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Resources for Farmers and Landowners

Connecting farmers with
landowners, beginning farmers, farm
transitions and retiring



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[Connecting Farmland with Operators](#)

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Farm Link is a list of Minnesota farm properties that are for sale, rent and/or farmers who are interested in providing opportunities to a beginning farmer by transitioning an existing farm with no current heir. This is not a complete list of all properties available in Minnesota, but it is an online tool to assist prospective farmers with farm properties or opportunities to farm.

Contact information is provided for each property that is for sale or rent. To ensure privacy, any interest in either "Young/beginning farmers seeking to transition into a farm" or "Existing Farmers seeking to transition to the next generation" other than what is available to view is done by contacting the MDA at 320-842-6910. Information posted on this website is only as accurate as the information we have been provided by the parties involved. We encourage direct contact with the seller, renter, or realtor.

<http://www2.mda.state.mn.us/webapp/props4sale/>

Land Stewardship Project

Are you a beginning farmer looking to rent or purchase farmland in the Midwest? Or are you an established farmer/landowner in the Midwest who is seeking a beginning farmer to purchase or rent your land, or to work with in a partnership situation?

The Land Stewardship Project's Farm Beginnings program has simple application forms available for people seeking farmland or farmers. (You can find the forms to the right).

Once the form is filled out, the information can be circulated by LSP via the Land Stewardship Letter, LIVE-WIRE and through our various networks. For more information, e-mail LSP's Karen Stettler or call her at 612-767-9885.

<https://landstewardshipproject.org/farmland-clearinghouse/>

[Connecting Grazers and Cropland](#)

Cropland Grazing Exchange

The Cropland Grazing Exchange (CGE) matches livestock farmers with crop farmers who have forage (crop residues, cover crops, etc.) to harvest. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) partnered with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota to develop this tool.

[https://www.mda.state.mn.us/cropland-grazing-exchange-1#:~:text=The%20Cropland%20Grazing%20Exchange%20\(CG%20E,%20etc.\)%20to%20harvest.](https://www.mda.state.mn.us/cropland-grazing-exchange-1#:~:text=The%20Cropland%20Grazing%20Exchange%20(CG%20E,%20etc.)%20to%20harvest.)

Midwest Grazing Exchange

Livestock need the land and the land needs livestock. Search for listings created by grazers and landowners across Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Find the livestock or land match that's right for you - then send a message!

<https://www.midwestgrazingexchange.com/>

Beginning Farmers Resources

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loans

<https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/farm-loan-programs/beginning-farmers-and-ranchers-loans/index>

University of Minnesota Extension

Financial Help for Beginning Farmers

- Financing from Parents
- Farm Service Agency (FSA) Loans
- The Minnesota Rural Finance Authority
- Local Lenders
- MN Beginning Farmer Program

<https://extension.umn.edu/transfer-and-estate-planning/financial-help-beginning-minnesota-farmers#mn-beginning-farmer-program-254714>

US Department of Agriculture

New to farming? Want to learn how to start a farm? USDA can help and offers additional assistance to beginning farmers and ranchers. USDA considers anyone who has operated a farm or ranch for less than ten years to be a beginning farmer or rancher. USDA can help you get started or grow your operation through a variety of programs and services, from farm loans to crop insurance, and conservation programs to disaster assistance.

<https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers>

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

- FarmLink
- Farm Business Management Scholarship
- Beginning Farmer Tax Credit
- Agricultural Microloan Program
- Grants, Loans, and Financing

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/mda-resources-emerging-farmers>

Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program/MDA MAWQCP Farm Business Management Scholarship

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) Farm Business Management Scholarship provides scholarships to water quality certified producers to learn business management strategies that will lead to profitable and competitive farming operations.

To be eligible for the scholarship you must be certified in the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program. If awarded, you must also complete a farm analysis. If you have questions about the scholarship or this form please contact Danielle Isaacson, MAWQCP Operations Coordinator, at Danielle.Isaacson@state.mn.us

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/grants/fbmscholarship>

Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA)

- Whole Farm Planning Book & the Goal-Setting Handbook
- Building a Sustainable Business Book

<https://www.misa.umn.edu/resources/beginning-farmers>

Land Stewardship

Farm Beginnings Program

<https://landstewardshipproject.org/new-farmers/>

Green Lands Blue Waters; Midwest Perennial Forage Working Group
The Beginning Grazing Webpage

<https://greenlandsbluwaters.org/midwest-perennial-forage-working-group/#beginning-graziers>

Farm Transitions and Retiring

University of Minnesota Extension

- Transitioning the Farm Business
- Estate Planning

<https://extension.umn.edu/business/transfer-and-estate-planning>

Land Stewardship Project

- Farmland Clearinghouse
- Conservation Leases
- Beginning/Retiring Farmer Tax Credit
- Land Transition Tools
- Transition Stories

<https://landstewardshipproject.org/retiring-farmers-landowners/>

Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture

Farm Transitions Toolkit

<https://www.misa.umn.edu/publications/farmtransitionstoolkit>

Sustainable Farming Association

Farm Transitions Network

Offering a variety of information and resources (on right side of page)

<https://www.sfa-mn.org/farm-transitions/>

Renewing the Countryside

Farm Transitions Discussion Group

This email discussion group is for farmers and farmland owners working through the issues involved in transferring farmland and farm businesses to the next generation. This group is a project of Renewing the Countryside, with support from the Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture.

https://www.renewingthecountryside.org/farm_transitions

Appendix A: Beginning Farmer Set up Resources

Checklist for New Farmers <https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2021-09/farmersgov-how-to-start-a-farm-checklist-09-21-2021.pdf>

Resource for extensive topics <https://www.farmaid.org/our-work/resources-for-farmers/online-request-for-assistance-form/>

1. **Farm Service Agency (FSA)**, provide service to farmers, ranchers, and ag partners delivering effective and efficient ag programs for abundant, safe, and affordable food and fiber supply
 - a. Overview of process and opportunities
<https://www.farmers.gov/sites/default/files/2021-06/farmersgov-getstarted-factsheet-06-15-2021.pdf>
 - b. Register your land and operation at your local FSA office, office locator
<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=mn&agency=fsa>
 - c. Extensive information about programs provided <https://www.farmers.gov/>
 - d. Where to start and resources available <https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers#work-with-usda>
2. **Risk Management Agency (RMA)** manages the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) to provide crop insurance to America's farmers and ranchers
 - a. Getting started <https://www.rma.usda.gov/en/Topics/Beginning-or-Veteran-Farmers-and-Ranchers>
 - b. Agent locator <https://www.rma.usda.gov/en/Information-Tools/Agent-Locator-Page>
3. **Conservation Programs Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), and Watershed Districts (WD)**. These organizations provide technical and financial assistance to implement voluntary conservation to benefit ag operations and the environment
 - a. NRCS office locator
<https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nracs&state=mn>
 - b. NRCS programs available <https://www.nracs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nracs/mn/programs/>
 - c. Find your local SWCD
https://www.maswcd.org/SWCDs_On_The_Web/swcnds_on_the_web.htm
4. Creating a business and financial plan
 - a. Free business planning program <https://agplan.umn.edu/>

- b. Farm Business Management (FBM) <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/agri-beginning-farmer-farm-business-management-scholarships>
 - c. Business planning FSA and other resources <https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers/business-plan>
 - d. Business and financial planning, programs available <https://www.nal.usda.gov/legacy/ric/small-farm-funding-resources#DBP>
 - e. University of MN <https://extension.umn.edu/business/farm-finance>
5. Mentors/Peer Networking
- a. SCORE <https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/beginning-farmers/business-plan>
 - b. MN Soil Health Coalition <https://mnsoilhealth.org/farmer-mentors/>
 - c. Sustainable Farming Association <https://www.sfa-mn.org/>
 - d. Land Stewardship Project <https://landstewardshipproject.org/journeyperson-course/>
6. Marketing
- a. Marketing education <https://learn.commoditychallenge.com/>
 - b. Grain marketing plans <https://www.cffm.umn.edu/grain-marketing-plans/>
 - c. Marketing local foods <https://www.misa.umn.edu/publications/localregionalfoodsystems/marketinglocalfood>

Organizations to Know

Farm Service Agency (FSA) <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/state-offices/Minnesota/index>

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/mn/home/>

Risk Management Agency (RMA) <https://www.rma.usda.gov/en/RMALocal/Minnesota>

Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/>

University of Minnesota Extension <https://extension.umn.edu/>

Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) <https://www.health.state.mn.us/>

Local SWCD office [https://www.maswcd.org/SWCDs On The Web/swcds on the web.htm](https://www.maswcd.org/SWCDs%20On%20The%20Web/swcds%20on%20the%20web.htm)

Local Watershed District office <https://www.mnwatershed.org/metro-watershed-management-organizations-metro-wmos>