

MORE RESOURCES FOR MINNESOTA DAIRY FARMERS

Here are additional resources to assist Minnesota dairy farmers and their families.

Mental Health Counseling for Rural Residents

With all the responsibilities and stress that comes with farm management, sometimes a farmer needs a helping hand. Minnesota provides a free, confidential counselor who farmers can turn to when the stress of their career becomes difficult to manage.

- Contact: Ted Matthews, 320-360-2390, tedmatthews317@gmail.com

https://www.centerofagriculture.org/images/Mental_Health_2017_Brochure_9-2017.pdf

Farm Business Management Program

Farm Business Management (FBM) programs provide education to farm owners and operators (or people interested in farming) to help them maintain a competitive edge and achieve their business and personal goals. FBM is offered at eight different institutions throughout Minnesota.

The Southern Minnesota Center of Agriculture oversees Farm Business Management programs for the Southern Minnesota Region.

- Contact: Brad Schloesser, 507-389-7263, Brad.Schloesser@southcentral.edu

Ag Centric oversees Farm Business Management programs for the northern Minnesota Region.

- Contact: Keith Olander, 218-894-5141, KOlander@clcmn.edu

<https://www.centerofagriculture.org/farm-business-management/farm-business-management-institutions>

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture offers scholarships to beginning farmers who enroll in FBM education programs. This scholarship pays part of FBM tuition. Applications are funded on a first-come, first-serve basis.

- Contact: Becky Balk, 651-201-6369, Becky.balk@state.mn.us

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/agri-beginning-farmer-farm-business-management-scholarships>



Farm Information Line and Free Farm Financial Counseling

The Farm Information Line is a statewide service from University of Minnesota Extension backed by a network of local Extension educators.

University of Minnesota Extension also offers one-to-one financial counseling for Minnesota farmers experiencing serious financial distress. Trained professionals provide this free and confidential service to help farmers explore their options. To set up an appointment or learn more call:

- Farm Information Line: 800-232-9077 (**8:30 am -12:30 pm M-F, or leave a voicemail afterhours**) or e-mail fil@umn.edu.

Farmer-Lender Mediation

Credit is essential to farmers. In fact, the need for investments in land and equipment requires most farmers to carry debt. Unfortunately, debt can lead to farm foreclosures and major lifestyle changes. A farmer in debt has the opportunity to renegotiate, restructure, or resolve farm debt through Mandatory Farmer-Lender Mediation.

- Contact: Mary Nell Priesler, 218-935-5785, preis002@umn.edu
<https://extension.umn.edu/get-help/farmer-lender-mediation>

Farm Transition Planning

For farmers preparing to transition their farm, University of Minnesota Extension's Agricultural Business Management Team provides up-to-date information about the process on our webpage: z.umn.edu/farmtransition. We offer educational workshops and retreats about farm transition in the winter months (registration available at the same webpage: z.umn.edu/farmtransition).

- For information about financial and risk management, visit z.umn.edu/ABM. Contact: Megan Roberts, meganr@umn.edu.