



A GREATER MINNESOTA

Elevating Minnesota's Food, Farms and Future.

Our Vision: Farms. Food. Future.

Minnesota's farming, food and agriculture sector strongly urges candidates to support and champion an exciting vision to elevate Minnesota's position even higher as one of the nation's leading states in the food, farming and agriculture sector. We see this happening through strategic investments and policy proposals that support the competitiveness and growth of our state's second-largest economic sector.

The AGM Plan to Elevate Minnesota's Farms and Food

I, _____ (print name) **will protect and grow Minnesota's farm and food economy and will support the following policy requests if elected to the Minnesota legislature.** Please mark an "X" in the box for each policy you support – please feel free to write in additional comments as necessary.

1. MAKE MN A LEADER IN FARM/FOOD RESEARCH, INNOVATION

Let's be honest, no one has all the answers for how to help improve agriculture productivity, best protect our natural resources and develop even better food. We need more research and innovation to help find better solutions. AGM believes we should accelerate the opportunity to make Minnesota a recognized center for discovery and innovation in the farm and food sciences. To get there, we need our state's land-grant university to be a more dynamic partner, one that's more closely aligned with the needs of the industry and the state as well as a larger research commitment from the state.

The food, farming and agriculture community has been concerned, in recent years, with a decline in funding for University of Minnesota research. Through the support of the Minnesota legislature in 2015 and 2017, more than \$5 million in new state investments each year have been provided to the University of Minnesota to hire scientists and improve infrastructure across seven areas of collaboration spanning three university colleges and at research, outreach and Extension sites across the state. This plan, known as the Agricultural Research, Education, Extension and Technology Transfer Program (AGREETT) shows we're making progress in this area. But we must do much more if we are to advance Minnesota as a leading state. We are looking to build on what was established with AGREETT, continuing to expand the state's food and agriculture research/innovation capability to where it should be.

Minnesota farm commodity councils, food and agricultural companies already invest millions of dollars a year in research – let's leverage a meaningful state commitment for higher-education

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1101 W River Parkway, Ste 400
Minneapolis, MN 55415
www.farmandfoodmn.org

systems into a public-private partnership to elevate our state as a leader in research and innovation. **IF ELECTED:**

- I will support an additional yearly state appropriation of \$10 million per year to leverage private research investments in support of the following objectives:
 - Sustainability: Discover effective alternative practices and new technology that improve the sustainability of farming and improve environmental outcomes
 - Productivity: Research that enhances food productivity, animal and plant health and lowers costs for both farmers and consumers
 - Nutrition: Develop new and improved foods that deliver enhanced nutrition benefits for consumers

2. SUPPORT CLEAN WATER

The Clean Water Fund was authorized by voters to protect, enhance and restore water quality in lakes, rivers and streams and to protect groundwater. The farming, food and agriculture industries represented by AGM share the goals to protect our state's natural resources and recommend directing Clean Water Funds to "on-the-ground" initiatives that improve water quality, including the transition of productive cropland into buffers. As part of the industry's contributions to water quality, we ask legislators to redirect a portion of these dollars to activities that support this mission. **IF ELECTED:**

- I will support a significant investment of Clean Water Fund dollars to be used to accelerate on-farm adoption of innovative conservation practices that enhance and protect water quality. Examples include:
 - Intensively target highly sensitive lands with additional funding and incentives to implement high-impact conservation practices
 - Increase opportunities for low-risk experimentation with conservation practices
- I will support a tax credit of \$50/acre for productive farm land converted to water buffers financed using Clean Water Funds. This tax credit would only apply to agricultural land in compliance with Minnesota's buffer law and not currently enrolled in a conservation program.

3. MOVE MN TO OUTCOMES-BASED REGULATION

Minnesota still clings to a decades-old system to regulate the farming, food and agriculture-related industry (as well as other industries). Minnesota's agriculture sector has made tremendous strides over the past decades in adopting new and better ways to protect our natural resources. Unfortunately, our state's regulatory system has often not kept up with the new practices and technology adopted by farmers and agribusinesses in this area.

It's time to move to a new model of regulation – Outcomes-Based Regulation – one that reflects modern-day realities, is less burdensome and less costly while retaining transparency. This new model should be focused on outcomes rather than process, upholding our stringent environmental standards while doing so with quality customer service. Outcomes will start, first, with protecting the environment while also accelerating opportunities for responsible business and farm expansions, quality jobs and other desired economic benefits. **IF ELECTED:**

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- I will support moving Minnesota to an Outcomes-Based Model of state & local regulation that incorporates the following objectives:
 - Protects the environment
 - Ensures shorter/predictable timelines for approval
 - Encourages innovation and alternative practices to meet environmental standards
 - Provides more clarity in the beginning as to expectations
 - Is more economical
 - Transparent to the public

4. ADOPT TAX POLICY THAT STIMULATES GROWTH/JOB

Tax policy can encourage what we want and discourage what we don't. Minnesota needs a more competitive tax policy that supports the growth of current farms and food/agriculture companies as well as stimulates the development of exciting start-up food companies and farming operations of all types and sizes. **IF ELECTED:**

- I will support a tax bill similar to the bill vetoed in the 2018 session (that enjoyed strong bipartisan support) – conforming Minnesota to the new federal tax law, including expensing conformity.
- I will support tax policy that supports the development of start-up companies and farms with provisions that assist in attracting capital and encouraging research and innovation.

RURAL VITALITY ISSUES NEED MORE ATTENTION

We need to deepen our focus on making rural Minnesota a place where we can retain and attract families and the work force we need. AGM is not currently advancing specific proposals, but we want candidates and policymakers to be ready to work with the food, farming and agriculture sector to develop policies to help address:

- The shortage of available talent/labor
- Availability of child care
- Rural development issues such as affordable housing and wastewater treatment
- Rural health care and insurance reform

Please complete by marking an "X" in the box next to each policy request you support. Sign this document and send it back in the return envelope included with this form.

Signature	Your Name (Print)	Date	District
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