

Table of Contents  
2016-17 Biennial Budget – Agriculture, Department of

Agency Profile – Agriculture, Department of .....	1
Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division.....	3
Plant Protection Division .....	5
Laboratory Services Division.....	7
Dairy and Food Inspection Division.....	9
Agricultural Marketing and Development.....	11
Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation.....	13
Grants and Assistance .....	15
Agency Services.....	16

[www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us)

**AT A GLANCE**

- 450 employees across the state
  - Conducted 7,795 inspections of 4.7 million pounds of processed meat and poultry products
  - Conducted 7,800 dairy farm inspections
  - Certified 1.2 billion pounds of ag products for export to 63 countries
  - Surveyed for more than 40 invasive species threats
  - \$10.2 million matched by \$63.3 million in private investment
  - 1,225 farms and farmers’ markets licensed to use the Minnesota Grown logo
  - In partnership with 86 counties, collected 361,054 pounds of waste pesticides in 2013
- 
- Educate producers, suppliers, and consumers on proper production and handling of food products,
  - Educate Minnesotans about environmental hazards to keep our farms, homes, businesses and neighborhoods safe,
  - Promote the consumption of Minnesota-grown foods, and
  - Promote the export of Minnesota crops and livestock.

We support the following statewide outcomes:

- **A thriving economy that encourages business growth and employment opportunities**
- **All Minnesotans have optimal health**
- **People in Minnesota are safe**
- **A clean, healthy environment with sustainable uses of natural resources**

**PURPOSE**

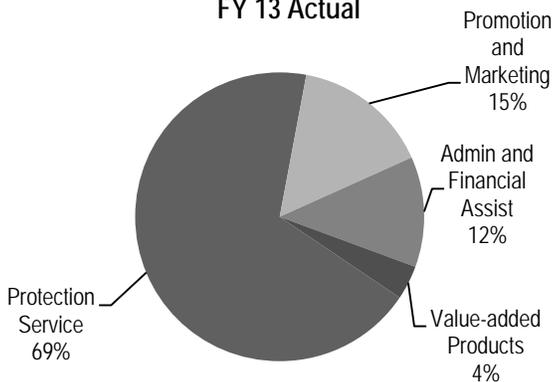
Our mission is to enhance Minnesotans' quality of life by ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment, and the strength of our agricultural economy.

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) provides many services to Minnesota farmers, their consumers, and the Agriculture economy. Among our many efforts, we:

- Invest in farmers through education and grants aimed at modernizing the family farm
- Invest in the future of the agricultural economy with grants for research and value-added processing
- Ensure that state and federal regulations for food and health safety are followed

**BUDGET**

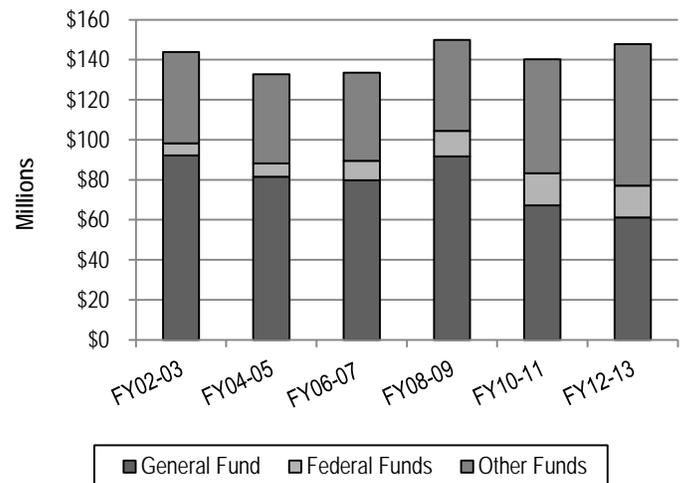
**Spending by Program  
FY 13 Actual**



Note: Promotion & Marketing includes pass-thru grants

Source: SWIFT

**Historical Spending**



Source: Consolidated Fund Statement

Our budget comes from three primary sources. The largest funding resource is fee revenues. These revenues must be spent to support the activities from which they are collected and currently make up about 45 percent of the agency's budget. The state's General Fund is also a large part of the agency's budget at 35-40 percent. Roughly one third of the general fund budget passes through MDA in AGRI (Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation) and other assistance programs. Federal funds currently account for about 10 percent of MDA's budget.

## STRATEGIES

We use a range of regulatory and voluntary strategies to support our mission. This includes the use of registration, labeling, licensing, permitting, inspection and enforcement efforts. Additionally, we coordinate and conduct outreach activities such as workshops, conferences, and field demonstration projects.

Our staff conducts inspections and verifies samples to ensure that producers, processors, wholesalers, haulers, grocery and convenience stores and other industry personnel are producing and handling dairy, food, meat and feed products in a safe manner to protect them from unintended alteration and contamination.

We ensure that Minnesota plant products meet the import requirements of our trading partners, meet grading standards established in contracts, that seeds meet viability and purity standards, that general health standards are met for nursery stock, and that standards for freedom from harmful plant pests are met.

Our marketing and promotional initiatives offer producers technical and financial assistance on a variety of issues, including dairy and livestock development, business planning, and emerging water quality and conservation practices.

Our staff facilitates access to markets through the Minnesota Grown Directory, international trade market research and client support for trade missions and export assistance. We also support the organic industry through education, direct financial support, and skill development.

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[Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 17](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17), (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17>), creates the Department of Agriculture and provides certain authority to the commissioner.

**Program:** Protection Services  
**Activity:** Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/about/divisions/pfmd.aspx>

### AT A GLANCE

- Averaged 3 days to issue bulk fertilizer storage permits
- In partnership with 86 counties, collected 361,054 pounds of waste pesticides in 2013
- In 23 year history, over 34 million in reimbursements of environmental cleanup
- Collected and contracted \$800,000 in fertilizer fees for fertilizer research directed by a council of agriculture organizations
- Monitored groundwater (166 sites) and surface water (524 samples) for pesticides with rigorous scientific standards
- Continuous pesticide monitoring of groundwater since 1985 and surface water since 1991

### PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division is responsible for almost all aspects of fertilizer and pesticide regulation in Minnesota as well as many other water resources protection efforts.

We support the agency's mission by regulating pesticides and fertilizers to ensure the integrity of our food supply, implementing programs that protect and improve the health of our environment, and managing a regulatory system that instills confidence and regulatory consistency in support of a strong agricultural economy.

### SERVICES PROVIDED

We have broad responsibilities for pesticides, fertilizers, water quality and the environment. We have a wide variety of services, regulatory activities and voluntary programs that are listed below.

- Inspections
- Pesticide/fertilizer training, licensing and permitting
- Emergency response 24/7
- Site cleanups and Superfund administration
- Anhydrous ammonia regulation (AA)
- Commercial manure application licensing
- Pesticide and fertilizer use surveys
- Pesticide misuse investigations
- Best Management Practices (BMP) development
- Discovery Farms technical support
- Reimbursement for cleanups
- Pesticide Management Plan – normal use
- Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan – normal use
- Groundwater monitoring for pesticides and nitrates
- Surface water monitoring for pesticides and nitrates
- Free waste pesticide collection for agricultures and urban users
- Soil and manure laboratory certification
- Research funding for fertilizer impact on water quality
- Agriculture Water Quality Certification for farmers and landowners
- Nitrate water quality technical support for municipalities
- Anhydrous Ammonia private inspector certification

### RESULTS

- **Pesticide Inspections.** Inspections of pesticide facilities are designed to correct violations and assist in compliance. Our electronic/paperless Compliance Information System (CIS) results in more timely, comprehensive and consistent inspections.
- **Waste Pesticide Collections.** The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has conducted Waste Pesticide Collections since the early 1990s. Since 2001, the majority of the waste pesticide has been generated in urban settings. Agricultural waste pesticides have decreased due to changes in technology, packaging and stewardship
- **Anhydrous Ammonia Inspections of Bulk Storage Facilities.** Anhydrous ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) is an affordable and effective but also potentially dangerous nitrate fertilizer. Temporary funding in 2012 increased the number of inspections and decreased the time between inspections of Minnesota's 285 facilities from 6.8 years to 3.0 years.

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Pesticide inspections of various facilities, dealers and sites	226	264	FY13 to FY14
Quantity	Pounds of waste pesticides collected	304,089	361,054	CY11 to CY13
Quantity	Anhydrous ammonia inspections of bulk storage facilities	119	187	FY's 11,12 to FY's 13,14

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Authority for this activity is found in Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 18B, 18C, 18D, 18E, 103H and 115E

**Program:** Protection Services  
**Activity:** Plant Protection Division

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/about/divisions/plantprotection.aspx>

**AT A GLANCE**

- 1.2 billion pounds of ag products certified for export to 63 countries
- 632 million hundredweight seed sold under MN permit
- \$16.1 billion tons grain purchased under grain licenses and bonds
- 1.1 billion pounds of potatoes inspected and certified
- 50,000 biocontrol wasps released to control emerald ash borer (EAB)
- 15,000 Gypsy moth traps set and 50,000 acres treated for Gypsy Moths
- Surveyed for 40+ invasive species threats
- Enforced quarantines to exclude or contain EAB and an exotic walnut disease

**PURPOSE & CONTEXT**

The Plant Protection Division inspects and certifies agricultural commodities for export, grade and freedom from specific pests. We are also responsible for detecting, excluding, containing and managing invasive or exotic plant pests. These activities contribute to the mission of the agency by protecting agriculture and the environment from pest threats and by verifying the quality of Minnesota products for sale or export. Minnesota farmers are protected by grain bonds, seed inspection to ensure quality and noxious weed programs to protect land.

**SERVICES PROVIDED**

We ensure that plants sold, planted, exported or stored in Minnesota meet purity, viability and health standards, and that the environmental, societal and recreational impacts of plant pests such as noxious weeds, gypsy moth and emerald ash borer are reduced or eliminated.

These goals are achieved by:

- Inspecting and certifying plants and plant parts (such as seed, grain, fruit, logs, lumber). Inspection and certification programs ensure Minnesota's plant commodities meet standards for import and export requirements, viability and purity of seeds, health of nursery stock, and the absence of harmful plant pests.
- Excluding, eradicating, or managing plant pests that threaten Minnesota's agriculture or environment. We keep Minnesota as free as possible from harmful plant pests. Our surveying, auditing, quarantines, and treatment programs benefit farmers, the timber industry, the recreation industry, and the general public.

Fee-generated dedicated funds comprise over 45 percent of the division activities. About 30 percent of our programs are funded through federal grants. About 25 percent of our funds are from the state General Fund and are used to support regulatory programs and to conduct surveys.

**RESULTS**

Minnesota plant products are exported to markets without delays; produce for sale is quickly inspected; nursery stock, seeds and seed potatoes sold in Minnesota are viable and free of serious plant pests. The damaging effects of invasive plant pests are kept out of Minnesota or their impacts on agriculture and the environment are minimized.

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Export certificates issued (all within 1-3 business days)	3,699	3,702	2012, 2013
Quality	Species evaluated as noxious weeds	4	13	2012, 2013
Results	Wholesale dealer and grain licenses issued within 2 days of application receipt	100%	100%	2012, 2013

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M.S. Section 3.737 and 3.7371 provides the authority to compensate farmers and landowners for loss caused by wolf or elk.  
M.S. Section 17.445 provides the authority to provide apiary inspection services for interstate commerce  
M.S. Chapter 18G provides the authority to exclude and manage invasive and exotic plant pests and to certify commodities for export  
M.S. Chapter 18H provides the authority to inspect and certify nursery dealers and growers  
M.S. Section 18.75 provides the authority to administer a state noxious weed program  
M.S. Chapter 21 provides the authority to inspect and certify seed potatoes.  
M.S. Section 21.80 provides the authority to inspect and certify seeds for distribution and enforce seed label requirements.  
M.S. Chapter 27 provides the authority to provide a wholesale produce dealer bonding program.  
M.S. Chapter 223 provides the authority to provide a bond program for grain.  
M.S. Chapter 231 provides the authority to provide a bond program for warehouses

**Program:** Protection Services  
**Activity:** Laboratory Services Division

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/about/divisions/lab.aspx>

### AT A GLANCE

- Performed 14,901 tests for 15,369 analytes on 6,739 samples for MDA's Dairy and Food Inspection Division
- Performed 8,813 tests for 123,719 analytes on 5,644 samples for MDA's Pesticide and Fertilizer Inspection Division
- Performed 13,667 tests for 35,062 analytes on 2,036 samples for MDA's Plant Protection Division
- Performed 5,377 tests for 12,282 analytes on 3,165 samples for Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

### PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The Laboratory Services Division's goal is to furnish scientifically and legally defensible testing that supports the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) program objectives. These activities are critical to the protection of Minnesota's food supply, agricultural industry, and natural environment.

### SERVICES PROVIDED

The Laboratory Services Division provides analytical testing primarily for:

- MDA Dairy and Food Inspection Division
- MDA Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division
- MDA Plant Protection Division
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

### Specific Services

Emergency testing in response to:

- Foodborne outbreaks
- Ag chemical spills
- Human and animal exposure
- Product tampering
- Plant disease outbreaks
- Food security events
- Natural disasters

Surveillance testing for:

- Food safety
- Pesticides in water
- Dairy product safety
- Interstate marketing of milk
- Seed health
- Meat safety for small producers
- Plant diseases

Other services include:

- Method development
- Technical consultation
- Data interpretation
- Quality assessment

### RESULTS

We grade laboratory performance on our ability to provide accurate defensible data that meets established program objectives, in a timely manner. To measure this performance we survey our customers annually to see how we are doing. We discuss problem areas and address them through our formal corrective action procedure.

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Performance Measures based on customer survey</i>	<i>Previous Score 2012</i>	<i>Current Score 2013</i>
Results	Satisfaction with technical assistance provided by laboratory	100%	94%
Results	Data quality	100%	95%
Results	Overall laboratory performance	100%	94%

As methods/programs are formally brought under our scope of accreditation, additional department staff are surveyed. To that end, more issues were identified between 2012 and 2012, resulting in a drop in customer survey scores.

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Authority for this activity is found in [M.S. Chapter 17](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17), (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17>) and other statutes authorizing specific protection services activities.

**Program:** Protection Services  
**Activity:** Dairy and Food Inspection Division

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/about/divisions/dairyfood.aspx>

### AT A GLANCE

- Spent approximately \$0.56 per person in Minnesota on food inspection activities statewide
- Conducted 2,146 feed sample analyses
- Investigated over 60 significant food contamination events that resulted in a product recall or a foodborne illness outbreak
- Detected 17 of 375 (4.5%) of routine retail deli samples collected by DFID inspectors contaminated with foodborne pathogen *Listeria monocytogenes*
- Examined over 250 Plan Reviews for new businesses or remodeling at existing facilities
- Conducted 7,795 inspections of 4.7 million pounds of processed meat and poultry products at 50 processors
- Conducted 7,800 dairy farm inspections
- Issued 759 certificates of free sale allowing dairy manufacturers to ship their products internationally

### PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The Dairy and Food Inspection Division supports the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's mission to ensure the integrity of the food supply through regulation of dairy products, food products, meat, animal feed, shell eggs, and poultry. Our activities help to ensure the strength of the agricultural economy by providing businesses with timely access to required licensing and food safety documentation for product exports. Our work is vital to maintaining consumer confidence in the safety of Minnesota's food supply. In some cases our inspection work is required for manufacturers and farmers to conduct in-state, interstate, and international sales of their products.

The success of our work depends upon us providing an effective, efficient and fair regulatory and enforcement program for businesses that produce dairy, food, meat and feed products.

This work benefits the health of consumers and the economic health of businesses in the food and agriculture industry

### SERVICES PROVIDED

**Inspections** Our inspectors examine and validate the food safety processes and procedures of the entire food production system, including specific inspections for dairy, food, meat, feed, and poultry businesses to ensure they are able to produce safe food. Inspections vary by type of facility (dairy, food, meat or feed) depending on state and federal law, grant and contract requirements. Therefore, inspection services are organized by the Dairy, Food<sup>1</sup>, Meat and Feed program areas.

**Outreach** A strong emphasis on outreach and education provides new and existing food business with information needed for them to meet the state's regulatory requirements and to prevent food safety problems from occurring. Assessing the ability of food business operators to produce safe food and providing them educational outreach are key components of all inspection programs within this division.

#### Investigations, Compliance and Enforcement

When prevention efforts fail or are not followed, our investigators and inspectors:

- Investigate foodborne illness outbreaks and food contamination events that include product recalls and product trace backs in order to remove implicated food from the marketplace as well as determine root cause so that similar incidents can be prevented.
- Collect food and environment samples at dairy, food, meat and feed facilities searching for bacteria that can cause foodborne illnesses.
- Recommend enforcement action (warning letters, penalties) when a firm is unable or unwilling to comply with food safety regulations.

<sup>1</sup> To decrease confusion, food in the general sense will be in lower case and when referring to the Food program, Food inspector or Food facility, Food will be capitalized.

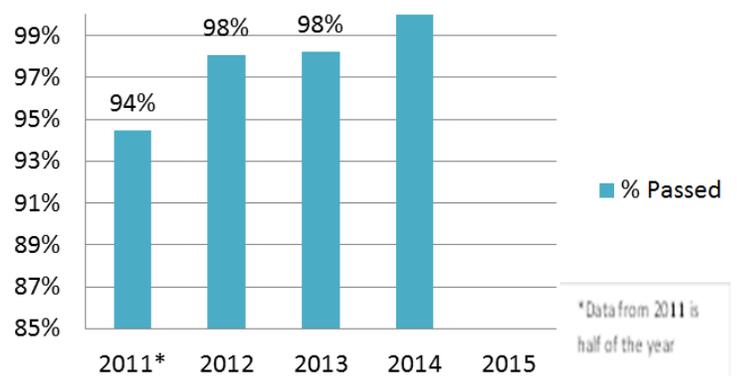
## RESULTS

**Tool for measurement/Dairy Program (Measure of Result):** Percentage of dairy farm, plant and enforcement food safety audits conducted by Interstate Milk Shipment (IMS) Program auditors that achieve passing scores (*Figure 1*). States have to participate in IMS if they want to ship milk across state lines.

**Desired result:** 100 percent of audits achieve passing scores. If an audit fails, the farms and/or plants in that audit cannot sell across state lines until sufficient corrections are made.

**Tool for measurement/Food Program (Measure of Quality):** How often a food facility is inspected is based on the food safety risk of the product that a food business is producing - 12, 18, and 24-month frequencies for high, medium and low risk facilities, respectively (*Table 1*).

**Figure 1. Percent IMS Farm, Plant & Enforcement Surveys Passing Audit**



**Table 1: Percentage of facilities that are inspected at the required food safety risk frequency**

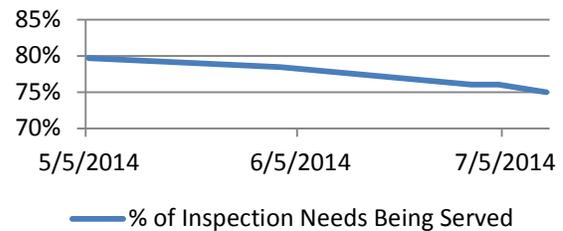
Food Safety Risk Category	% Facilities inspected at required frequency		
High Risk	2025	1236	61%
Medium Risk	3380	2439	72%
Low Risk	3947	2843	72%
Unknown (recently licensed)	1164	81	7%
Total	10516	6599	63%

**Desired Result:** 100 percent of the facilities are inspected at the required frequency.

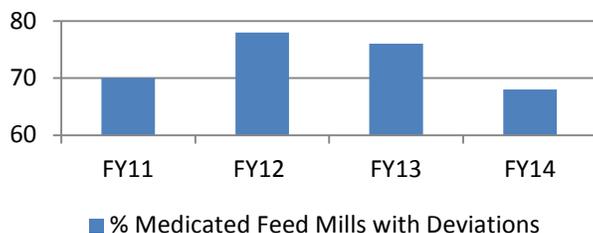
**Tool for Measurement/Meat Program (Measure of Quality):** The ability to meet demand from Minnesota meat and poultry businesses for federally required inspections. Daily inspections are required by federal law in order for these businesses to legally sell meat byproducts (*Figure 2*).

**Desired result:** 100 percent of requests from processors to provide federally required inspection services are met.

**Figure 2. Percent of Inspection Demand Met by the Meat Program**



**Figure 3. Percent Medicated Feed Mills with violations**



**Tool for measurement/Feed Program (Measure of Result):** Percentage of animal feed facilities that mix antibiotics or other drugs (called Medicated Feed Manufacturers) into feed that had feed safety violations. Medicated Feed Manufacturers are scheduled for inspection every other year and when significant violations occur, the inspection frequency of those facilities is increased to an annual inspection.

**Desired result:** Decrease in number of feed safety violations found during inspection of these facilities to less than 20 percent.

Authority for this activity is found in mainly Minnesota Statutes, Chapters 25, 28A, 29, 31, 32, and 34.

**Program:** Promotion and Marketing  
**Activity:** Agricultural Marketing and Development

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/about/divisions/amd.aspx>

### AT A GLANCE

- 1,225 farms and farmers' markets licensed to use the Minnesota Grown logo
- Taiwan Agricultural Trade Delegation signed letter of intent to purchase \$3.5 billion of US corn, soybeans and dried distillers' grains - \$350 million from Minnesota
- Biodiesel standard for B10 was implemented
- 1,680 people attended demonstrations and workshops on innovative drainage practices
- 34 Minnesota companies displayed product in Minnesota Pavilions at domestic and international trade shows
- 30 farmers assisted with livestock permitting
- 287 farmers assisted by dairy profit teams
- 866 pre-service and in-service teachers received ag literacy training
- 30 immigrant farmers trained in farm business management and production practices
- 522 farmers and processors attend the 2014 Minnesota Organic Conference

### PURPOSE & CONTEXT

Agricultural Marketing and Development works to help farmers and other agricultural businesses:

- Be profitable;
- Protect our natural environment and resources; and
- Meet society's needs for food, fiber, and fuel.

We serve:

- Farmers
- Consumers
- Local governments
- Environment and natural resource professionals
- K-12 teachers and students
- Minnesota agribusinesses including the biofuels industry, and agricultural organizations

### SERVICES PROVIDED

We provide numerous and diverse services to meet our goals, including:

- Minnesota Grown, an umbrella marketing program that connects consumers and wholesale buyers with producers of specialty crops, livestock, and other agricultural products grown or raised in Minnesota
- Organic information and financial assistance to growers, processors, and consumers
- Marketing support, including business development, tradeshow support, and international marketing
- Women, Infants and Children Farmers' Market Nutrition and Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Programs that distribute vouchers for fresh produce
- Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom, an educational resources and professional development provider that embeds agriculture, food and natural resources education into K-12 classroom
- Information and assistance to livestock producers and local governments on development and permitting, including preparation of conservation grazing plans for use of public lands
- Dairy Profit Team one-to-one assistance to farmers to improve dairy farm profitability
- Licensing and bonding of livestock buyers, and weighing of livestock at processing facilities
- Renewable bio-energy sector technical analysis and assistance, information, and market analysis
- Quarantine and insect control facilities available for agricultural pest research
- Economic analysis and domestic and international agricultural market research
- Conservation, environmental protection and resource-management work to help farmers adopt new practices and technology
- Agricultural land use assistance including land access for the immigrant farmer community and information on agricultural zoning and business development
- Oversight of creation and operation of agricultural commodity councils
- Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation Program (AGRI) administration

## RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Unique visitors to the Minnesota Grown Directory website	240,000	265,000	2011 - 2013
Quality	Percent of elementary and middle schools using the Minnesota Ag in the Classroom's Ag Mag	40%	44%	2012/13 – 2013/14
Quantity	Number of certified organic operations (farms & handlers)	939	1,068	2011 - 2013
Results	Return on investment for trade missions, shows, and reverse trade missions	\$199:\$1	\$423:\$1	2011-2013/14

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[M. S. 17.03 Subds. 1, 6, 7, and 7a](#) authorize the development of agricultural industries, promotion of agricultural products to international markets and promotion of agricultural diversification and nontraditional agriculture.

[M.S. 17.101 Subd. 1](#) provides authority for the promotion and support of production and marketing of products of Minnesota agriculture.

[M.S. 17.102](#) authorizes the establishment and promotion of the Minnesota Grown label.

[M.S. 17.58](#) defines the duties of the agency related to oversight of the promotion councils.

[M.S. 17.80, 17.81, 17.82, 17.84](#) articulate the state's ag land preservation and conservation policy and defines duties of the agency

[M.S. 17.844](#) authorizes promotion of livestock production.

[M. S. 17A](#) provides legal authority over livestock marketing and dealer licensing.

[M. S. 31.94](#) authorizes the promotion of organic agriculture.

[M. S. 40A](#) established the agricultural land preservation program.

**Program:** Value-added Products  
**Activity:** Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation

[www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/agri.aspx](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/agri.aspx)

### AT A GLANCE

- Annual \$10.235 million state investment matched by \$63.3 million in private investment
- 131 livestock operations assisted; 90 were beginning farmers; all made environmental improvements
- 40 ag businesses expanded or entered new markets
- 20 meat processing businesses upgraded or expanded
- 27 schools increased purchases of MN grown produce, meat, dairy and grains
- \$1.3 million invested in commodity and cover crop research
- 50 Minnesota food businesses received cost share for retail sampling and wholesale tradeshow attendance

### PURPOSE & CONTEXT

The Agricultural Growth, Research and Innovation Program (AGRI) provides financial assistance to the agricultural and renewable energy industries to:

- Support profitable farms and businesses
- Generate jobs;
- Strengthen the agricultural economy.

We serve:

- Farmers
- Agribusinesses and entrepreneurs
- Schools and daycares
- Biofuel and bio-based chemical industries

### SERVICES PROVIDED

We stimulate agricultural business activities by providing financial assistance to:

- Initiate and expand livestock production as well as support environmental improvements;
- Aid entry of new farmers;
- Develop value-added enterprises to diversify farm income sources;
- Initiate, upgrade, and modernize value-added businesses including meat processing;
- Help businesses enter new markets;
- Improve compliance of farms, meat processors, and food businesses with food safety standards including increasing the number of farms that are Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) certified;
- Help farmers develop processing and transporting abilities needed to enter farm-to-school and other direct markets;
- Purchase food processing and storage equipment for schools to increase purchase of locally produced food;
- Develop renewable energy and plant-based technologies;
- Advance applied crop research to improve agricultural product quality, quantity and value.

Financial assistance is provided through several grant and cost sharing programs:

- Livestock Investment Grants
- Value-Added Agriculture Grants
- Farm to Schools Grants
- Crop Research Grants
- NextGen Energy Research Grants
- Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grants
- Blender Pump Cost Share Assistance
- Good Agricultural Practices Cost Share Assistance
- Beginning Farmer Farm Business Management Scholarships
- Food Business Trade Show Cost Share Assistance
- County Fair Arts Access and Cultural Heritage Grants

## RESULTS

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Result	Private investment participation in Livestock Investment Grant Program	\$39 M private/\$1 M state	\$58 M private/\$2 M state	2008-2013/14
Result	Agricultural jobs created – Livestock Investment Grants(construction/farm)	NA	1100 / 227	2014
Quantity	Number of school districts with Farm-to-School Programs	145	205	2011-2013
Result	Private investment participation in Value-Added Grant Program	\$4.3 M private/\$1 M state	\$5.3 M private/\$1M state	2013 -2014
Result	Agricultural jobs created – Value-Added Grants	54	108	2013/2014

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[M.S. 41A.12](#) provides the legal authority for the AGRI program.

[M.S. 17.116](#) establishes the sustainable agriculture demonstration grants.

[M.S. 17.118](#) establishes the livestock investment grant program.

[M.S. 41A.10](#) authorizes development of cellulosic biofuels.

[M.S. 41A.105](#) authorizes research and development of renewable technology to replace fossil fuels.

**Program:** Administration and Financial Assistance  
**Activity:** Grants and Assistance

**AT A GLANCE**

- Hundreds of organizations partnered with and assisted
- Dozens of specialized programs
- Many different sectors of industry assisted, including ag youth, farmers and farm customers in need, ag researchers and others

**PURPOSE & CONTEXT**

The Grants and Assistance activity passes money through MDA to other organizations and programs that focus on specific ag-related subjects. By providing this assistance, MDA helps strengthen the agricultural economy at its “roots” and in areas that might otherwise get overlooked. These programs reach individual farmers, farm youth and specially-targeted customers of agricultural products. The money also supports key efforts to research and promote agricultural activities specific to Minnesota’s climate.

**SERVICES PROVIDED**

- This activity provides assistance to county fairs and agricultural associations, the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association, the Minnesota Poultry Association and the Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council. These organizations maintain generations of expertise, enhance it with the latest research and pass it on to future generations through their educational programs for youth, the future of agriculture in Minnesota.
- Through the Farm Advocates program, MDA provides one-on-one assistance to farmers who face crisis due to natural disasters or financial problems. Trained, experienced advocates help farmers determine how to address difficulties through agricultural lending options, mediation, farm programs, crisis counseling, disaster programs, legal services and social services. Related to this work, MDA passes funds through to the farm business management programs at Central Lakes and Ridgewater Colleges to provide farm families with mental health counseling support.
- MDA partners with Second Harvest Heartland to help provide food to Minnesota’s food shelves and other charitable organizations. Money provided through MDA is used for two things: to purchase milk for distribution and to compensate producers and processors for harvesting and packaging surplus fruits, vegetables and other agricultural commodities that would otherwise go un-harvested or would be discarded.
- This activity also supports the development of future products for agricultural industries. By partnering with the Minnesota Turf Seed Council, the Minnesota Horticultural Society and the Northern Crops Institute, MDA supports their research, development and promotion of northern-hardy products and other activities.

**RESULTS**

Each of our partners reports to MDA on its educational, research and assistance activities. For county fair assistance, we measure against the formula provided in statute.

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Quantity	Percent county fair aid formula is funded	95%	100%	2012-2015

Minnesota Statutes, [Chapters 38](#), [41D](#) and others.

**Program:** Administration and Financial Assistance  
**Activity:** Agency Services

[www.mda.state.mn.us/en/news/newsroom](http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/news/newsroom)

**AT A GLANCE**

- Administrative offices of the Commissioner, human resources, finance and budget
- Agency-level services for the public, agricultural industries and other governmental entities
- Implementation of statewide policies
- Leadership on ag issues

**PURPOSE & CONTEXT**

The Agency Services activity makes sure MDA stays responsive to the needs of agriculture in Minnesota and stays focused on advancing our mission.

*The Department of Agriculture's mission is to enhance Minnesotans' quality of life by ensuring the integrity of our food supply, the health of our environment, and the strength of our agricultural economy.*

**SERVICES PROVIDED**

This activity provides leadership and support services to the agency and its employees and performs agency-level services for the public, agricultural industries and other governmental entities. Agency Services includes:

- The Commissioner's Office
- The Human Resources Division
- The Finance and Budget Division, which also provides staffing for the Rural Finance Authority, a separate board made up of state officials and public members,
- Hosting for staff of MN.IT, the state's Office of Information Technology.

**RESULTS**

We maintain communication and coordination with farmers, ag groups, state boards, interagency committees, national and international associations. Communication and outreach activities are provided in person and through the media, including the agency's web page and social media sites.

- [www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us)
- [www.youtube.com/mnagriculture](http://www.youtube.com/mnagriculture)
- [twitter.com/mnagriculture](https://twitter.com/mnagriculture)
- [www.facebook.com/mnagriculture](https://www.facebook.com/mnagriculture)

The following table shows "Ad Equivalency Value," which is the dollar amount of paid advertising needed to reach an equivalent number of viewers or readers as the number reached by the news stories generated by MDA's online news releases.

<i>Type of Measure</i>	<i>Name of Measure</i>	<i>Previous</i>	<i>Current</i>	<i>Dates</i>
Results	Online news release monthly market value	\$12,625	\$99,600	2012-2014

Minnesota Statutes [Chapter 17](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17) (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/?id=17>) outlines the responsibilities of the Commissioner of Agriculture.