



**SUPPORT  
GOOD MN  
FARMS  
FOOD  
JOBS**

# MINNESOTA

Farm and Food in Focus



## Why Food Made in MINNESOTA MATTERS

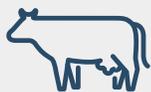
AN UPDATE FOR CANDIDATES AND VOTERS REGARDING THE MAJOR IMPACT AND TRANSFORMATION OF MINNESOTA'S FARM/FOOD SECTOR

### STRENGTH OF MINNESOTA'S FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR



**No. 4**

IN U.S. CROP PRODUCTION



**No. 8**

IN U.S. LIVESTOCK  
PRODUCTION



**1/3**

OF MINNESOTA'S  
EXPORTS ARE FOOD AND  
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

**Minnesota boasts a stable and diversified economy. Having said that, Minnesota is not the epicenter of automobile manufacturing or smart phone technology. And despite our healthy growth in tech businesses and innovative startups, the state won't be overtaking Silicon Valley any time soon. But there is one important sector where Minnesota is already a leader and can grow and further compete on a national and global level: agriculture and food production.**

#### GLOBAL DEMAND

As populations increase across the globe, Minnesota's food and agriculture producers are already meeting the demand for food and feed. As a major exporter and top U.S. producer of crops, livestock, and food products, Minnesota is in a prime position to expand our food sector in a manner that will create new jobs and new investment opportunities over the next decade and beyond.

#### COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

For generations, Minnesota's natural resources, including its rich soils, favorable weather and clean water, have helped the state's food and agriculture sector become a national and international powerhouse. We believe there is an opportunity to strengthen and expand this important part of the state's economy for future generations.

#### STATEWIDE REACH - AND IMPACT

Minnesota's food and agriculture industry – a wide range of manufacturers, cooperatives, farmers, ranchers, and service providers – touches a variety of enterprises, including marketers, financial institutions, food processors, research and development, transportation, grocery stores, retailers, law firms, and more.

#### ECONOMIC STABILITY

America's agriculture sector is undergoing dramatic changes in response to challenges with global trade, shifting consumer demand, and technological advancements. While the current pandemic has caused a global economic slowdown, food and agricultural producers have worked to meet the challenge by protecting their employees and buttressing food supply chains.

#### STATE AND LOCAL TAX SUPPORT

Minnesota's food and agriculture sector and its economic activities provide a major source of tax revenue – more than \$2 billion in Minnesota state and local taxes paid in 2017.

#### FOOD SECURITY

Minnesota's diversified and expansive food and agriculture sector is creating new supply networks and partnerships to provide stable food sources at the local, state, and national level that meet consumer demand.

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

**farmandfoodmn.org**

# Making a Difference

## INCREASING PRODUCTION

Minnesota's crop farm and livestock operations are producing higher yields than ever before. New technologies, innovations, and process improvements are also improving food quality, safety and availability, while keeping food more affordable for consumers.

## SUPPORTING INNOVATION

Minnesota has long been on the forefront of research and innovation in agriculture, food production, and food safety. The state supports a rich ecosystem of researchers/scientists, entrepreneurs and established companies that develop innovations to improve food and beverage products, food technologies in manufacturing, materials and ingredients technologies, safety, and best farming practices.

## PROVIDING MORE DIVERSE FOODS

Over the past five years, production of vegetables, produce and fruits has increased in Minnesota to meet consumer demand for "more local." An exciting development has been the emergence of larger scale indoor growing facilities in our region that grow vegetables and produce in controlled conditions the entire year – even in winter!

## DIRECT TO CONSUMER

Increasingly, consumers want to buy their farm goods directly from the source. Minnesota farm and food operations are finding new ways to reach them.

## FARM-TO-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

In Minnesota and across the country, there is a growing effort to use local farm products in school cafeterias. These initiatives aim to improve student health and knowledge about food and farming. Several Minnesota farm products have integrated successfully into local school menus, including potatoes, apples, carrots, sweet corn, wild rice oatmeal, cabbage and beef hot dogs.

**Minnesota leads the nation** in food patents per capita.

**245+** community supported agriculture farms in Minnesota.

**175+** farmers markets in Minnesota.



**More than 1,000** Minnesota farmers and ranchers sell their products locally.

**Minnesota's leadership legacy in food and agriculture began with the grit and resilience of the state's early pioneer farmers who transformed rich prairie into products that today feed our nation and world. Our farmers, ranchers, cooperatives, research institutions and food producers have set the standard for innovation. Let's embrace the opportunity to further advance Minnesota as a food and agriculture leader and innovator in the 21st century.**

SOURCES: Minnesota Department of Agriculture; Institute on the Environment at the University of Minnesota; Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture; Minnesota Rural Partners, Inc.; Rural Urban Connections Project; IBISWorld analysis; various news reports

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