Blackfeet, Assiniboine, and the Sac and Fox tribes all who also acknowledge Minnesota as important to their tribal histories. By offering this land acknowledgement, we affirm tribal sovereignty and hold ourselves accountable to recognize and counter the historical and contemporary injustices that continue to impact Indigenous people, through mutually beneficial partnerships, research, policies, and practices that respect Indigeneity.

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