

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.

Bee Kill Compensation Program

Allows for compensation to beekeepers when an MDA investigation determines “acute pesticide poisoning” as the cause of hive death.

Beginning Farmer Tax Credit www.mda.state.mn.us/bftc

The Minnesota Beginning Farmer Tax Credit provides tax credits for the rent or sale of farm land or a variety of farm assets to beginning farmers. This includes incentives for the sale of farm land.

Compensation for Crops Damaged by Elk

Reimburses farmers and ranchers for crop damage caused by elk in parts of Minnesota.

Dairy Business Planning Grant

Grants encourage dairy business planning and modernization activities of Minnesota dairy farms.

Dairy Profitability & Enhancement Teams

Teams of professionals help producers increase farming profitability and make a plan to transfer their farm to the next generation.

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.

Forest Protection Reserve Appropriation

Grants aid municipalities and organizations in preparing for new infestations of emerald ash borer or to respond to existing infestations.

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

Grants of up to \$5,000 for producers seeking certification under the MAWQCP.

Minnesota ROPS Rebate Program

Provides a 70% rebate for installing tractor rollover protective structures (ROPS) with a maximum out-of-pocket cost of \$500. Call 877-ROPS-R4U (877-767-7748).

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.

Wolf Depredation Compensation

Reimburses livestock owners for losses caused by wolves and offers tips to prevent wolf depredation.

Wolf-Livestock Conflict Prevention Grants

Grants to cover costs of approved practices to prevent wolf-livestock conflicts **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.



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. File Name: Financial Assistance Programs Brochure.indd 11/1/2021



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 or call the MDA Grants Hotline at 651-201-6500.**

Beginning Farmer Farm Business Management (FBM) Scholarship

Scholarships pay 50% of tuition costs of FBM education for beginning farmers. Funds support 8-10 credits per academic year, with a maximum of 40 cumulative FBM credits per student.

Application time frame: Year–Round

Bio-incentive Program

Provides production payments to encourage commercial-scale production of advanced biofuels, renewable chemicals, and thermal energy production from biomass. Payments 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.

Application time frame: Year–Round

County Fair Grants

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

Application time frame: August – February

Crop Research Grants

Grants fund 100% of the costs associated with applied research to improve agricultural product quality, quantity and/or value.

Application time frame: September – November

Farm to School/Early Care Education Grants

First Bite Grants fund 100% and Full Tray Grants fund up to 50% of cost to increase the purchase and use of Minnesota agricultural products in food service programs. Additional equipment grants cover 50% of the cost of equipment purchases used to increase F2S efforts.

Application time frame: August – December

Grain Storage Facility Safety Cost-Share

Reimburses 75% of the purchase and installation of eligible safety equipment up to \$400 per bin or silo (\$2,400 per farm) per year.

Application time frame: Year–Round
(As long as funding is available)

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

Provides 75% reimbursement of costs associated with GAP/GHP certification.

Application time frame: Year–Round

Good Food Access Program (GFAP) Equipment/Physical Improvement Grants

Grants reimburse 100% of costs for retailers to buy equipment/make physical improvements to increase the availability of and access to affordable, nutritious and culturally appropriate food in eligible areas.

Application time frame: October – January

Good Food Access Program (GFAP) Technical Assistance Grants

Grants provide up to 75% of costs of providing



Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation (AGRI) Program

needs-based technical assistance to food retailers in eligible areas.

Application time frame: October – January

Livestock Investment Grants

Grants provide a 10% reimbursement for the purchase, construction, or improvement of buildings or facilities for livestock production.

Application time frame: August – November

Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Processing Grants

Approximately 25% reimbursement available for meat, poultry, egg, and milk processors' cost of equipment or physical improvements that support processing and capacity, and will increase sales of Minnesota agricultural products.

Application time frame: August – October

Minnesota ROPS Rebate Program

Provides a 70% rebate for installing tractor rollover protective structures (ROPS) with a maximum out-of-pocket cost of \$500. Call 877-ROPS-R4U (877-767-7748).

Application time frame: Year-Round
(As long as funding is available)

New Markets Program

Supporting small Minnesota food and beverage companies and farms, The New Markets Program includes 50% Cost-Sharing for high-impact marketing activities such as ecommerce, digital

marketing, e-mail marketing, B2B tradeshows, and store demos. The Program also coordinates "Minnesota Pavilions" at some of the largest domestic food tradeshows.

Application time frame: Year-Round

Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grants

Grants are available to cover 100% of on-farm research and demonstrations exploring sustainable agricultural practices.

Application time frame: August – December

Tradeshow/Demonstration Support Program (TSP)

Cost-sharing of booth space and other expenses at wholesale food tradeshows and support for in-store product sampling demonstrations.

Application time frame: Year-Round

Urban Agriculture Grants

Grant funds cover 100% of equipment or physical improvement purchases and/or labor for urban youth agricultural education and urban agriculture community development projects.

Application time frame: October – January

Value-Added Equipment Grants

Grants provide 25% of the cost of equipment or physical improvements that will add value to/increase sales of Minnesota agricultural products.

Application time frame: January – February



Low Interest Loans

Program	Funding Limits	Use of Proceeds	Terms and Maturity	Fees	Qualifications
AgBMP Loans www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/loans/agbmploan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$200,000 maximum loan • May have multiple loans • Total of all outstanding loans cannot exceed \$200,000 	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"> • Maximum loan length of 10 years • Maximum interest rate of 3% • Lender may require collateral • Borrower must meet lender's lending criteria 	<p>Lender may charge customary fees</p> <p>AgBMP: no fee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project must protect or improve water quality • Farmer, Rural Landowner, or Farm Supply Business may apply • Any feedlot or manure management projects < 1,000 AU • Contact your local government to review and approve projects. Local contacts can be found at www.mda.state.mn.us/agbmploan
RFA Beginning Farmer Loan Program www.mda.state.mn.us/business-dev-loans-grants/beginning-farmer-loan-program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFA participation: 45% of first mortgage with a maximum of \$400,000 	Purchase of farm real estate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFA portion - 2.0% interest rate • Lender and seller portion - negotiate • Pay at least 10% down of appraisal value • 15-30 year terms • RFA participation will balloon after 10 years 	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant must farm unit and be or intend to become a full-time farmer • Net worth of less than \$862,000 (including spouse and dependents) • Sufficient education or experience to succeed in intended farming practice • Agree to enroll in farm business management program and consult with your local Soil and Water Conservation District office • Agree to obtain credit life insurance to cover the purchase the property
RFA Seller-Assisted Loan Programs www.mda.state.mn.us/seller-assisted-loan-participation-program					
RFA Agricultural Improvement Program www.mda.state.mn.us/agricultural-improvement-loan-program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RFA participation: 45% of first mortgage with a max. of \$400,000 	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"> • RFA portion - 2.25% interest rate • Lender portion - negotiate • 1-15 year terms • RFA participation will balloon after 10 years 	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant must farm unit and be or intend to become a full-time farmer • Net worth of less than \$862,000 (including spouse and dependents) • Have sufficient education or experience to succeed in intended farming practice • Consult with your local Soil and Water Conservation District office

Low Interest Loans

Program	Funding Limits	Use of Proceeds	Terms and Maturity	Fees	Qualifications
RFA Livestock Expansion Program www.mda.state.mn.us/livestock-expansion-loan-program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFA participation: 45% of first mortgage with a max. of \$525,000 	Finance improvements to livestock facilities (purchase of livestock not allowed) (no refinancing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFA portion - 2.5% interest rate Lender portion - negotiate 1-15 year terms RFA participation will balloon after 10 years 	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must farm unit full-time; at least one of the applicants must be the principal operator and actively engaged in a livestock operation Net worth of less than \$1,832,000 (including spouse and dependents) Show financial need and ability to repay loan
RFA Restructure II Program www.mda.state.mn.us/restructure-ii-loan-program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFA participation: 45% of first mortgage with a max. of \$525,000 	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"> RFA portion - 2.5% interest rate Lender portion - negotiate 1-30 year terms RFA participation will balloon after 10 years 	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net worth of less than \$1,832,000 (including spouse and dependents) Have received 50% of gross income from farming in past three years Have operating expenses that do not exceed 95% of income Consult with your local Soil and Water Conservation District office
RFA Livestock Equipment Loan Program www.mda.state.mn.us/livestock-equipment-loan-program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFA participation: 45% of equipment loan with a max. of \$40,000 	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"> RFA portion - 2% fixed interest rate Lender portion - negotiate 1-10 year terms 	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must farm unit full-time; at least one of the applicants must be the principal operator and actively engaged in a livestock operation Net worth of less than \$490,077 (including spouse and dependents) Show financial need and ability to repay loan
RFA Disaster Recovery Loan Program www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/disaster/disasterloan.aspx	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFA participation: 45% of loan with a max. of \$200,000 	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"> 0% or less fixed interest rate 1-10 year terms 	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Have received 50% of average gross annual income from farming in past three years
RFA Value-Added Stock Loan Program www.mda.state.mn.us/value-added-stock-loan-program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFA participation: 45% of loan with a maximum of \$40,000 No more than 95% of purchased stock value will be loaned 	Finance the purchase of stock shares in commodity processing business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2% fixed interest rate 1-8 year terms 	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producer must grow the ag product which is to be processed by an agricultural product processing facility Have a total net worth of less than \$490,077 (indexed for inflation), including the assets and liabilities of spouse and dependents Security value must be 150% of total loan amount

Low Interest Loans

Program	Funding Limits	Use of Proceeds	Terms and Maturity	Fees	Qualifications
Methane Digester Loan Program www.mda.state.mn.us/methane-digester-loan-program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$250,000 	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"> 0% interest rate 1-10 year terms 	\$100 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide evidence that the practices implemented and capital assets purchased will be properly managed and maintained Have not previously received a loan under this program
Farm Opportunity Loan Program www.mda.state.mn.us/business-dev-loans-grants/farm-opportunity-loan-program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45% of the principal amount up to \$45,000 per individual; 45% of the principal amount up to \$250,000 per group 	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"> 2% fixed interest rate for 10 years 	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must farm unit and farm full-time Show financial need and ability to repay loan
Pilot Agriculture Microloan Loan Program www.mda.state.mn.us/pilot-agricultural-microloan-program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Max Loan of \$20,000 or 70% of the Farms Marketable product value whichever is less. Up to a max of a 6 year term 	Assist non-traditional farmers by providing lending capital while developing their farm business towards traditional agricultural credit. Farmers can borrow for working capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> up to a max of 10% interest 1-6 year terms 	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> resident of the State of Minnesota, utilizing funds towards the production and marketing of specialty crops, with ability to repay the loan. and a member under Minn. Stat. § 43A.02, subdiv. 33 or under Minn. Stat. § 256B.06, subdiv. 4, par. (b)
RFA Beginning Farm/Aggie Bond www.mda.state.mn.us/business-dev-loans-grants/aggie-bond-beginning-farmer-loan-program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$533,500 max loan \$250,000 for new depreciable property \$62,500 max for used depreciable asset 	Purchase of farmland, buildings, new or used depreciable ag property such as breeding livestock, dairy livestock, and machinery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced interest rate for buyer and tax benefit for lender 	RFA: \$50 application fee (non-refundable) 1.50% origination fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net worth less than \$862,000 Never have owned more than 30% of county median sized farm Agree to enroll in farm business management program and consult with local Soil and Water Conservation District

For More Information on Low Interest Loans

▶ RFA: 651-201-6004 www.mda.state.mn.us/agfinance ▶ AgBMP: 651-201-6618 www.mda.state.mn.us/agbmploan