



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE - NRCS



Molly Mehl – Assistant State Conservationist for
Partnerships & Operations

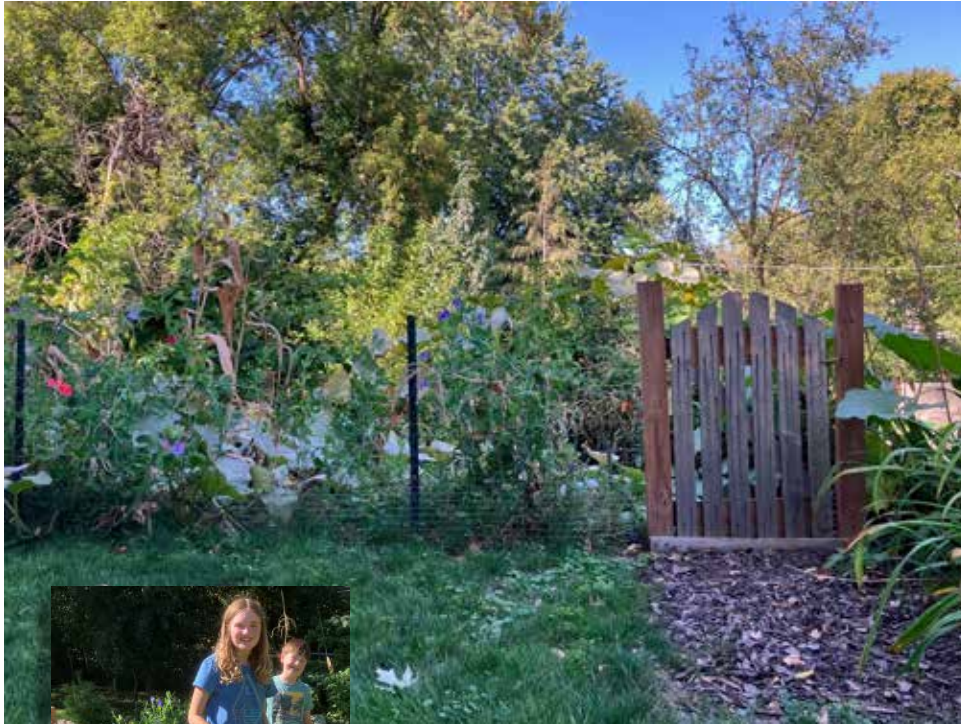
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Resources
Conservation
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United States
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Agriculture

Funded Grants and Agreements



Why it matters

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Partnerships, Grants, and Agreements

85 funded grants and agreements...



Minnesota Ag in the Classroom -
Farm Camp, Teacher Tours,
Careers in Conservation, AgMag



Minnesota Farm Bureau -
Local conservation stories in the
Land and Life Magazine

Partnerships, Grants, and Agreements

...85 funded grants and agreements

Pheasants Forever –
30 positions plus 8 internships



Ducks Unlimited –
3 grazing specialists

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Partnerships, Grants, and Agreements

...85 funded grants and agreements

White Earth Meal Kits -

Traditional healthy food with instructional videos and recipes





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Partnerships, Grants, and Agreements

85 funded grants and agreements!

Bois Forte - Future site of a grant-supported deep winter greenhouse



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2023 Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs)



Two Grant Opportunities in 2023

General

5 Grants Awarded
\$3.8 M



Tribal Food Sovereignty

10 Grants Awarded
\$2.6M



2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)



Topics suggested in THIS Meeting last year

1. Fencing
2. Specialty Crop (Bees & Honey)
3. Marketing and Value Added
4. Forestry and Agroforestry

2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)



Topics of last year's grant

1. Temporary Fencing and Watering Assistance (Grazing)
2. Specialty Crop Demonstrations and Field Days
3. Targeted Marketing Assistance to Ag Startups
4. Forestry and Agroforestry (Seedlings and Nurseries)



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2024 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Awarded

1. Temporary and Targeted Grazing Education
2. Extending Specialty Crop Season with Farmer Market Hubs
3. Agroforestry Technical Assistance
4. Grower Education + Minnesota Grown
5. Value Added Startup Co-Op Assistance



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COMING SOON 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)





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COMING SOON 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)



The Small Print Changed for 2025 (now)

New shorter, national template

Indirect cost increased to 15% from 10%

Equipment threshold increased to \$10K from \$5K



Exceptions for noncompetitive awards sharply curtailed



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2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

DRAFT IDEAS – Gaps to Fill



1. Specialty Crop, Urban Ag, Small Scale, Promotion, Technical Assistance, Education
2. Agricultural Technology Demonstrations & Field Days*
3. Forestry Technical Assistance
4. Tree Nursery Start Up Funds
5. Animal Husbandry, Animal Science, Feed & Nutrition Education
6. Agroforestry
7. Conservation Clearinghouse Database
8. And...?

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Don't be left in the dust.

Dodge Co, Minn.



Other Grant Options for NGOs

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE)

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD)

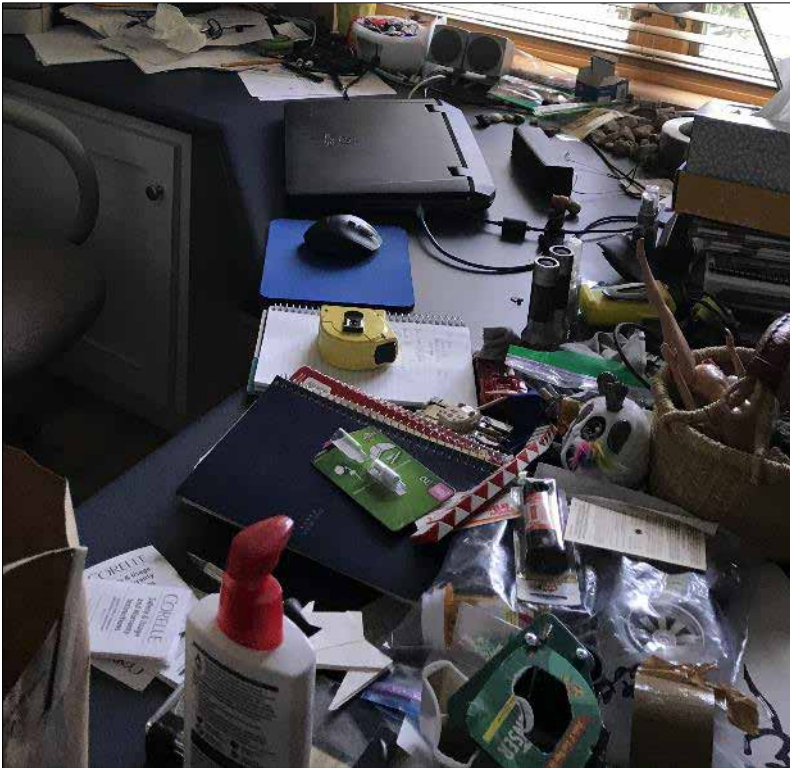
Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities





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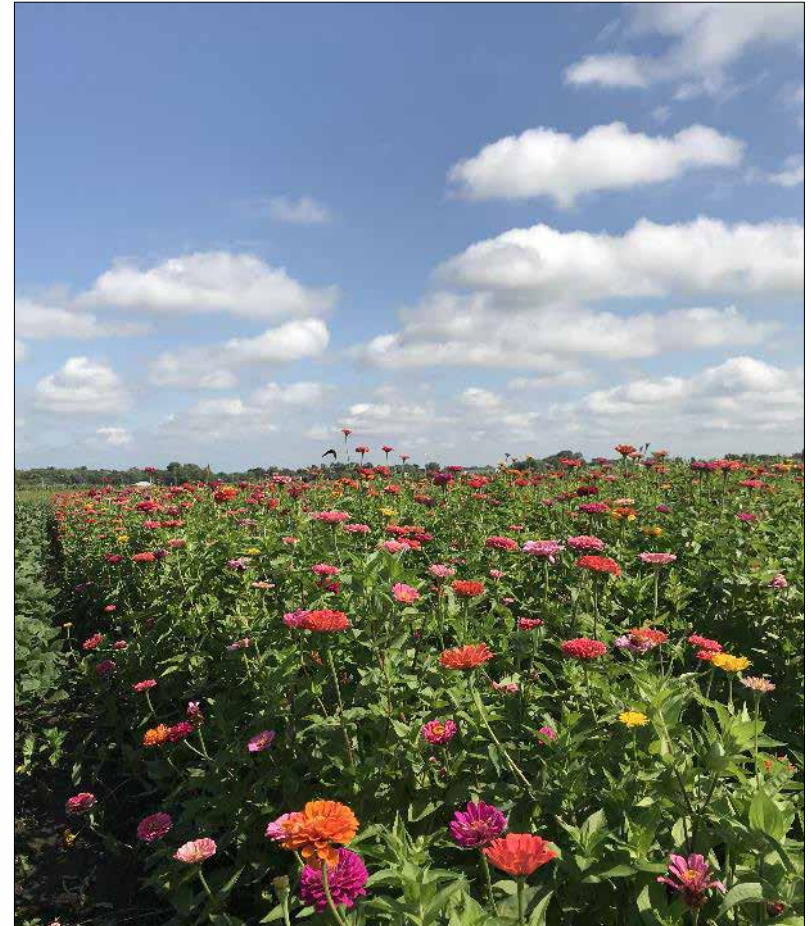
Funded Grants and Agreements



In Review

From this ^ to this >

In grants and agreements with you





MINNESOTA NRCS

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender

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Grant Recipients 2023 & 2024

White Earth Band of Chippewa Indians
Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa
LLBO-Youth Camp
Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Millie Lacs Band of Ojibwe
Leech Lake Reservation Business Committee
Red Lake Band of Chippewa
Grand Portage Band
White Earth Band of Chippewa
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Renville SWCD
Nobles SWCD
Kanati Wildlife Consulting, LLC.
MN Grazing Laws Conservation Association

Pheasants Forever Inc.
Ducks Unlimited
Renewing the Countryside II
Ecosystems Services Exchange
Truterra, LLC
Central Lakes College
Savanna Institute
Regents of the University of Minnesota
MN Agricultural Water Resources Center
Ducks Unlimited
Midwest Elderberry Cooperative (pending)
Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Category	Current	Change Effective 10/1/2024	Comment	
Changes to Exceptions to Competition	§ Nonmonetary awards of property or services	§ Nonmonetary awards of property or services	Sharply curtail noncompetitive awards Impact is only for Grants and Cooperative agreements (not impacting contribution agreements. NRCS authority status specifically allows non-competition.)	
	§ Awards of less than \$75,000	§ Awards of less than \$100,000		
	§ Awards to fund continuing work already started under a previous award	§ Awards to fund continuing work already started under a previous award for which competition for continued support would have a significant adverse effect on continuity or completion of the activity		
	§ Awards which cannot be delayed due to an emergency or a substantial danger to health or safety	§ Time constraints associated with a public health, safety, welfare, or national security requirement preclude competition		
	§ Awards when it is impracticable to secure competition	<i>These provisions will be eliminated as of Oct.1:</i>		
	§ Awards to fund unique and innovative unsolicited applications			§ <i>Awards when it is impracticable to secure competition</i>
				§ <i>Awards to fund unique and innovative unsolicited applications</i>