



AGRI Livestock Investment Grant 2026 Request for Proposals

Applications due by 4 p.m. on November 13, 2025

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Grant Summary

Overview

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Agriculture Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) [Livestock Investment Grant Program](#). The program is authorized under Minn. Stat. 41A.12 and Minn. Stat. 17.118 and funded through Laws of Minnesota, 2025, Regular Session, Chapter 34, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 3(e). Grant funds are available for equipment purchases, physical improvements, and acquisition of facilities used to help start, improve, or expand livestock operations in the state of Minnesota. Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m. Central Time (CT) on Thursday, November 13, 2025.

Fiscal Year 2026 grant changes

The Livestock Investment Grant statute ([MINN STAT 17.118](#)) was amended during the 2025 Minnesota legislative session. The parts of the statute that were updated are:

- **Applicant eligibility:** To be eligible you must be a resident of the state of Minnesota, a business entity authorized to farm in Minnesota, or a unit of Tribal government.
- **Livestock type eligibility:** Eligible livestock is now defined as animals raised for the production of fiber, meat, and animal by-products for sale or as breeding stock, including but not limited to beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, poultry, goats, mules, farmed cervids (deer, elk), ratites (flightless birds including emu), bison, sheep, horses, aquaculture, and llamas. Other species of livestock may be eligible. See the [eligible livestock species](#) section for more information.
- **Reimbursement:** The grant will reimburse 50% of the first \$20,000 in eligible expenses, then 25% of eligible expenses up to the maximum grant of \$25,000. See the [matching funds](#) section for more details.

Funding availability

We expect to award approximately \$1.4 million in this round using a competitive review process. Grant awards can range in size from \$400 to \$25,000.

An individual, farm, or Tribal government may only receive one Livestock Investment Grant in FY 2026. A farm operation may only receive one grant per year, regardless of the applicant type.

Grants may last up to three years from the contract start date. We expect most grant contract agreements to start in early 2026. Eligible expenses may only be incurred after the contract has been signed by all parties. Applicants should anticipate that grant contracts will end on December 31, 2028 and may not be extended.

If selected, grantees may only incur eligible expenditures when the grant contract agreement is fully executed, the grant has reached its effective date, and the grantee has been notified by the state's authorized representative that they may begin work.

Matching funds

The AGRI Livestock Investment Grant is a reimbursement grant. You must supply documentation showing payment for the full cost of the project to receive the awarded reimbursement amount.

For the match:

- You are responsible for 50% of the first \$20,000 to receive up to a \$10,000 reimbursement.
- For costs after the first \$20,000, you are responsible for 75% of the total remaining cost to receive 25% reimbursement, up to a maximum grant award of \$25,000.

Sources of the matching funds may include cash, loans, other grants, and liquid capital assets dedicated to the project. State grant funds cannot be used as matching funds, but non-forgivable loans from the state may be used as a match.

Example:

A grantee is working on a project that is expected to cost \$80,000. The first \$20,000 of expenses will be reimbursed at 50% (\$10,000). For the remaining \$60,000 in expenses, the grantee would be eligible for \$15,000 in grant reimbursement from the state and would have to contribute the remaining \$45,000. In total, the grantee would be eligible for \$25,000 from the state and would be responsible for the other \$55,000.

Example \$80,000 project showing the reimbursement amount and the grantee's contribution

Project Cost	Grant Reimbursement	Grantee Cost
First \$20,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Remaining \$60,000	\$15,000	\$45,000
Total Cost: \$80,000	\$25,000	\$55,000

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 \(PDF\)](#) sets up the expectation that grant programs intentionally show how the grant serves diverse populations, especially populations experiencing inequities or disparities.

This grant will specifically prioritize:

- Beginning farmers and farms owned or principally operated by beginning farmers. A beginning farmer is defined as someone who has farmed 10 years or fewer.
- Generational transitions.
- Production of livestock for kosher or halal markets.
- Robotic milking equipment.
- Applicants who have not previously received a Livestock Investment Grant.

How to apply

- Apply for the Livestock Investment Grant using our [online application system](#).
 - If you're a new user, you need to create an account first.
 - Once you're logged in, select "AGRI Livestock Investment Grant FY26."
 - We will only accept one application per farm.
- Applications are due by **4 p.m. Central Time (CT) on Thursday, November 13, 2025**.
 - We will not accept late applications.
 - Apply early so that there is enough time to get help with the online application system. It's best practice to submit your application at least 24 hours in advance.
 - We are not responsible for any technical or logistical problems that result in a late submission. It is your responsibility to ensure we receive your application before the deadline.
 - If you can't use the online application system, contact us to request other arrangements.

Incomplete applications will be rejected and not evaluated. Applications must include all required application materials, including attachments. Do not provide any materials that are not requested in this RFP, as such materials will not be considered nor evaluated.

The MDA reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet these requirements.

By submitting an application, each applicant warrants that the information provided is true, correct, and reliable for purposes of evaluation for potential grant award. The submission of inaccurate or misleading information may be grounds for disqualification from the award, as well as subject the applicant to suspension or debarment proceedings and other remedies available by law.

Note: All costs incurred in responding to this RFP will be borne by the applicant.

How to submit questions

For questions about the grant program or application:

- Submit your question in writing before **4 p.m. CT on November 6, 2025**.
- Email MDA.agrigrants@state.mn.us with "Livestock Investment Grant" in the subject line.

Note: MDA employees are not authorized to give advice on any applications. Applicants who solicit or receive advice from unauthorized MDA employees may be disqualified from eligibility for a grant award.

For help using the online application system:

- Call 651-201-6500 or
- Email MDA.agrigrants@state.mn.us and include "Livestock Investment Grant" in the subject line.

Timeline and deadlines

November 6, 2025, at 4 p.m. CTDeadline to ask grant program questions.

November 13, 2025, at 4 p.m. CTApplication period closes.

February 1, 2026All applicants notified of grant status.

March 1, 2026Anticipated contract start date.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

Applicants must be a resident of the state of Minnesota, a business entity authorized to farm in Minnesota, or a unit of Tribal government. Applicants must also be the principal operator of a livestock operation in Minnesota, hold an appropriate feedlot registration when applicable, and sell at least \$1,000 of livestock products annually (or would sell at least \$1,000 of livestock products in a typical year).

Grant contract agreements may be written with the principal operator, the farm business entity, or the Tribal government.

MDA employees, their spouses, and farms owned or principally operated by them are not eligible.

Who is a principal operator?

A principal operator is the person primarily responsible for the day-to-day operation of the farm. The principal operator could be an owner, hired manager, cash tenant, share tenant, or partner.

What business entities need authorization to farm in Minnesota?

The statute on farming by business organizations ([MINN. STAT. 500.24](#)) requires that all pension or investment funds, corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, and irrevocable trusts must be certified by the MDA before engaging in farming or having an interest in agricultural land.

How do business entities get authorization to farm in Minnesota?

Go to the [Minnesota's Corporate Farm Report](#) webpage for applications and more information.

Collaboration

Eligible applicants may collaborate with other livestock operations, but this is not required. If eligible applicants are submitting a joint application, they must determine which business or organization will have the grant contract agreement with the MDA and will work directly with the MDA to meet grant reporting requirements. Note that this entity will receive a 1099 from the State of Minnesota for income tax purposes.

Eligible livestock species

For the purposes of this grant, livestock means animals raised to produce fiber, meat, and animal by-products for sale or as breeding stock, including but not limited to beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, poultry, goats, mules, farmed cervids (deer, elk), ratites (flightless birds including emu), bison, sheep, horses, aquaculture, and llamas. Contact us with questions regarding the eligibility of other species.

Eligible projects and expenses

If we accept your proposal, we will reimburse eligible costs included in your project budget. You may be required to submit documentation including invoices and proof of payment.

- You must be invoiced and pay for all project materials and services between the grant agreement start date and December 31, 2028.
 - Grants are expected to start on March 1, 2026.
 - Any expenses incurred outside this timeframe are not eligible.

Projects must:

- Aim to improve, update, or modernize livestock operations through infrastructure and equipment.
- Not start until the grant contract agreement is signed by all parties and has reached its start date. No purchasing or contracting of goods and services may occur prior to the full execution of the grant contract agreement or effective date, whichever is later.
- Be completed in three years or less; contracts cannot be extended beyond three years.
- Be conducted in Minnesota.

Project examples include but are not limited to:

- Acquisition, construction, or improvement of buildings or facilities to produce livestock or livestock products
- Development of pasture for use by livestock including, but not limited to, the acquisition, development, or improvement of:
 - Lanes used by livestock that connect pastures to a central location
 - Watering systems for livestock on pasture, including water lines, booster pumps, and well installations
 - Livestock stream crossing stabilization
 - Fences
- Acquisition of equipment for livestock housing, confinement, feeding, and waste management including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Freestall barns
 - Watering facilities
 - Feed storage and handling equipment
 - Milking parlors
 - Robotic equipment
 - Scales
 - Milk storage and cooling facilities
 - Bulk tanks
 - Computer hardware and software and associated equipment used to monitor the productivity and feeding of livestock
 - Manure pumping and storage facilities
 - Hog farrowing facilities
 - Hog and cattle finishing barns
 - Calving facilities

- Digesters
- Equipment used to produce energy
- On-farm processing facility equipment
- Fences, including but not limited to farmed cervid perimeter fences
- Livestock pens and corrals
- Sorting, restraining, and loading chutes

Ineligible expenses

The following items are not eligible for reimbursement under this grant:

- Expenditures incurred prior to the full execution of the grant contract agreement or its start date, whichever occurs later, or those incurred after the expiration of the grant contract agreement
- Expenses paid for in cash
- General purpose equipment (e.g., skid steer loaders, combines, tractors)
- General purpose buildings (e.g., general equipment storage building, farm shop)
- Animal feed or crop seed
- Crop production equipment (except specialized forage or hay harvesting and handling equipment such as mowing equipment, tedding equipment, and hay balers)
- Crop or pastureland
- Livestock
- Purchase of more than 10 acres of land used to construct livestock buildings or facilities
- Rent-to-own lease agreements where property purchase is optional
- Refinancing existing debt
- Late payment fees, finance charges, or contingency funds
- Items that are not allowed to be capitalized and deducted under either section 167 or 179 of the Internal Revenue Code in computing federal taxable income
- Construction or improvements outside of the state of Minnesota
- Owner and employees' wages and benefits. Contact program staff for exceptions.
- Advertising, public relations, entertainment, and amusement costs
- Donations and in-kind contributions, including property and services, made by the applicant (regardless of the recipient)
- Indirect costs (expenses of doing business that are not readily identified with the project)
- Fundraising
- 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 deciding whether travel is out of state.

Application Review Policies and Processes

Review process

Funding will be allocated through a competitive process. MDA staff and external reviewers will evaluate all eligible applications based on the criteria in the [Application Scoring Sheet](#). Reviewers may recommend whole or partial funding of a project. The commissioner of agriculture reviews the recommendations and makes the award decisions. Reviewers, staff, and the commissioner may consider geographic distribution as well as the applicant's history as a state grantee, including performance on previous grants, compliance with state rules and regulations, and capacity to perform the work.

We will notify applicants, both successful and unsuccessful, in writing. Applicants may request a summary of reviewer comments.

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 ([MINN. STAT.16B.98](#) and [OGM Policy 08-01 Conflict of Interest in State Grant-Making Policy](#)).

Organizational conflicts of interest occur when:

- A grantee or applicant is unable or potentially unable to give 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.

An example of a conflict of interest would be an external party (such as a vendor) writing an application for an applicant when that external party stands to profit from the grant award.

In cases where a conflict of interest is suspected, disclosed, or discovered, the applicants or grantees will be notified and actions will be pursued, including but not limited to revising the grant work plan or grantee duties to mitigate the risk, requesting the grant applicant to submit an organizational conflict of interest mitigation plan, disqualification from eligibility for the grant award, amending the grant, or termination of the grant contract agreement.

Privacy notice and data classification

The information provided by an applicant will be used to assess the applicant's eligibility to receive a grant under this program. 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 Minnesota's statute on grants ([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 for data otherwise classified by law, including 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 generally 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 statute ([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.

All persons, businesses, and individuals applying for grants in the state of Minnesota must comply with applicable laws. Under the law titled Right of Setoff ([MINN. STAT. 270C.65, subd. 3](#)), a grantee consents to disclosure of its social security number, federal employer tax identification number, and/or Minnesota tax identification number, already provided to the State, to federal and state tax agencies, and to state personnel involved in the payment of state obligations. These identification numbers may be used in the enforcement of federal and state tax laws which could result in action requiring a grantee to file state tax returns and pay delinquent state tax liabilities, if any.

Requirements for Grant Recipients

Grant award agreement

Upon approval of an application and submission of required certification and other documents, the applicant must sign a grant contract agreement showing their intention to complete the proposed tasks. This agreement must be signed within 30 days of being sent to the grantee.

Grant contract agreement templates are available for review at: [Office of Grants Management Policies, Statutes, and Forms>Forms and FAQs tab](#). The grant contract agreement will address the conditions of the award, including implementation for the project. Grantees should read the grant contract agreement, sign, and once signed, comply with all conditions of the grant contract agreement. No work on grant activities can begin until a fully executed grant contract agreement is in place and the state's authorized representative has notified the grantee that work may start. The funded applicant will be legally responsible for assuring implementation of the work plan and compliance with all applicable state requirements including worker's compensation insurance, nondiscrimination, data privacy, budget compliance, and reporting.

Accountability and reporting

Annual progress reports must be submitted each fall through 2028, or until all grant funds have been expended and all of the terms in the grant agreement have been met, whichever is first. The MDA reserves the right to modify reporting requirements throughout the grant. Grant payments shall not be made on grants with past-due progress reports unless the MDA has given the grantee a written extension.

Information reported to the MDA may be classified as public data. Failure to regularly report, respond to surveys, and promptly respond to information requests may impact the grantee's ability to secure future funding from the MDA.

Authorized representatives

Pursuant to [MINN. STAT. 16B.98, subd. 5\(d\)](#), grantees must clearly post on the grantee's website the names of, and contact information for, the grantee's leadership and the employee or other person who directly manages and oversees a grant contract agreement on behalf of the grantee.

Payments

Eligible expenses may only be incurred after the grant contract agreement has been signed by all parties.

Grant funds are dispersed on a reimbursement basis. All requests for reimbursement must correspond to the approved grant budget. Requests must include two types of proof for each expense: proof of purchase (e.g., invoices, itemized receipts, etc.) and proof of payment (e.g., cleared checks, credit card statements, bank statements, etc.). Grantees may be asked to submit photos of their project. Ineligible items and their cost must be clearly delineated in the proof of purchase. Additional details can be found in the [MDA Reimbursement Guide \(PDF\)](#). The MDA will generally not reimburse the grantee for expenses paid in cash.

Grant payments will not be made on grants with past due progress reports unless the MDA has given the grantee a written extension.

Grants are considered taxable income. Grant payments may be used to fulfill federal and state tax liabilities or may be withheld until the grantee has paid any tax liabilities ([MINN. STAT. 270C.65, Subd. 3](#) and other applicable laws).

Bidding requirements

All funded applicants must abide by the state's bidding requirements. See a list of the state's [bidding requirements](#) for details. We anticipate that most grantees will need to follow the non-governmental/nonprofit organization tab.

Publicity

All projects funded must publicly credit Minnesota Department of Agriculture AGRI funding, including on the grantee's website when practical.

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](#).

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 State granting agency, the State Auditor, the Attorney General, and the Legislative Auditor as appropriate. This requirement will last for a minimum of six years from the grant contract 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.

Voter registration requirement

The grantee will provide voter registration services for its employees ([MINN. STAT. 201.162](#)).

Right of Cancellation

The State reserves the right to cancel this solicitation if it is considered to be in its best interest. The State reserves the right to negotiate modifications to the application or to reject any and all applications received as a result of this Request for Proposals. The State does not intend to award a grant contract agreement solely on the basis of any response made to this request or pay for information solicited or obtained.

AGRI Background and Program Goals

The Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation Program (AGRI) was established to advance Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy industries ([MINN. STAT. 41A.12](#)). AGRI has made significant economic impacts by increasing productivity, improving efficiency, and assisting the development of agricultural products. The primary goal of the AGRI Livestock Investment Grant is to encourage long-term industry development for Minnesota livestock farmers and ranchers by helping them improve, update, and modernize their livestock operation infrastructure and equipment.

Application Scoring Sheet

Evaluation criteria	Maximum score
Project description <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant clearly describes their project. 	10
Project impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant clearly describes how the project will have a meaningful impact on their farm. This includes increased profitability, labor reduction, or other types of measurable change on the farm (10 pts). Applicant explains how they came to their estimates relating to the projects impact (5pts). 	15
New farmer or generational transition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmer has been the principal operator for 10 years or less (5 pts). Project contributes to an active generational transition (5 pts). Applicant has not previously received an AGRI Livestock Investment Grant (5 pts). 	15
Farm safety and accessibility improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project addresses farm safety or accessibility needs of the farmer or employees. 	5
Environmental impact or responding to a natural disaster <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project addresses major environmental benefits or corrects compliance issues with feedlot regulations. Project repairs damage caused by a natural disaster or will make the farm more resilient to changes in climate and severe weather. 	5
Technology improvements and robotic dairy milking equipment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project adequately describes technology updates that will improve efficiency for the operation (5 pts). Project includes robotic dairy milking equipment (5 pts). 	10
Alternative markets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicant has plans to produce and sell product and the project will help the applicant sell in an alternative market, including halal or kosher. 	5
Market demand for animal welfare <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project helps protect or expand market access by responding to demand for animal welfare by improving conditions for livestock or contributing to better animal handling. 	5
Farm management plan and programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project contributes to the implementation or continuation of a farm management plan or program. 	5
Project readiness, budget, economic outcomes Applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes a budget that clearly details project costs (5 pts). Includes a plan for paying for the project, including the portions not reimbursed by this grant (5 pts). Clearly explains the importance of this grant to completing the project (5 pts). Applicant demonstrates adequate planning, including quotes (5 pts). Applicant includes a work plan for their project that is realistic (5 pts). 	25
Total	100

Application Questions

We're providing this preview of the application questions for your convenience. You will answer these questions in our online application system. Please log in and review the online application before you begin preparing your answers. Additional instructions for the questions may be provided within the full application. For questions that include a narrative response, be sure to give enough details for reviewers to be able to evaluate your response.

Applicant information

Contact information

- Applicant name
- Mailing address
- Farm address
- Applicant telephone
- Applicant email
- County
- Minnesota State House District (use the [District Finder](#) if you don't know your district.)
- What is your feedlot registration number? (If applicable)

Authorized representative

- If awarded a grant, the person who will sign the Livestock Investment Grant contract agreement for this organization. This is often you or other leadership on your farm.
 - Name
 - Telephone
 - Email

Farm operation

- Farm name (if applicable)
- Organizational structure (select one):
 - Sole proprietorship or individual
 - Partnership
 - LLP
 - LLC
 - Corporation (Incorporated)
 - Estate
 - Trust
 - Other
- If awarded a grant, would you accept the grant as an individual, farm entity, or Tribal government?
 - Individual
 - Farm entity
 - Tribal government

- If you will receive the grant as a farm entity, do you acknowledge you have read the following? (Yes)
 - To accept this award as a farm entity, your entity must be authorized to farm or have an exemption with the MDA. This requirement comes from the farming by business organizations statute ([MINN. STAT. 500.24](#)).
 - If your entity is a pension or investment fund, corporation, limited partnership, limited liability company, or irrevocable trust, you must be certified by the MDA to be engaging in farming or having an interest in agricultural land. If awarded a grant, we will verify that your entity is listed on the [MDA Corporate Farm Search](#).
 - If awarded a grant, we will verify that your farm entity is registered with the Minnesota Secretary of State.
 - Grants from the AGRI Livestock Investment Program are taxable income.

Type and number of livestock

- What type of livestock do you raise or what type of livestock does your project impact?
 - Beef cattle
 - Dairy cattle
 - Swine
 - Sheep/Goats
 - Poultry
 - Horses
 - Bison
 - Other (please specify)
- Use the following table as a guide to give an estimate of the number of livestock on your operation.

Livestock type	Current number (before project)
Beef cattle	--
Dairy cattle	--
Swine	--
Sheep/Goats	--
Poultry	--
Horses	--
Bison	--
Other	--

- After this project, does your number of livestock increase or decrease? (Yes or No) Note: You are NOT required to increase the number or types of livestock for this grant.
 - If yes, complete the table with the number of livestock you anticipate having after the project.

Livestock type	Estimated number (after project)
Beef cattle	--
Dairy cattle	--
Swine	--
Sheep/Goats	--
Poultry	--
Horses	--
Bison	--
Other	--

Eligibility

- Confirm that the following statements apply to you or your organization.
 - I am a current Minnesota resident, my business is authorized to farm in Minnesota under [MINN. STAT. 500.24](#), or I am applying on behalf of a Tribal government. (True)
 - I am a principal operator and/or have the authority to apply on behalf of the farm or tribal government. (True)
 - The farm or ranch is in Minnesota and produces and sells at least \$1,000 of livestock products annually or normally would sell at least \$1,000 of livestock products in a typical year. (True)
 - The farm entity, farm owner, or principal operator have not been suspended or debarred from doing business with the State of Minnesota or with the federal government. (True)
 - Is the applicant or farm owner or principal operator an MDA employee or spouse of an MDA employee? (No)
 - I understand that if my application is successful, the MDA cannot reimburse for any project expenses incurred for work performed before the contract is fully executed (anticipated to be around March 1, 2026). (Yes)
 - Is any other application to this program being submitted on behalf of this farm? (No)
- Has the applicant or any of the applicant's current board members or staff with authority to access grant funds been convicted of a felony financial crime in the last 10 years? You may need to sign a certification. (No)
- I attest that all information supplied in this application is true, correct and reliable to the best of my knowledge. (Yes or No)
- I attest and understand that the submission of inaccurate or misleading information may be grounds for disqualification from the grant contract agreement award and may subject me and my organization to suspension or debarment proceedings, as well as other remedies available by law to the state. (Yes or No).
- I attest and understand that the supporting documentation for the claims and assertions made within this application is available to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture for its review. (Yes or No)

Previous grants

- Has this farm operation received a previous grant from the MDA? (Yes or No)
 - If yes, briefly describe your previous grant project(s), including date(s) and amount(s) awarded. (1,000 characters, including spaces)

Project information

Project title

- Applicant or farm name, item requested.

Examples:

- Petersen Farm, sheep fencing
- Easy 8 Ranch, electronic ID for cattle

Farm description

- Briefly describe your farming or ranching operation. (500 characters, including spaces)

Project description

- Describe your project in three to five sentences, including what you are going to do; how it fits into your farm's plan; and how the project helps start, improve, or expand your livestock operation. (1,000 characters, including spaces)

Project impact

- What impact will this project have on your farm? This may include increased profitability, labor reduction, or other types of measurable change on the farm. (1,000 characters, including spaces)
- How did you come up with the estimates relating to your projects impact? Examples include through personal experience, data, or other sources. (1,000 characters, including spaces)

New farmers or generational transition

- How many years have you been the principal operator of your farm? (number only)
- Are you a beginning farmer? (Yes or No) (A beginning farmer, for this application, has farmed 10 years or fewer.)
 - If yes, please explain your role on your farm. (1,500 characters, including spaces)
- Does this project contribute to an active generational transition that is being planned or implemented? (Yes or No)
 - If yes, please explain the stage and timeline of the transition. (1,500 characters, including spaces)

Farm safety and accessibility improvements

- Does this project improve farm safety or accessibility on your operation? (Yes or No)
 - If yes, describe the farm safety or accessibility improvements that would result from this project. (1,500 characters, including spaces)

Examples:

- Improvements to create a work environment less likely to result in physical harm to workers.
- Improvements to allow farmers or employees with disabilities or physical conditions to contribute to the day-to-day operations of the farm.

Environmental impact

- Does this project provide major environmental benefits or correct environmental compliance issues, including feedlot regulations? (Yes or No)
 - If yes, explain how this project provides major environmental benefits or corrects environmental compliance issues, including feedlot regulations. (1,500 characters, including spaces)

Responding to natural disasters

- Are you rebuilding after a natural disaster that happened within the last two years or to make the farm more resilient to changes in climate or severe weather? (Yes or No) (Examples of natural disasters include wind, flood, drought, fire, snow, and ice.)
 - If yes, describe the natural disaster and the damage it caused, and say which parts of the project are related to repairing the damage. Or describe how your project makes the farm more resilient to changes in climate or severe weather. (1,500 characters, including spaces)

Technology improvements and robotic dairy milking equipment

- Does your project include technology improvements? (Yes or No)
 - If yes, describe any technology improvements included in your proposed project and how the improvements will impact your operation. (1,500 characters, including spaces)
- Does your project include the purchase of robotic milking equipment? (Yes or No)

Alternative markets

- Does your operation have specific plans to process and sell product in an alternative market, including halal or kosher? (Yes or No)
 - If yes, describe specific plans to process and sell product in an alternative market. (500 characters, including spaces)

Market demand for animal welfare

- Does your project help protect or expand market access by responding to demand for animal welfare? This includes improving conditions for livestock and contributing to better animal handling. (Yes or No)
 - If yes, describe how your project will help protect or expand market access by responding to demand for animal welfare. (1,500 characters, including spaces)

Farm management plans and programs

- Does your farm participate in any of the following farm management plans or programs? Select all plans and programs that apply. If you don't participate in any, select N/A.
 - Annual Nutrient Management Plan
 - Beef Quality Assurance
 - Environmental Quality Assurance (EQA)
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - Farm Energy Audits
 - Farmers Assuring Responsible Management TM (FARM)
 - Green Star Farm Initiative
 - Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program
 - Organic System Plan
 - Pork Quality Assurance
 - Regular Soil Testing
 - USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service Programs
 - Other (list below)
 - N/A
 - If you participate in any other farm management plans or programs, list them here:
- Describe your farm's participation in a farm management plan or program and how the project contributes to the implementation of a plan or program or leads to greater success in an existing program? (500 characters, including spaces)

(Optional) Supporting documentation

- You may attach up to three letters of support from someone other than yourself (e.g., lender, Farm Business Management instructor, Extension educator, consultant, etc.) Each letter can be no longer than two pages.

Project budget

Total project cost

- (Number only)

Budget table

- Create a budget using the example format below.
 - Do not attach bid sheets or quotes from vendors instead of a budget table.
 - We will calculate your grant award using this information. This grant will reimburse 50% of the first \$20,000 in eligible expenses and 25% for any additional eligible expenses up to the maximum grant amount. Grant awards can range in size from \$400 to \$25,000.

Item	Quantity	Cost per unit	Total estimate	Source of estimate
Barn concrete	1	\$15,000	\$15,000	ABC Concrete Company
Fence panels	100	\$15	\$1,500	ABC Fleet

Budget narrative

- Justify your budget and explain how you plan to pay for your project. (2,000 characters, including spaces)
 - Explain how you came to the estimates included in your budget.
 - Explain how you plan to pay for your project (financing, other grants, private investment, personal investment, organization funds, etc.). You cannot use other state grant funds to pay for this project, but you may use non-forgivable loans from the State.
 - How important is this grant to your ability to undertake this project? If your application is not funded, what are your alternatives for financing the project?

(Optional) Documents showing project costs and ability to pay for project

- Submit documents such as:
 - Quotes or estimates from businesses for equipment or services.
 - Letters of commitment written by financial institutions or other organizations that will be providing funding through loans or credit.
 - Letters from your financial institutions showing you have sufficient cash reserves to fund this project.

Workplan and timeline

- When do you plan to start your project? (mm/dd/yyyy)
- Create a workplan using the example format shown below. You should include the steps that you will take to successfully complete your project. For example, you might include target dates for requesting quotes, installing and testing equipment, and fully launching the equipment. Example:

Timeframe	Description of task or action item	Responsible party
March 2026	Request bids for concrete	Self
April 2026	Sign contract with contractor	Self