



County Fair Grant Programs Fiscal Year 2026 Request for Proposals

Applications due by 4 p.m. on February 26, 2026

1/13/2026

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Contents

Grant Summary	1
Overview.....	1
Fiscal Year 2026 updates	1
Funding availability.....	1
Matching funds.....	2
Timeline	2
How to apply	2
How to submit questions	3
Eligibility	4
Eligible applicants	4
Eligible projects and expenses.....	4
Ineligible expenses	5
Application Review Process.....	6
Review process	6
Pre-award risk assessment.....	6
Award notice	6
Conflicts of interest	6
Privacy notice and data classification.....	7
Award Requirements & Grant Management Responsibilities	9
Grant contract agreement.....	9
Accountability and reporting.....	9
Payments	10
Bidding requirements.....	10
Grantee website and publicity	11
Audits and record retention	11
Affirmative action and non-discrimination policy	12
Voter registration requirement	12
Grantee evaluation.....	12
Right of Cancellation.....	13
AGRI Background and Program Goals	13
Application Questions	14
Contact information	14
Eligibility	15
Attestations	15
AGRI: Promote and Preserve Minnesota Agriculture.....	16
Previous AGRI Grants	17
Legacy: Providing Access to the Arts or the State’s Agricultural, Historical, and Cultural Heritage	18
Appendix (Examples)	20
AGRI Grant projects.....	20
Legacy grant projects.....	21

Grant Summary

Overview

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is offering grants to help Minnesota county fairs preserve and promote Minnesota agriculture, and to provide access to the arts and the state's historical and cultural heritage.

These grant programs are authorized through the [Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation Program \(AGRI\)](#) and the [Legacy Amendment](#) and funded through Laws of Minnesota, 2025, Regular Session, Chapter 34, Article 1, Section 2, Subdivision 3(d) and Laws of Minnesota, 2025, Regular Session, Chapter 36, Article 4, Section 10, Subdivision 2.

All information about the program is available on the [County Fair Grant webpage](#). Applications will be accepted until Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 4 p.m. Central Time (CT).

Fiscal Year 2026 updates

Items to consider regarding this year's grant programs:

- Starting in FY26, advances will not be available.
- The AGRI and Legacy funds will still be contracted separately. Fairs will receive two contracts if they receive both grants. The AGRI funds will be available until spring 2029 (up to three years after the start date). The Legacy funds will be available until June 30, 2027.
- Fairs must provide brief status updates regarding their fiscal year (FY) 2023, 2024 and 2025 AGRI grants in the Previous AGRI Grants section of the application.
- Before spending any money, fairs must have a fully executed grant contract agreement. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Applications must be submitted by February 26, 2026, 4:00 pm CT. Fairs should plan to receive their grant contract agreements approximately 30 days after submitting their application.
- Fairs are strongly encouraged to not sign contracts with vendors (e.g., performers) until they have fully executed grant contract agreements with the state. If fairs sign vendor contracts beforehand, fairs should note that this is at their own risk as there is no guarantee that projects will be included into their grant contract agreements. Any payments made before grant contract agreements are fully executed (a fully executed grants contract means it has been signed by all parties including the Commissioner's office) will not be eligible for reimbursement.

Funding availability

AGRI: Preserving and promoting Minnesota agriculture

A total of \$1 million is available. Each county fair is eligible for up to \$10,050.

AGRI grant funds must be used to preserve and promote Minnesota agriculture. The funds are intended to be used for your 2026 fair, but they may also be used in 2027 and 2028.

Legacy: Providing access to the arts or the state's agricultural, historical, and cultural heritage

A total of \$500,000 is available. Each fair is eligible for up to \$4,710.

Legacy grant funds must be used to preserve and promote Minnesota arts and agricultural history, and to provide access to the arts or the state's agricultural, historical, and cultural heritage. Funded activities must supplement (i.e., add to or enhance) traditional programming and not substitute (i.e., take the place of). The funds must be used before June 30, 2027 (likely during your 2026 fair).

Matching funds

Applicants are not required to provide matching funds to the grant award. Up to 100% of the total project cost may be covered by the grant.

Timeline

- We review applications as they are received. All applications are due by 4 p.m. CT on Thursday, February 26, 2026.
- If we have questions on your application, we will contact you within one month of your submission. Please respond promptly to our questions so you have time to change your proposal before we create the contract.
- Once your proposal is approved, we will send you the contract. You have 30 days to sign and return the contract.

How to apply

Applications are due by 4 p.m. CT on Thursday, February 26, 2026.

- Apply using our [online application system](#).
 - If you are a new user, you'll need to create an account first.
 - Once you're logged in, select "County Fair Grants FY26".
- Apply early so there is enough time to get technical assistance if needed.
 - 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's your responsibility to ensure we receive your application before the deadline.

The MDA reserves the right to reject any application that does not meet the requirements of this Request for Proposals (RFP).

By applying, 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 to the State by law.

The applicant is responsible for all costs associated with submitting a response to this RFP.

How to submit questions

For questions on the grant program or application:

- Submit your questions in writing via email to MDA.AGRIGrants@state.mn.us with “County Fair Grants” in the subject line.

For help with the online application system:

- Call 651-201-6500, or
- Email MDA.AGRIGrants@state.mn.us with “County Fair Grants” in the subject line. We encourage reaching out for help early as we may not be able to assist with last-minute requests.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants

Applicants must:

- Be a county agricultural society.
- Meet the requirements of the [Pre-award Risk Assessment](#).

Eligible projects and expenses

AGRI: Preserving and promoting Minnesota agriculture

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Sound equipment for judging in livestock barns
- Hand sanitizing stations
- Fans for livestock barns
- Agricultural education displays
- Electricity updates or concrete for barn floor
- Lighting, fencing, or bleachers for livestock show arenas
- Children's barnyards

More specific examples of eligible expenses are included in the [Appendix \(AGRI Grant projects\)](#).

Legacy: Providing access to the arts or the state's agricultural, historical, and cultural heritage

Examples of eligible projects include:

- Spinning demonstrations
- Pottery, blacksmithing, or primitive cooking workshop
- Antique equipment display that shows how farming was done in the past
- Mobile stage to host cultural heritage programming
- Singers from Minnesota
- Chainsaw artists

More specific examples of eligible expenses are included in the [Appendix \(Legacy Grant projects\)](#).

Ineligible expenses

Ineligible project expenses include, but are not limited to:

- 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 that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal, state, or local government funding or other grants (e.g., no “double dipping”)
- Expenses not approved or listed in the grant contract
- Expenses paid in cash
- Any purchases from a board member or their family members, includes current and former spouse; children, parents, and siblings; current and former children-in-law, parents-in-law, and siblings-in-law; current and former stepchildren and stepparents; grandchildren and grandparents; and members of their household
- Any purchases from an entity with which the applicant, board members, spouses of board members own an interest, or an entity of which they are an employee
- General purpose public use items and areas (e.g., restrooms, commissaries, roads, parking lots)
- General fair signage and parking lot signs
- Cash, gift cards, and awards, including trophies and ribbons
- Dog and pet show judges
- Entertainment, amusement, diversion, social activities, gifts, or any costs associated with such purchases not meeting the objectives of the grant (selected exceptions made for Legacy projects)
- Meals, food, lodging, transportation, tickets to shows or sporting events, etc. Contact staff for exceptions.
- Advertising and public relations
- Donated or volunteer (in-kind) goods and services
- General operations, overhead, and indirect costs (expenses of doing business that are not readily identified with the project)
- Utilities
- Lobbyists, including costs of membership in organizations substantially engaged in lobbying, and political contributions
- Fundraising i.e. entertainment events, banquets, promo items, etc.
- Taxes, except sales tax on goods and services and payroll taxes
- Lobbyists, including costs of membership in organizations substantially engaged in lobbying, and political contributions
- Bad debts, late payment fees, finance charges, or contingency funds
- Parking violations and traffic violations
- Indirect costs
- Out-of-state transportation and travel expenses. Minnesota will be considered the home state for deciding whether travel is out of state. Contact the grant administrator for exceptions.

Application Review Process

Review process

MDA staff and leadership will review all applications for appropriateness. If a particular project is considered inappropriate, MDA staff will inform the county fair of the ineligible components and will provide the county fair with another opportunity to submit an eligible project. The commissioner of agriculture is responsible for award decisions.

Pre-award risk assessment

The MDA is required to consider a grant applicant's past performance and financial and operational capacity before awarding grants, in accordance with [MINN. STAT. 16B.981, Subd.2-5](#), [OGM Policy 08-02: Policy on Rating Criteria for Competitive Grant Review \(PDF\)](#) and [OGM Policy 08-06: Pre-award Risk Assessment of Potential Grantees \(PDF\)](#).

Applicants will also be asked to submit the following:

- Certification that your county agricultural society has not been suspended or debarred by the State of Minnesota or with the federal government.
- Documentation that it is in good standing with the Office of the Secretary of State.

If the MDA determines that the applicant has substantial risks that inhibit its ability to perform the required duties under the grant contract agreement, then the MDA may either request more information for the purpose of satisfying the concerns, develop a risk mitigation plan to protect the interests of the state, or not award the grant.

Award notice

The MDA will notify applicants, both successful and unsuccessful, in writing.

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 [Policy 08-01: 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 give impartial assistance or advice to the MDA due to competing duties or loyalties, including when grantees or applicants are an employee or spouse of an MDA employee.
- 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, revising the grant work plan, amending the grantee duties in the grant contract agreement to mitigate the conflict of interest, requesting the grant applicant to submit a conflict of interest mitigation plan, disqualification from eligibility for the grant award, 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 Government 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 proposal responses (except trade secret data as defined and classified in [MINN. STAT. 13.37](#)) will be public data after the evaluation process is completed.
- All data created or maintained by the MDA as part of the evaluation process (except trade secret data as defined and classified in MINN. STAT. 13.37) 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 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.

Award Requirements & Grant Management Responsibilities

Grant contract agreement

Each grantee must formally enter into a grant contract agreement with the MDA. The grant contract agreement will address the conditions of the award, including implementation for the project. Grant contract agreement templates are available for review on the [OGM Forms and FAQs webpage](#). The MDA reserves the right to adjust these templates.

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

- Confirm that the information in SWIFT (the state's accounting system) is correct, and if not, complete an IRS Form W-9 or register as a vendor in SWIFT.
- Submit other required documentation within 30 days of award notification.
- Sign a grant contract agreement for each category (AGRI or Legacy) showing their intention to complete the proposed tasks. The agreements also authorize the MDA to monitor the progress of the projects. Grant contract agreements must be signed within 30 days of being sent to the grantee.

You cannot incur any grant expenses until a fully executed grant contract agreement is in place and you have been notified by the State's Authorized Representative. A fully executed grant contract agreement is one that has been signed by all parties and reached its start date, whichever is later. You must comply with the conditions and of the grant contract agreement, and you will be legally responsible for assuring implementation of the grantee duties and compliance with all applicable state requirements including worker's compensation insurance, nondiscrimination, data privacy, budget compliance, and reporting.

Accountability and reporting

It is the policy of the State of Minnesota to monitor progress on state grants by requiring grantees to submit written progress reports at least annually until all grant funds have been expended and all of the terms in the grant contract agreement have been met. A closeout form will also be required at the completion of the project and additional information about the long-term impact may also be collected for up to three years after the grant period. Grant payments shall not be made on grants with past-due progress reports unless the MDA has given the grantee a written extension.

The MDA reserves the right to modify reporting requirements throughout the grant.

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 or other state agencies.

Information submitted in any report or survey will be classified as public data. If the grantee considers any information in the report to be trade secret, the grantee may request that the trade secret information be kept confidential and must specifically label that information. The MDA will notify the grantee if a public records request is made for the information claimed as protected by the grantee.

Payments

Grant funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis. Advances will not be available. All requests for reimbursement must correspond to the approved grant budget and tied to documented progress working on the project. The MDA will review each request for reimbursement against the approved grant budget before approving payment.

Requests must include two types of proof for each expense: proof of purchase (e.g., invoices, itemized receipts, vendor contracts, etc.) and proof of payment (e.g., cleared checks, credit card statements, bank statements, etc.). 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 not reimburse expenses paid for in cash. All requests for reimbursement must be submitted to the MDA no later than 60 calendar days after the grant end date. However, it is highly encouraged that grantees submit their request for reimbursement within 30 days after their project is complete.

The MDA will perform a financial reconciliation. Any additional requests must be submitted by the grantee before the MDA provides reimbursement. Grant payments will not be made on grants if required documentation related to the invoice or financial reconciliation is missing.

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

Grantees that are nongovernmental entities, including, businesses, nonprofits, and individuals, must use these guidelines:

- Any services and/or materials that are expected to cost \$100,000 or more must use a formal notice and bidding process.
- Services and/or materials that are expected to cost between \$25,000 and \$99,999 must be competitively awarded based on a minimum of three verbal quotes or bids or be awarded to a targeted vendor.
- Services and/or materials that are expected to cost between \$10,000 and \$24,999 must be competitively awarded based on a minimum of two verbal quotes or bids or be awarded to a targeted vendor.
- The grantee must take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that targeted vendors from businesses with active certifications through these entities are used when possible:
 - [Office of State Procurement- Targeted Group, Economically Disadvantaged, and Veteran-Owned Vendor \(TG/ED/VO\) List](#)
 - [Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business \(MCUB\) Program Directory](#)
 - [Central Certification \(CERT\) Directory](#)
- The grantee must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing their actions and the actions of its employees for the selection, award, and administration of contracts.

- The grantee must maintain support documentation of the purchasing or bidding process used to contract services in their financial records, including support documentation justifying a single source bid, if applicable.
- The MDA may waive bidding process requirements when:
- Vendors included in the response to a competitive grant request for proposal process were approved and incorporated as an approved work plan for the grant; or
- It is determined there is only one reasonably able and available source for such materials or services and that the grantee has established a fair and reasonable price.
- The grantee and any subrecipients/subcontractors must comply with prevailing wage rules, as applicable ([MINN. STAT. 177.41](#) through [MINN. STAT. 177.50](#)).
- The grantee and any subrecipients/subcontractors must not contract with vendors who are suspended or debarred by the State of Minnesota or the federal government. See [Suspended and Debarred Vendors, Minnesota Office of State Procurement](#) and [System for Award Management \(SAM.gov\)](#).

Grantee website and publicity

All projects funded must publicly credit the AGRI and Legacy programs, including on the grantee's website when practical. Examples include, "Funds provided in part by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment" or "Funds provided in part by the Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation Program." Additionally, in accordance with MINN. STAT. 16B.98, subd. 5 (d)), grantees with a website must clearly post on their website the names and contact information for the grantee's leadership and the employee(s) or other person(s) who directly manages and oversees the grant contract agreement on behalf of the grantee (the authorized representative).

Audits and record retention

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 MDA, the State Auditor, the Attorney General, and the Legislative Auditor as appropriate, in accordance with [MINN. STAT. 16B.98, subd. 8](#). This requirement will last for a minimum of six years from the grant contract agreement end date, approval of all final reports, or the required period of time to satisfy all state and program retention requirements, whichever is later.

Grantees are responsible for the retention of documents and records relevant to their grants. Grantees should maintain a project file containing copies of all invoices, receipts, proofs of payment, reimbursement requests, important correspondence with the MDA, progress reports, and any other documents associated with the project. Upon request by the State, the grantee shall produce a legible copy of the records saved in their project file.

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](#).

Voter registration requirement

The grantee will provide voter registration services for its employees and for the public served by the grantee ([MINN. STAT. 201.162](#)).

Grantee evaluation

Prior to the closeout of the grant, the MDA will evaluate the performance of all grantees. The evaluation will include the purpose of the grant; the amount provided to the grantee; information about the grantee's timeliness, quality, and overall performance in meeting the terms and objectives of the grant; if the grant was terminated; and any concerns with grantees use of State funds. Evaluations of grantee performance for grant contract agreements of \$25,000 or more must be provided by the MDA to the Minnesota Department of Administration as provided under [MINN.STAT. 16B.98, subd. 12](#). Evaluations are considered public data ([MINN. STAT. 13.599](#)).

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. AGRI funds are for projects that preserve and promote Minnesota agriculture.

The Legacy Amendment was established to support and preserve Minnesota's arts, history, and cultural heritage. Legacy funds are used to support projects and events that enhance arts access and education and to preserve and promote Minnesota's history and cultural heritage as embodied in its county fairs.

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 online application. Answer all questions completely within the character limits specified in the grant application.

Contact information

Applicant information

- Contact person (first and last name)
- Name of county fair
- Fair mailing address
- Fair physical address
- Fair telephone
- Contact person's telephone
- Fair email address
- Contact person's email
- Names of county agricultural society board members such as president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, grants person (maximum 2,000 characters, including spaces)
- Fair's Minnesota State House District (use the [District Finder](#) if you don't know your district.)
- Fair's website address if applicable

Authorized representative

- If awarded a grant, is the person authorized to sign contracts on behalf of the organization the same as the contact person listed above? (Yes or No)
- If no, provide the following information for the authorized representative authorized to sign any resulting grant contract agreement:
 - Name
 - Title
 - Telephone number
 - Email address

Eligibility

Confirm the following statements. You must respond “True” to all the statements to be eligible to apply for this grant.

- The applicant is the county agricultural society. (True or False)
- The county agricultural society is not suspended or debarred by the State of Minnesota or the federal government. (True or False)
- The applicant’s current board members or staff with authority to access grant funds have not been convicted of a felony financial crime in the last 10 years. A principal is defined as a public official, a board member, or staff (paid or volunteer) with the authority to access funds provided by this grant opportunity or to determine how those funds are used. (True or False).
- The applicant does not owe the State of Minnesota any back taxes and has not defaulted on any State of Minnesota backed financing in the last seven years. (True or False)
- The applicant is compliant with current state and federal regulations, or this project will support the organization becoming compliant. (True or False)

Pre-award risk assessment

- Upload a screenshot or copy of your county fair’s active registration with [the Minnesota Secretary of State](#). If you need help with this step, please contact us.
- Sign a [certification](#) that your county agricultural society has not been suspended or debarred by the State of Minnesota or the Federal government. Note that this form must be signed by an individual who has the authority to sign legal documents on behalf of your county agricultural society, such as the President or Chair of the Board of Directors or the Chief Executive Officer.

Attestations

Attest to the following statements. You must respond “Yes” to all the statements to apply for this grant. If your project is approved in the review process, you will need to sign a certification for these statements.

- I attest that I have the authority to apply for this grant. (Yes or 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 to the State, by law. (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)
- I attest and understand that the submission of additional documents, as describe in the RFP, may be required as part of the pre-award risk assessment if my project is approved.
- I understand the MDA is unable to reimburse for any payments made prior to the effective start date of the grant contract agreement. (Yes or No)

AGRI: Promote and Preserve Minnesota Agriculture

AGRI project oversight

List the name and title of individual who will oversee your AGRI project activities.

- First and last name
- Title

Performance capacity

Describe the fair's history of performing the work that would be funded by the grant. Describe your fair's capacity to carry out the proposed activities and effectively complete your project. (2,000 characters, including spaces).

Summary of AGRI proposed project

Briefly describe your AGRI project. (maximum 5,000 characters, including spaces)

AGRI project potential impact

Explain how your AGRI project will preserve and promote Minnesota agriculture. If the proposal includes agricultural education, specify what fairgoers will learn about Minnesota agriculture. (maximum 5,000 characters, including spaces)

AGRI budget

The budget table is an overview of how grant funds will be spent. Purchases made prior to a fully executed contract are not eligible for this grant, including any down payments or deposits on approved projects. Create a budget using the example format below.

1. Example AGRI budget table

Item	Quantity	Cost per unit	Total estimate	Source of estimate
Hog barn concrete	1	\$15,000	\$15,000	ABC Concrete Company
Hand sanitizer stations by livestock arena	10	\$50	\$500	Sanitizers Plus

Additional AGRI budget notes

Describe anything that may be unclear or need more explanation. For example, if you request funding for signs, indicate how they will be used and where they will be displayed. (maximum 5,000 characters, including spaces)

AGRI work plan

Create a work plan for your AGRI project using the example format shown below. Include the steps you will take to successfully complete your project.

2. Example AGRI work plan table

Time frame	Description of task or action item
May 2026	Place order for fence panels.
June 2026	Order hand sanitizer stations.

Previous AGRI Grants

For each of the prior fiscal years, select the option that describes the status of your AGRI project. If you are still working on your project or select “other,” you must provide additional details about the status of your project.

2023 AGRI

- We did not receive a grant this fiscal year.
- Our grant is completed, and we’ve been reimbursed.
- We’ve completed our project, but we still need to get reimbursed.
- We are still working on our project.
- Other.

2024 AGRI

- We did not receive a grant this fiscal year.
- Our grant is completed, and we’ve been reimbursed.
- We’ve completed our project, but we still need to get reimbursed.
- We are still working on our project.
- Other.

2025 AGRI

- We did not receive a grant this fiscal year.
- Our grant is completed, and we’ve been reimbursed.
- We’ve completed our project, but we still need to get reimbursed.
- We are still working on our project.
- Other.

Legacy: Providing Access to the Arts or the State’s Agricultural, Historical, and Cultural Heritage

Summary of proposed Legacy project

Briefly describe your Legacy project in a way that the public would easily understand. This description should be suitable for public dissemination. (maximum 5,000 characters, including spaces)

Legacy project potential impact

Explain how your Legacy project will provide access to the arts or Minnesota’s agricultural, historical, and/or cultural heritage. (maximum 5,000 characters, including spaces)

Subject areas

Select the subject area(s) that apply to your project:

- Agricultural heritage
- Arts
- Arts access
- Cultural heritage
- Historic preservation
- History

Legacy budget

The budget table is an overview of how grant funds will be spent. Purchases made prior to a fully executed grant contract are not eligible for this grant, including any down payments or deposits on approved projects. Create a budget using the example format below.

3. Example Legacy budget table

Item	Quantity	Cost per unit	Total estimate	Source of estimate
Pottery demonstration	1	\$500	\$500	Potters, Inc.
Wool spinning demonstration	1	\$400	\$400	Textiles Guild of Minnesota

Additional Legacy budget notes

Describe anything that may be unclear or need more explanation. (maximum 5,000 characters, including spaces)

Verification of performers or dancers

Performers or dancers must be from Minnesota. If acts include multiple performers, the members must primarily be from Minnesota. If you are hiring performers or dancers explain: 1) how they are connected to Minnesota, and 2) how did you verify this? (maximum 5,000 characters, including spaces)

Demonstrations

Artists offering demonstrations do not have to be from Minnesota, but the demonstrations must clearly relate to Minnesota's arts or Minnesota’s agricultural, historical, or cultural heritage. If you are hiring someone to do demonstrations, tell us how they relate to Minnesota's arts or Minnesota’s agricultural, historical, or cultural heritage. (maximum 5,000 characters, including spaces)

Legacy project oversight

List the name and title of individual who will oversee your Legacy project activities.

- First and last name
- Title

Legacy work plan

Create a work plan for your Legacy project using the example format shown below. You should include the steps that you will take to successfully complete your project.

4. Example Legacy work plan table

Time frame	Description of task or action item
May 2026	Sign work order with Potters, Inc.
May 2026	Send confirmation letter to Textiles Guild of Minnesota.
June 2026	Verify A/V needs with artists doing demonstrations.

Measurable outcomes

Describe or list the project’s proposed outcomes. These should be quantifiable (e.g., number of participants attending a workshop or performance or visiting a building). This description should include the plan for measuring and evaluating the results. For example, “We expect that 75 people will attend the lumberjack show. We will assign a volunteer to take attendance as people walk through the gates of the event.” (maximum 5,000 characters, including spaces)

Appendix (Examples)

AGRI Grant projects

Before submitting projects for approval, fairs should consider if they can justify how a project preserves and promotes Minnesota agriculture. All projects are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, but the following are examples of items that are generally eligible or ineligible.

All items must be purchased, including any down payments, within the effective dates of the AGRI grant contract agreement. Any payments made prior to the full execution of the grant contract agreement are not reimbursable. (Contracts are only effective after all signers, including an MDA commissioner, have signed the contract and the contract has reached its effective date.)

Generally eligible

- Updates to improve functionality of livestock barns, livestock arenas, and buildings primarily used for other agricultural and horticultural purposes. This might include siding, roofing, ventilation, flooring, sound systems, electrical, lighting, seating, gates, cages, wash racks, fencing, manure pits, handwashing or hand sanitation stations, and plumbing (if specifically used for the care or tending of livestock.)
 - If rebates are offered for any items (such as LED lights through an electrical provider), the rebates must be subtracted from the costs eligible for reimbursement.
 - Paint is only eligible if it's used to improve structural integrity or weatherization, not purely for cosmetic reasons.
- Children's barnyard structures and educational activities
- Livestock, crop, and horticulture judges
 - While these judges are eligible, there are significant paperwork requirements to request grant reimbursement. Documentation includes vouchers signed by the judge that indicate what they judged, the date they judged, and list all expenses (hourly or daily rates, meals, mileage, and similar costs) plus cancelled checks showing that the judge was paid.
 - Pet and dog show judges are not eligible. See the [Almost never eligible](#) list for others.
- Horse shows
- Veterinary services
- Wood chips for livestock areas
- Educational events and displays focusing on current agricultural practices, such as changing technology, dairy production, and farm safety

Sometimes eligible

- Petting zoos, if the animals are livestock that are reasonably found on Minnesota farms for agricultural or commercial purposes. Reptiles, amphibians, and non-farm mammals such as lions, giraffes, and camels are not eligible.
- Signage, if used on agricultural buildings or barns or to specifically promote agricultural events.
- Grandstand activities, if they are agriculturally focused (such as rodeos and tractor pulls) and admission is free.
- Physical improvements to the fairgrounds, if they directly enhance agriculture. For example, light poles immediately adjacent to a barn or arena are eligible, but light poles on the roadway are not. Similarly, driveways for barns are eligible, but roads around the fairgrounds are not.

Almost never eligible

- General construction projects, such as restrooms, roads, and offices
- General and wayfinding signage
- Portable toilets
- Grandstand activities that are not related to agriculture
- Pet, craft, artistry, photography, or clothing judges
- Improvements that are reimbursed by other sources (such as LED light fixtures by an energy provider)
- Magicians, balloon artists, comedians, and similar performers (see Legacy section)
- Artistic and historical displays of agriculture (see Legacy section)
- Photographers and photography exhibits not directly related to agriculture (see Legacy section)
- Crop art exhibits and supplies (see Legacy section)
- Manure removal (however, manure pits might be eligible)

Legacy grant projects

Before submitting projects for approval, fairs should consider if they can justify how the project provides access to or educates about Minnesota arts or the state's history or agricultural and cultural heritage. Performances must be open to the public without added fees beyond gate admission. All projects are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, but the following are examples of items that are generally eligible or ineligible.

All items must be purchased, including any down payments, within the effective dates of the Legacy grant contract agreement. Any payments made prior to the fully execution of the grant contract agreement are not reimbursable. (Contracts are only effective after all signers, including an MDA commissioner, have signed the contract and the contract has reached its effective date.)

Eligible

- Minnesota musical performers or dancers. If hired acts include multiple performers, the members must primarily be from Minnesota.
- Minnesota balloon artists, magicians, comedians, and similar performers
- Artists offering demonstrations clearly related to Minnesota arts and cultural heritage, such as pottery, spinning, and blacksmithing
- Indigenous storytelling
- Antique farming displays
- Lumberjack shows
- Crop art exhibits and supplies
- Upgrades and improvements to buildings or stages primarily used to host arts and cultural heritage events, including sound systems, lighting, seating, and accessibility (such as ramps, railings, and flooring)
- Veterans displays or memorials
- Draft horse shows
- Historical markers and history lectures about Minnesota heritage
- Photography and fine arts displays or lectures (includes improvements to these displays like track lighting)
- One-room schoolhouse restorations
- Agricultural museums

Sometimes eligible

- Signage, if used to promote the arts, agricultural history, or cultural heritage. Eligible examples include a sign saying, “Creative Arts Building” and educational signs like “This is a tractor from 1940.” General signs for the public are not eligible. Signs explaining how to navigate the grounds, how to get to the fair, or a sign stating “Welcome to the County Fair” cannot be funded.
- Updates to 4-H, open class buildings, and other non-commercial buildings, if the project will meaningfully preserve or promote Minnesota arts, history, or agricultural and cultural heritage during the county fair. For example, adding track lighting to an open class building used for photography competitions is eligible.
- Working ranch rodeos (for traditional rodeos see AGRI section)

Almost never eligible

- General construction projects, such as restrooms, roads, and offices
- Grandstand performances (unless they feature Minnesota performers and no additional admission is charged for the performance)
- Ribbons, awards, trophies, and prizes
- Judges (see AGRI section for limited exceptions)
- Upgrades and improvements to barns and arenas (see AGRI section)
- 4-H food stands