



# Wolf-Livestock Grant

## 2023 Request for Proposals

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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.

# GRANT SUMMARY

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## Overview

Wolf-Livestock Conflict Prevention Grants were first funded by the Minnesota Legislature in 2017. The Wolf Livestock Grant is offered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to help producers prevent livestock depredation by wolves.

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## Funding Availability

The Department was appropriated \$90,000 during the 2023 Legislative Session to make grants to livestock producers for measures that will reduce wolf-livestock conflicts. In addition, the Department was awarded \$50,000 from the US Fish and Wildlife Services to make grants to livestock producers for use before September, 2024. Thus, a total of \$95,000 is available now (Round 1) and an additional \$45,000 will be available for application beginning July 1, 2024 (Round 2). We anticipate that 25 or more grants may be awarded in total with these funds.

For Round 1 of funding, Wolf-Livestock Conflict Prevention Grant applications must be postmarked or emailed by 5:00 PM CST on January 5, 2024 in order to be considered for funding. We strongly encourage you to submit proposals through email at [MN\\_MDA\\_elkandwolf@state.mn.us](mailto:MN_MDA_elkandwolf@state.mn.us). We will not consider late applications.

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## Priorities

It is the policy of the State of Minnesota to ensure fairness, precision, equity and consistency in competitive grant awards. This includes implementing diversity and inclusion in grant-making.

[Policy 08-02: Rating Criteria for Competitive Grant Review](#) establishes the expectation that grant programs intentionally identify how the grant serves diverse populations, especially populations experiencing inequities and/or disparities.

This grant will serve producers experiencing livestock depredation from wolves. Additionally, this grant will prioritize:

- Emerging farmers, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, immigrants, women, veterans, persons with disabilities, young and beginning farmers, LGBTQ+ farmers, and others
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## How to Submit Questions

All questions should be submitted through writing by email ([mn\\_mda\\_elkandwolf@state.mn.us](mailto:mn_mda_elkandwolf@state.mn.us)) and answers will be posted on the MDA website ([www.mda.state.mn.us/elk](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/elk)). MDA employees are not authorized to provide advice on any applications. Applicants who solicit or receive advice from unauthorized MDA employees may be disqualified from eligibility for a grant award. All questions are due by 5:00 PM December 29, 2023.

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## Timeline and Deadlines for Grant Program

It is best practice to submit your application at least 24 hours in advance to prevent unforeseen delays. Applications will not be accepted after the grant deadline under any circumstances.

1. RFP posted on MDA website	October 2, 2023
2. Questions due no later than 5:00 PM Central Time	December 29, 2023
3. Applications postmarked or emailed no later than 5:00 PM Central Time	January 5, 2024
6. Selected grantees announced	March, 2024
7. Work plans approved and projects begin	April, 2024
8. Projects complete	August, 31, 2024

Applications for the 2023 Wolf-Livestock Conflict Prevention Grant program must be emailed or postmarked by 5:00 PM January 5, 2024. Late applications will not be considered

The MDA is not responsible for any technical or logistical problems resulting in the MDA not receiving the application on time. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that submission is received by the MDA before the deadline.

# GRANT ELIGIBILITY

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## Eligible Applicants

Applicants must:

- Be an individual (including farmers), business, agricultural cooperative, or a local unit of government.
- Be in good standing with the State of Minnesota.
  - » No back taxes owed.
  - » No defaults on Minnesota State-backed financing for the last 7 years.
  - » Acceptable performance on past MDA grants.
  - » Compliant with current state regulations.
- Currently reside in Minnesota or be authorized to conduct business in Minnesota.
- Not be an employee or spouse of an employee of the MDA.

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## Eligible Projects and Expenses

Livestock producers within Minnesota's wolf range or on property determined by the commissioner to be affected by wolf-livestock conflicts. The Minnesota wolf range can be found here: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/wolves/mgmt.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/mammals/wolves/mgmt.html). Grant recipients will continue to be eligible for depredation payments under Minnesota Statute 3.737 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 1515.

- Purchase of guard animals
- Veterinary costs for guard animals
- Wolf-barriers which may include pens
- Fladry and fencing
- Wolf-detering lights and alarms
- Calving or lambing shelters

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## Grant Requirements and Ineligible Expenses

Grant recipients must make a good-faith effort to avoid wolf-livestock conflicts, make a good-faith effort to care for guard animals paid for with grant funds, retain proper documentation of expenses, report annually to the commissioner (within 30 days of project end) on the effectiveness of the nonlethal methods employed and allow follow-up evaluation and monitoring by the commissioner. The terms of the project will be defined in a grant agreement between the grantee and the MDA.

Any measures that are not implemented in a good-faith effort to reduce wolf-livestock conflicts are ineligible. Only measures approved by the MDA will be considered eligible for reimbursement. ATV's or other vehicles are considered to be ineligible expenses. Salary expenses not related to the construction of barriers, shelters, lights or alarms are also considered ineligible expenses.

Additional ineligible expenses include but are not limited to:

- Expenditures incurred prior to contract execution
- Owner and Employees' wages and benefits. Please contact staff for exceptions.
- Advertising, public relations, entertainment and amusement costs
- Donated or volunteer (in-kind) services. While these may be furnished to an applicant by professional and technical personnel, consultants, and other skilled and unskilled labor, the value of these services is not an eligible cost.
- Donations and in-kind contributions, including property and services, made by the applicant (regardless of the recipient)
- Fines, penalties, and other settlement expenses resulting from failure of the applicant to comply with Federal, State, local, or Indian tribal laws and regulations
- Indirect costs (expenses of doing business that are not readily identified with the project)
- Fundraising, including financial campaigns, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred to raise capital or obtain contributions
- Taxes, except sales tax on goods and services

- Lobbyists, political contributions
- Bad debts, late payment fees, finance charges, legal costs, or contingency funds
- Parking or traffic violations
- Out of state transportation and travel expenses. Minnesota will be considered the home state for determining whether travel is out of state.
- General use equipment

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## Cost Share

Producers must document a cost-share for grant projects of 20%. For example, a \$10,000 project would consist of \$8,000 in grant funds and \$2,000 funded by the producer. Documentation must be provided to the department for the entire amount spent on the project. In this example, that would be \$10,000.

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# APPLICATION REVIEW POLICIES

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## Review Process

Grant applications will be scored competitively using an evaluation profile and then ranked based on total score. Please pay special attention to the evaluation profile when answering the questions on the application. A review committee comprised of representatives from Minnesota Departments of Agriculture and Natural Resources, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and producer organizations will evaluate applications. The Commissioner of Agriculture will make final award decisions and in so doing may use additional criteria, such as past performance.

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## Conflicts of Interest

State grant policy requires that steps and procedures are in place to prevent individual and organizational conflicts of interest, both in reference to applicants and reviewers, per [Minn. Stat.16B.98](#) and [Conflict of Interest Policy for State Grant-Making \(PDF\)](#).

Organizational conflicts of interest occur when:

- A grantee or applicant is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice to the MDA due to competing duties or loyalties.
- A grantee's or applicant's objectivity in carrying out the grant is or might be otherwise impaired due to competing duties or loyalties.

In cases where a conflict of interest is suspected, disclosed, or discovered, the applicants or grantees will be notified and actions may be pursued, including but not limited to disqualification from eligibility for the grant award or termination of the grant agreement.

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## Privacy Notice and Data Classification

The information provided by an applicant will be used to assess the applicant's eligibility to receive a grant. The decision to apply for this grant is voluntary, and applicants are not legally required to provide any of the requested information. Applicants may decline to complete this application without any legal consequence. However, only completed applications will be considered for a grant; incomplete applications will not be considered.

Data provided in this application is initially classified by the Minnesota Data Practices Act as private or nonpublic, although some or all of the data will generally become public at various points of the application process unless the data are otherwise classified by state or federal law. Access to private or nonpublic data is limited to those authorized by law, including but not necessarily limited to MDA staff and contractors with a valid work assignment to access the data, parties authorized by the applicant, parties identified in a valid court order or federal subpoena, Minnesota Management and Budget, Minnesota Department of Administration, the state auditor, and the legislative auditor. If necessary, the MDA may also share the data with law enforcement or the Office of the Attorney General.

Per [Minn. Stat. 13.599](#):

- Names and addresses of grant applicants, and the grant amount requested, will be public data once application responses are opened.
- All remaining data in application responses (except trade secret information, see below) becomes public data after the evaluation process is completed (for the purposes of this grant, when all grant agreements have been fully executed).
- All data created or maintained by the MDA as part of the evaluation process (except trade secret information, see below) will be public data after the evaluation process is completed.
- Procedure for Claiming Protection of Trade Secrets:
  - » Trade secret information is classified as not public data. In order to qualify as trade secret information, the data in question must be provided to the MDA by the affected person (i.e. the data must be about the applicant) and otherwise meet the legal definition found in Minn. Stat. § 13.37, subd. 1(b). In order for an applicant to assert trade secret protection for data submitted as part of this application: the applicant must: 1) clearly identify the specific formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique or process that the applicant believes to be trade secret information; 2) describe what efforts the applicant takes to maintain the secrecy of the data; and 3) adequately explain how the data derive(s) independent economic value from not being generally known to, and not readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons. Merely asserting trade secret protection does not, in and of itself, classify the data in question as not public; determining what data meet the definition of trade secret information is ultimately the legal responsibility of the MDA, and the MDA cannot guarantee that data identified as trade secret information by an applicant will be classified as such. If the MDA determines that data do not meet the definition of trade secret information, the data in question will be available to the public unless the applicant secures a court order saying otherwise.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS

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### Accountability and Reporting

Follow-up surveys are required to help us determine the long-term impacts of the grant. Grantees are required to respond to requests for follow-up information for three years beyond the term of the grant agreement. Failure to respond to these in a timely manner may impact your ability to secure future funding from the MDA.

### Grant Award Agreement and Payments

Grant contract agreement templates are available for review at [Office of Grants Management Policies, Statutes, and Forms/Forms and FAQs tab](#).

Upon approval of an application and prior to beginning work on the grant project(s) and receiving reimbursements, the applicant is required to do the following:

- Complete an IRS W-9 form or register as a vendor in SWIFT, the State's accounting system.
- Complete a Revenue 185 form that allows the MDA to check for state tax status.
- Sign a Grant Contract Agreement indicating their intention to complete the proposed tasks. The agreement also authorizes the MDA to monitor the progress of the project. The grant award document must be signed within 30 days of being sent to the grantee.

Eligible expenses may only be incurred after the contract has been signed by all parties. Grant contracts may not extend beyond August 31, 2024.

Grant funds are dispersed on a reimbursement basis. All grantee requests for reimbursement must correspond to the approved grant budget. To receive grant payments, grantees must provide proof that grant project work has been done by submitting details of each purchase on receipts or invoices, and proof that the vendors have been paid. Annual progress reports are required to be submitted during the duration of the project. Grant payments shall not be made on grants with past due progress reports unless the MDA has given the grantee a written extension.

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## Site Visits and Financial Reconciliations

The grant agreement allows the MDA to monitor the progress of the project. Grantees may receive monitoring visits at the discretion of the MDA.

Financial reconciliation may be performed at the discretion of the MDA. For this purpose, the grantee must provide expense receipts, employee timesheets, invoices, and any other supporting documents requested by the state.

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## Bidding Requirements

All funded applicants will be required to abide by the state's bidding requirements for larger purchases. See a detailed list of the state's [bidding requirements](#) for details.

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## Affirmative Action and Non-Discrimination Policy

The grantee agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status in regard to public assistance, membership or activity in a local commission, disability, sexual orientation, or age in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified ([Minn. Stat. 363A.02](#)). The grantee agrees to take affirmative steps to employ, advance in employment, upgrade, train, and recruit minority persons, women, and persons with disabilities.

The grantee must not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of physical or mental disability in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified. The grantee agrees to take affirmative action to employ, advance in employment, and otherwise treat qualified disabled persons without discrimination based upon their physical or mental disability in all employment practices such as the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment, advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship ([Minnesota Rules, part 5000.3500](#)).

The grantee agrees to comply with the rules and relevant orders of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights issued pursuant to the [Minnesota Human Rights Act](#).

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## Audits of Project

Per [Minn. Stat. 16B.98, subdivision 8](#), the grantee's books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of the grantee or other party that are relevant to the grant or transaction are subject to examination by the Commissioner of Administration, the granting agency and either the legislative auditor or the state auditor, as appropriate (Minn. Stat. 16B.98. subd. 8). This requirement will last for a minimum of six years from the grant agreement end date, receipt, and approval of all final reports, or the required period of time to satisfy all state and program retention requirements, whichever is later.

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## Voter Registration Requirement

The grantee will comply with [Minn. Stat. 201.162](#) by providing voter registration services for its employees.

## Project Evaluation Profile

EVALUATION CRITERIA	0 POINTS	2.5 POINTS	5 POINTS	10 POINTS
Documented livestock killed by wolf	No documented damage within last 5 years	Documented damage within last 2-5 years	Documented damage within last 1-2 years	Documented damage within last year
Completeness of application	Not legible, hard to read and/or understand	Everything is filled out and readable	Detailed description of plans and itemized costs	NA
Demonstrated knowledge	No demonstrated knowledge of how to implement plan	Some knowledge of tactics demonstrated	Clearly sufficient knowledge to implement plan	NA
Effectiveness of tactics	Plan appears insufficient	Plan may or may not succeed	Plan is likely to succeed	NA
Cost efficiency	Costs are clearly too high for the proposed project	Costs may be high	Costs appear in line with proposed project	NA
Emerging Farmer	Add 5 points if qualifying factors are documented			
Previous Wolf-Livestock Grant Funds Received	Subtract 1 point per \$1,000 previously received			



# APPLICATION QUESTIONS

CONTACT INFORMATION			
Applicant Name:			
Name of farm (if applicable):			
Mailing address:	City:	State:	Zip:
Phone:	Email:		

ELIGIBILITY		
YES	NO	Confirm that the following statements apply to your organization.
		My business and I are good standing with the State of Minnesota. (No back taxes owed, no defaults on Minnesota State backed financing for the past seven years, in compliance with current state regulations, and acceptable performance on past MDA grants.)
		I am a current Minnesota resident or business entity authorized to farm in Minnesota.
		My spouse and I (nor anyone involved with this application) are not employees of the MDA.
		Work has not started on your proposed project and will not begin before the grant contract agreement is signed by all parties. The MDA is unable to reimburse for any work performed prior to the start date of the contract. Only expenses incurred after the contract start date will be eligible for reimbursement.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
How many livestock do you maintain and what type? (i.e., how many cattle, sheep, etc.)
Describe past losses from wolves with numbers of livestock and the timeframes (i.e., during the past year or longer ago). Note if losses have been documented through the MDA wolf depredation claim process or not.

## Project Summary

1. Attach a written description of the project that will be implemented to prevent livestock killed by wolf.
  - a. If the project will purchase guard animals, describe what animals will be purchased and how they will be utilized to prevent wolf depredation.
  - b. If veterinary care will be provided to purchased or existing guard animals as part of the project, describe the animals that will receive the care, how they are used to prevent depredation and what care will be purchased.
  - c. If the project will rely on fencing or other barriers, describe the areas that will receive fencing or other barriers and how the fencing/barriers will be incorporated to prevent depredation. Please include a rough drawing showing how the barriers will be deployed and information about the types, quantities and costs of the materials that will be utilized.
  - d. If the project will utilize lights or alarms, describe how the lights and alarms will be deployed on the farm to prevent depredation. Be sure to include the numbers, types and cost per unit of the lights or alarms that will be installed.
  - e. If the project will utilize calving or lambing shelters, describe how the shelters will be deployed on the farm to prevent depredation. Include the numbers of shelters, types and costs associated with purchase or construction of shelters.
  - f. If the project will utilize a method that is not described in this list, be sure to clearly explain the project, how it will be implemented on your farm to prevent depredation, and an accounting of the types of materials that will be utilized.
  
2. This grant program prioritizes emerging farmers including historically underserved communities, such as, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, immigrants, women, veterans, persons with disabilities, young and beginning farmers, LGBTQ+ farmers, and others. Are these priorities reflected in your operation? If yes, please explain.

### 3. Itemization of costs by category

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS FOR EACH ACTIVITY IMPLEMENTED	
Guard Animals Cost	\$
Veterinary Care Cost	\$
Fences/Barriers Cost	\$
Lights/Alarms Cost	\$
Shelters Cost	\$
Other Measures Cost	\$
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$</b>