

RESOURCES FOR MINNESOTA DAIRY FARMERS

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture provides the following services and programs to help Minnesota's dairy farmers and support their industry.

Dairy Profitability and Enhancement Teams

These teams can help farmers increase milk production or quality, improve profitability, or transfer their farm to a family member or other new owner. These groups of professionals work with you directly to provide information and technical advice that can help you clarify and achieve your dairy goals.

Contact: David Weinand, 651-201-6646, David.weinand@state.mn.us

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/dairy-profitability-and-enhancement-teams-dairy-profit-teams>

Grant and Loan Programs

Dairy Business Planning Grant

This grant covers 50% of the cost to create a business plan for a dairy farm. You can use this grant evaluate the feasibility of making changes to your farm – including farm transition and stray voltage testing.

Contact: David Weinand, 651-201-6646, David.weinand@state.mn.us

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/dairy-business-planning-grants>

Restructure II Loan

This loan helps farmers who remain in good credit standing with their local agricultural lender but who are having cash flow difficulties. Only agricultural debt is eligible for refinancing.

Contact: Ryan Roles, 651-201-6666, Ryan.roles@state.mn.us

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/restructure-ii-loan-program>

Livestock Equipment Loan

This loan can help farmers finance the purchase of livestock-related equipment. You can use the loan to buy equipment for animal housing, confinement, animal feeding, milk production, and waste management.

Contact: Ryan Roles, 651-201-6666, Ryan.roles@state.mn.us

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/livestock-equipment-loan-program>

Livestock Investment Grant

This grant reimburses 10% of the cost to buy, construct, or improve to buildings, equipment, and facilities for livestock production.

Contact: Michael Greene, 651-201-6458, Michael.greene@state.mn.us

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/business-dev-loans-grants/agri-livestock-investment-grant>

Value-Added Equipment Grant

This grant reimburses 25% of the cost to buy and install of equipment and/or improve facilities in order to add value to and increase sales of Minnesota agricultural products.

Contact: Julianne LaClair, 651-201-6135, Julianne.laClair@state.mn.us

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/business-dev-loans-grants/agri-value-added-grant-program>

Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant

This grant provides up to \$50,000 for innovative on-farm research and demonstration. It funds projects that explore sustainable agriculture practices and systems that could make farming more profitable and resource efficient.

Contact: Ann Kuzj, 651-201-6028, Ann.kuzj@state.mn.us

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/business-dev-loans-grants/agri-sustainable-agriculture-demonstration-grant-program>

AgBMP Loan

This program offers loans up to \$200,000 for projects that use agricultural best management practices to improve or maintain good water quality – such as manure storage facilities, tillage equipment, and run-off reduction. The program has made more than 1,200 loans to dairy and cattle operations. Loans are approved by local government unit and lenders. Loans may be issued for up to 10 years at 3% interest.

Contact: Richard Gruenes, 651-201-6609, Richard.gruenes@state.mn.us

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/agbmploan>

Farm Business Management Scholarships

Beginning Farmer Farm Business Management Scholarship

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. This scholarship pays part of a beginning farmer's FBM tuition. We fund applications 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>

Several Minnesota colleges offer Farm Business Management courses:

<https://agcentric.org/what-we-do/education-training/farm-business-management/what-is-fbm/>

Additional Resources

Dairy Inspection Program

For help meeting the Grade A or B regulatory program requirements contact your dairy inspector directly or call a program manager at 651-201-6300. If you need additional time or help meeting the requirements for your farm, the dairy program staff can review your options for variances, waivers and extensions, especially for correcting items that need capital investment.

Farm Advocates

Farm Advocates provide one-on-one assistance for Minnesota farmers facing a crisis caused by a natural disaster and/or financial problems. Farm Advocates understand the needs of agricultural families and communities. They are trained and experienced in agricultural lending practices, mediation, lender negotiation, farm programs, crisis counseling, and disaster programs and they can help you find legal and/or social services.

Contact: Matt McDevitt, 651-201-6311, Matt.mcDevitt@state.mn.us

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/about/commissionersoffice/farmadvocates>

Minnesota Farm and Rural Helpline: **833-600-2670**

Free, confidential, 24/7. The call center is located in Minnesota and calls are answered by trained staff and volunteers. If you or someone you know is struggling with financial or legal problems, stress, anxiety, depression, or suicidal thoughts, call the Farm & Rural Helpline.