

2021 Application Instructions

All proposals must be received by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) no later than 3:00 pm CST on Friday, February 12, 2021. Late applications will not be considered. The applicant will incur all costs in applying to this request for proposal (RFP).

We strongly encourage you to submit your proposal using our online application system at www.mda.state.mn.us/business-dev-loans-grants/agri-county-fair-grants.

For questions about the grant program or the application process, please contact:

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MN Department of Agriculture,

Agricultural Marketing and Development Division

625 Robert Street North

St. Paul, MN 55155

MDA Grant Line: 651-201-6500

Background

The Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation Program (AGRI) was established to advance Minnesota's agricultural and renewable energy industries. This program focuses on areas of greatest opportunity and potential economic impact to create agricultural jobs and profitable businesses in the areas of livestock investment, value-added business and market development, and renewable energy. (Minn. Stat. §41A. 12). AGRI funds are used to support Category I projects intended to preserve and promote Minnesota agriculture.

The Legacy Amendment was established to support and preserve Minnesota's arts, history and cultural heritage. (Chapter 91—H.F. NO. 707). Legacy funds are used to support Category II projects and events that provide access to the arts or the state's agricultural, historical, and cultural heritage.

Eligible Applicants

Each of the state's county fairs is eligible to apply for grant. All applicants must 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 and in compliance with current State regulations).

Eligible Projects

All project expenses must directly support the goals of preserving and promoting Minnesota agriculture and/or the state's arts, agricultural, historical, and cultural heritage. MDA does not authorize specific service providers/vendors. The Department will approve of projects that are submitted by a county fair based on specific information provided in the proposals. All projects must be completed by June 30, 2022.

AGRI - Category I: Preserving and Promoting Minnesota Agriculture

Each county fair may apply for up to \$11,614.00 in Category I.

Grant funds must be used to enhance Minnesotans' access to agricultural education and must preserve and promote Minnesota's agriculture. Examples: buy sound equipment for judging in livestock barns; purchase hand sanitizing stations; buy fans for livestock barns; or create agricultural education displays.

Legacy - Category II: Promoting Minnesota Arts and Agricultural History

Each fair may apply for up to \$4,285.00 in Category II.

Grant funds must be used to enhance access and education to preserve and promote Minnesota arts and agricultural history. Projects must provide access to the arts or the state's agricultural, historical, and cultural heritage. Examples include: spinning demonstrations; blacksmith or primitive cooking workshop; antique equipment display that shows how farming was done in the past; or Native American storyteller. Funded activities must supplement (i.e., add something to complete something) traditional programming and not substitute (i.e., take the place of).

Ineligible Expenses

The following expenses are ineligible for both Category I and Category II projects:

- Expenses not approved and contracted
- Expenses incurred prior to fully executed contract
- Advertising and public relations
- Entertainment, amusement and social activities not meeting the objectives of the grant (selected exceptions made for Category II)
- Fundraising, political activities or lobbying

- Indirect costs (expenses of doing business that are not readily identified within the project but are necessary for the general operation of the business)
- Donated or volunteer (in-kind) services
- Expenses that are for public use and public areas (restrooms, commissary, parking lots)
- Meals, food, lodging, transportation, tickets to shows or sports events
- Cash or gift cards

Review Process and Contract Negotiation

Proposals submitted will be screened by MDA staff for application and project eligibility. The MDA reserves the right to reject or negotiate the proposed costs and to introduce additional terms or conditions.

Bidding Requirements

All funded applicants will be required to abide by the State's bidding requirements. A detailed list of the State's bidding requirements can be found online at www.mda.state.mn.us/business-dev-loans-grants/bidding-requirements.

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 the AGRI 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 non public, 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 non public data is limited by law to MDA staff and contractors with a valid work assignment to access the data, parties authorized by the applicant or by a valid court order, Minnesota Management and Budget, Minnesota Department of Administration, the state auditor, and the legislative auditor. If necessary, MDA may also share the data with law enforcement.

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.
- Trade secret information (as defined in Minn. Stat. § 13.37) is classified as private or nonpublic. In order for an applicant to protect data submitted as part of this application as trade secret information, the applicant must identify the specific formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique or process that the applicant wishes to protect, and provide an explanation of the economic value of keeping the data from being generally known to other persons. Determining what constitutes trade secret information is ultimately the responsibility of MDA, and MDA cannot guarantee that data marked by an applicant as trade secret information or marked "confidential" will be classified as such. If MDA determines that data do not meet the definition of trade secret information, that data will be available to the public unless the applicant secures a court order saying otherwise.

Publicity

All projects funded must publicly credit the AGRI and Legacy funding, including on the grantee's website when practicable.

Audits

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 granting agency and either the legislative auditor or the state auditor, as appropriate. 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.

Affirmative Action and Non-Discrimination Requirements for all Grantees

- A. 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.
- B. 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
- C. 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.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT Phone: 651-201-6277

Category I.

AGRI County Fair Grant – 2021 Application

PROMOTE AND PRESERVE MINNESOTA AGRICULTURE

Any Minnesota County Fair may request up to \$11,614 in this category.

Name of County Fair		Fed Tax ID	
Contact Name	Contact Title		
Mailing Address	City	State MN	Zip
Phone	Email		
Project Title	Project Start Date	Project End Date	

Summary of Proposed Project: Describe the project(s) and goals to be accomplished. The summary of the proposed project must be suitable for dissemination to the public.

Project Potential Impact: Explain how this project will preserve and/or promote Minnesota agriculture. If the proposal includes agricultural education, be specific what fairgoers will learn about Minnesota agriculture.

Category I. Budget:

The budget table is an overview of how grant funds will be spent. Complete the following table.

Item	Quantity	Cost Per Unit	Total Amount

Additional Budget Notes

Project Oversight: List the name and title of individual who will oversee project activities.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Work Plan: List the activities necessary to accomplish the project and who will do the work of each activity.

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Category II.

Legacy County Fair Grant – 2021 Application

PRESERVING AND PROMOTING MINNESOTA ARTS AND AGRICULTURAL HISTORY

Any Minnesota county fair may request up to \$4,285 in this category.

Project Title

Project Start Date

Project End Date

Summary of Proposed Project: Describe your project briefly, in a way that the public would easily understand.

Project Potential Impact: Explain how this project will provide access to the arts or Minnesota's agricultural, historical, and/or cultural heritage.

Category II. Budget:

Provide a detailed breakdown of expenses directly related to your Legacy project.

Item	Quantity	Cost Per Unit	Total Amount

Additional Budget Notes

Project Oversight: List the name and title of individual who will oversee project activities.

Name: _____ Title: _____

Work Plan: List the activities necessary to accomplish the project and who will do the work of each activity.

Certification: I certify to the best of my knowledge that the information in this application is true and correct and that I am legally authorized to sign and submit this application on behalf of this organization, which is legally eligible to enter into a grant contract.

Name _____

Title _____ Date _____