



# MINNESOTA

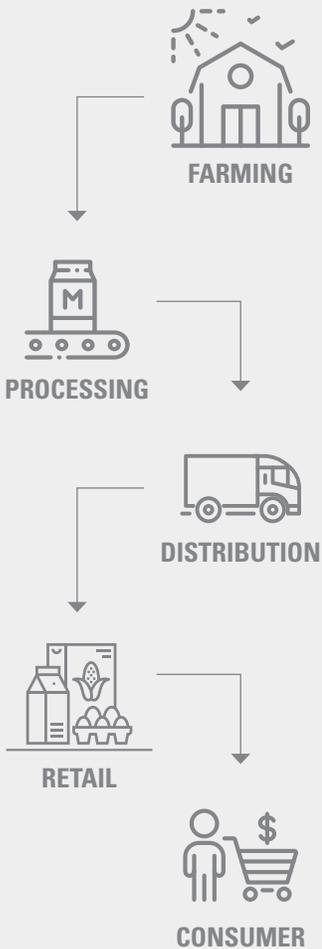
Farm and Food in Focus



## From Mankato to Minnetonka to Minneapolis THE POWER OF MINNESOTA'S FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN

AN UPDATE FOR CANDIDATES AND VOTERS REGARDING THE MAJOR IMPACT AND TRANSFORMATION OF MINNESOTA'S FARM/FOOD SECTOR

### FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN



**COVID-19 was a shock to the food supply system in Minnesota, across the country and around the world. While some consumers did not always find their desired products on the shelf, we never ran out of food! Despite this amazing performance, the state's food and agriculture sector faces an array of pressures, from global trade disputes to economic recession to shifts in consumer demand due to the pandemic.**

#### WHAT IS THE FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN?

Colloquially known as "farm to fork," Minnesota's food supply chain encompasses all of the activities that transforms crops and livestock (i.e. raw commodities) into consumer-ready food products. Farming and ag manufacturing have also been innovators in implementing energy efficient systems and clean energy generation.

#### WORKING TOGETHER

The management of food supply chains requires coordination and collaboration to deliver the fine food products we enjoy. This starts with understanding what consumers want and need. The food value chain begins with farmers' and ranchers' operations producing high quality crops and livestock that continues through processing, distribution and retail. The people who support this food chain provide essential contributions that ultimately deliver customer expectations of safe, nutritious, quality and affordable food and related products.

#### WHY IT MATTERS

A strong food supply chain is more important than ever as Minnesota wrestles with the effects of the pandemic and economic recession. It is critical that Minnesota continues to support this essential enterprise to ensure the safety and reliability of food production and delivery from rural to suburban to urban communities.

**STRENGTH  
IN NUMBERS**

**147,000 MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL WORKERS** PROVIDE CRITICAL WORK THAT SUPPORTS THE STATE'S FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN.

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A coalition of MN farm groups, food and agribusinesses located across the state

[farmandfoodmn.org](http://farmandfoodmn.org)

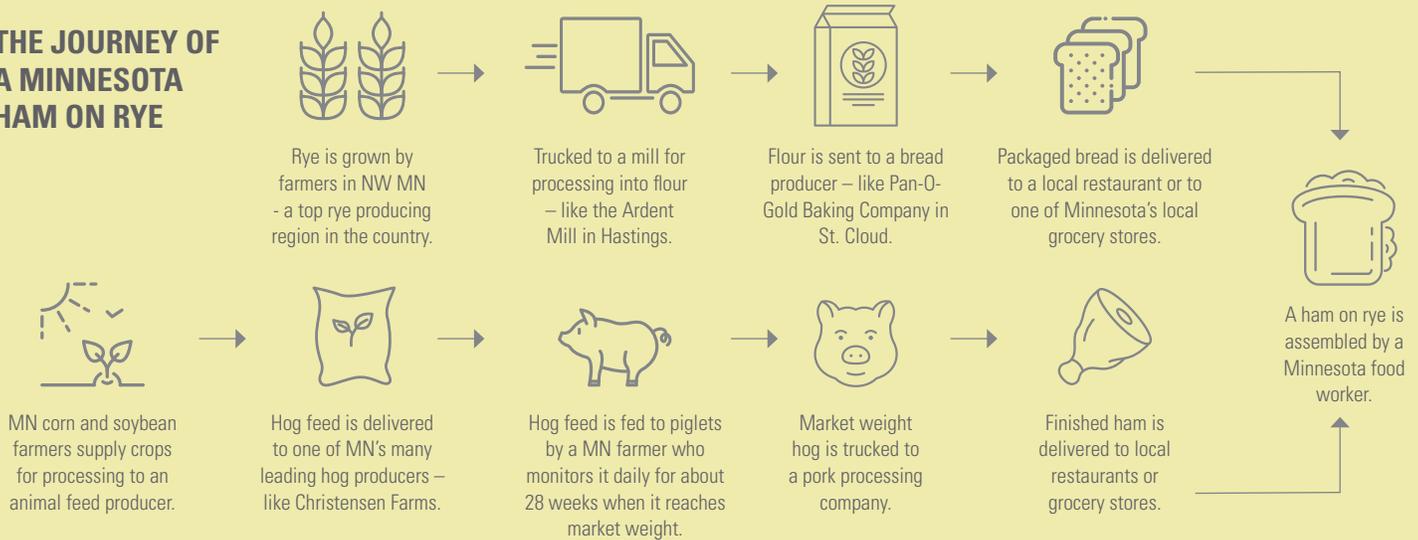
## THE VALUE OF MINNESOTA'S FOOD SYSTEM

Connections with local farmers, suppliers, processors and distributors across the state create new opportunities to adapt and innovate during these unprecedented times. This also creates a shorter food supply chain in Minnesota which can lead to less waste, more efficiency, lower costs and more trusted relationships with consumers.

## BY THE NUMBERS

- 68,822 Minnesota crop and livestock producers
- 1,000 agricultural and food companies
- \$112 billion in total economic impact annually from the food and agriculture sector
- 121,000 Minnesotans work in the food retail industry
- 42,000 work in food manufacturing
- Over 400,000 Minnesota jobs tied to farming and food

### THE JOURNEY OF A MINNESOTA HAM ON RYE



## OUR COMMITMENT IS GOOD BUSINESS

We can expand our economy and strengthen our food supply chain through Minnesota's wide network of food and agriculture businesses that are deeply committed to providing safe, fresh and high-quality food products.

### A LOOK AT RETAIL

**Cub Foods:** The grocery chain is the largest in Minnesota with 81 stores in the state and 10,000 employees.

**Lunds & Byerlys:** The Minneapolis-based grocer has 27 locations across the Twin Cities and 3,900 employees.

**Coborn's:** The St. Cloud-based retailer operates 27 grocery stores across Greater Minnesota as well as convenience, liquor and pharmacy stores in four states with 9,400+ employees.

**Miner's:** The Duluth-based grocer operates 30 stores in Minnesota, Wisconsin and the upper peninsula of Michigan with 2,400 employees.

### OTHER MAJOR PLAYERS IN MINNESOTA'S SUPPLY CHAIN

**Cargill:** Based in Wayzata, the \$113 billion global company operates on the front end of the supply process, buying crops and livestock from growers and ranchers and processing them into basic food products, like cut meat or frozen eggs, or bio-industrial products. Cargill sells these core products to consumer brand companies that then sell their finished food items to restaurants, grocery stores and big-box retailers.

**CHS:** Based in Inner Grove Heights, the \$31.9 billion agribusiness cooperative is owned by farmers, ranchers and cooperatives. CHS provides farm and food producers with a variety of products such as energy, crop nutrients, grain, livestock feed, food and business solutions, as well as other services such as insurance, finances and risk management.

**Land O' Lakes:** Based in Arden Hills, the \$13.9 billion farmer-owned food and agricultural cooperative has four areas of focus that support food and farm producers - new products, services and technology; dairy, branded consumer products; livestock feed; and on-farm conservation tools.

### A STRONGER TOMORROW

Supply chains of the future need to produce healthy and nutritious food that has been grown in an environmentally friendly and ethical way, while also dealing with the significant challenges of feeding a growing population, managing climate change and protecting natural resources. Technology continues to have an impact on reshaping contemporary food supply chain systems to improve productivity, affordability, accessibility and diversity of choice and to reduce losses and waste.

**The dedication of Minnesotans working in food and agriculture has never been more evident as our nation faces the disruptions caused by COVID-19. Day in and day out, they are tirelessly stepping up so that we all will have a safe, affordable and reliable food supply.**

SOURCES: National Minnesota Grocers Association; World-Grain.com; Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal; Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Star Tribune; individual companies and cooperatives

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