

Annual REPORT 2025-2026



MINNESOTA
Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc.
FOUNDATION



Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. Foundation



MINNESOTA
Agriculture in the Classroom

FARM CAMP
—MINNESOTA—

AgMag
Agriculture: Helping you every day!

Welcome to our **ANNUAL REPORT 2025-2026**



Forty years of agricultural literacy. What a remarkable journey!

What began as an idea to bring agriculture into Minnesota classrooms has grown through the commitment of educators, farmers, businesses, investors, and community partners. This year, we celebrated that history and the people who continue to move this work forward.

Our purpose remains clear: make it easy for educators to bring agriculture into the lessons they already teach. From AgMags to Farm Camp Minnesota, we connect classroom learning with real farmers, businesses, and the ways agriculture touches our lives.

Educating educators remains at the heart of this work.

Our inaugural Growing Minds Conference brought Minnesota and Wisconsin educators together to experience agriculture firsthand. They visited farms and businesses, asked questions, and met people with different paths into agricultural careers. Those experiences give teachers ideas and confidence to bring back to their students.

Educators also help guide what comes next. Their input shapes our resources and professional development,

helping us meet classroom needs. Looking ahead, we want to deepen those connections, expand accessible online learning, and create more opportunities for teachers and students to experience agriculture together.

The students asking questions today are our future scientists, business owners, legislators, and voters. Understanding agriculture gives them knowledge they can use throughout their lives, wherever their interests take them.

To our investors, grantors, Board of Directors, educators, agricultural hosts, and the entire MAITC team, thank you.

Forty years of this work did not happen by accident. Your support, time, and willingness to share your stories make it possible. You help teachers bring agriculture to life and students see possibilities they may never have considered. Together, we will keep working toward our shared vision:

Agriculture is valued by all.

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Message from the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



Mark Greenwood
Board Chair

Dear friends of Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom,

On behalf of the Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Board of Directors, thank you for the generosity, commitment, and daily work that make this mission possible. Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom exists to increase agricultural literacy through K-12 education, and that purpose comes to life because of the people who believe in students, teachers, and the future of agriculture.

To our donors:

Your support opens doors for classrooms across Minnesota. Your investment gives educators access to no-cost curriculum, resources, grants, outreach, and professional development that help students understand where their food, fiber, fuel, and natural resources come from. Your generosity strengthens the connection between agriculture and education and helps students see agriculture as relevant to their lives, communities, and future career opportunities.

To our teachers:

Thank you for bringing agriculture into your classrooms with curiosity, creativity, and care. You help students ask better questions, make real-world connections, and appreciate the people and systems that provide the essentials of everyday life. Your willingness to use agriculture as a context for learning is at the heart of this work.

To the Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom staff:

Thank you for the dedication, professionalism, and energy you bring to this program every day. From developing standards-based resources to supporting educators and creating meaningful student experiences, your work carries the mission forward with excellence. The board is grateful for the care you put into every lesson, resource, partnership, and event.

Together, donors, teachers, staff, partners, and board members are telling agriculture's story and helping young people better understand its value to Minnesota and the world. Thank you for being part of this important work and for helping ensure that agriculture is valued by all.

With sincere appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Greenwood'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large 'M' and 'G'.

MARK GREENWOOD, Board Chair
Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom



Message from the **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



Ann Marie Ward
Executive Director

A year of Celebrations: 40 years of Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom

Fiscal year 2026 (FY2026) has been an exceptional year for the **Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. Foundation (MAITC)**! There is no denying that the intentional work and passion of the MAITC team, board and investors have an impact on educators and students across Minnesota.

Program impact is up 7%, with an unduplicated **student impact number of 169,553**. This team is truly exceptional in its determination to help educators infuse agriculture into their classrooms. The pages of this Annual Report provide a snapshot of our measurable impact, but like your support, there is so much more to this work that is beyond measure. As **investors, board members, AgHosts, content experts, graphic designers, educators and the MAITC Team** itself, none of this happens without **YOU**!

FY2026 was filled with opportunities and new investments in agricultural literacy. One of the greatest opportunities to come to fruition was the **25 in 2025 Professional Learning Cohort**. Twenty-five educators from across Minnesota were selected to participate in the 2025 National Agriculture in the Classroom conference, hosted by Minnesota, and spend a year connecting, contributing and supporting each other's work. The culmination of this opportunity came at the **inaugural Growing Minds Conference in July 2026**. This year of commitment has truly made an impact not only this year, but on programming, resources and professional development opportunities for years to come.

MAITC relies on a collection of individuals, teams, boards, and investors to bring this work to educators and their students across Minnesota. The VantagePoint Marketing Consultants team is a trusted force of positive relations that helps us cultivate the best opportunities to share our story, resources, experiences and professional development, ultimately increasing agricultural literacy. We could not be prouder of what has transpired during FY2026 and how it has opened doors for an even stronger future.

We moved through Fiscal Year 2026 with new ideas, great intention and a purposeful mission to increase agricultural literacy. Respecting what has worked in the past, cultivating fresh opportunities and bringing together those individuals who helped sustain this work and move the mission forward for four decades, FY2026 was a very special year.

Celebrating 40 years gave us an opportunity to reflect on the history, growth, programs, and, of course, the people who have made this important work possible and sustainable. We also looked ahead, using our strategic plan and goals to guide the work forward. **Investors, you are what keeps this mission moving forward.** We hope you are as proud of what you make possible as we are!

This has been an incredibly fulfilling year as your Executive Director. I am humbled and honored to do this work and share the story of this organization and its mission. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of the success we have experienced through the first 40 years, the impact we have made, and the minds we have opened to agriculture.

Agriculture is EVERYWHERE!

Our vision is **Agriculture is valued by ALL!** Together, we can continue to move this vision into Minnesota classrooms.

With deep gratitude,

ANN MARIE WARD, Executive Director
Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation

✉ annmarie@maitc.org

☎ 218-556-1436



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A valued **PARTNERSHIP**

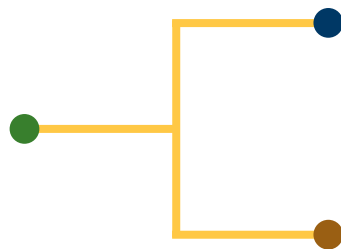
For **four decades**, the public and private sectors have pooled human and financial resources to advance agricultural literacy among K-12 students and educators through the **Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC)** program. This unique public/private partnership model provides program consistency and credibility in Minnesota's agricultural and educational communities and is known for effectively leveraging resources from both sectors.

The **Minnesota Department of Agriculture** is the lead for MAITC program development and implementation, while the **MAITC Foundation** secures and manages private funds to support the

overall program. Funds committed to the program from both sectors are leveraged many times over. This partnership has also allowed MAITC to offer educational materials for FREE since program inception in 1985.

The MAITC Foundation began in 2007 to support the MAITC program. The foundation is led by a Board of Directors that represent agriculture and education communities. MAITC is a 501(c)3 not for profit charity. Funders are vital to providing free educational resources, grants and outreach to the state's K-12 community.

Organizational **STRUCTURE**



Mission & **VISION**

VISION

Agriculture is valued by ALL.

MISSION

To increase agricultural literacy through K-12 education.

An agriculturally literate person is defined as “one who understands and can communicate the source and value of agriculture as it affects our quality of life.”

The **Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom program (MAITC)** empowers K-12 educators to infuse agriculture in their science, social studies, language arts and nutrition curricula.





September 9, 2026



Dear supporters of the Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation,

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture is proud of our long and productive partnership with the Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation! This public/private partnership is recognized as a national leader for its effectiveness and innovation.

The 2025/2026 school year was highlighted by celebrating the program's 40th anniversary. This program that began on a shoestring now proudly distributes 100,000 AgMags annually! The growth in demand for program materials demonstrates growing interest in agricultural literacy and teachers embracing hands-on, engaging, standards-based content. As a result, more Minnesota students than ever are learning how their food, fiber, and fuel is produced.

For our part of the partnership with the MAITC Foundation, MDA provides two amazing Education Specialists (Sue Knott and Keri Sidle) who assist administrators, educators, and ag advocates in finding the right activities, curriculum, and people to meet their ag literacy needs. Keri and Sue lead workshops that train educators and future educators on how to make the most of the FREE resources that Minnesota Ag in the Classroom offers. MDA provides office space, technology, training, travel, a student worker, and a program funds to support the program. These investments totaled more than \$400,000 in state fiscal year 2026.

One area of success I'd like to highlight is the evolution of ag literacy efforts to extend outside the traditional classroom into the school garden and cafeteria. Minnesota schools are purchasing more and more locally grown and raised foods for their students and Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom is finding a home in the cafeteria through innovative efforts like Harvest of the Month, the Apple Crunch, farmer trading card templates, and Minnesota Thursdays. While our shared 40-year history is worth celebrating, the need for our program and services will become even more important as the pace of change in the classroom and in the farm fields continues to accelerate.

On behalf of the MDA, thank you to Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation supporters, board members, and staff for their dedication and collaboration. We look forward to being your partner for many years to come!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Paul Hugunin'.

Paul Hugunin

Director, Ag Marketing and Development Division

Paul.hugunin@state.mn.us

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



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Our TEAM

We are composed of both **Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)** and **Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC), Inc.** Foundation staff. State staff includes two Education Specialists. Foundation team members include two Resource Specialists, the Farm Camp Program Director, and the Foundation Executive Director as contracted team members.

mn DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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MDA*

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SIDLE**

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**ANN MARIE
WARD**

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annmarie@maitc.org



Programs and **RESOURCES**

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



Virtual
Field Trips



Read
& Grow



Farm & Food
Book Month



Farm Camp
Minnesota



CURRICULAR RESOURCES



AgMag
Print & Online



Curriculum
Matrix



Food
for Thought



Educator
Center



Featured
Teachers

K-12 EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES



Professional
Development
Workshops &
Webinars



Regional
Growing Minds
Conference



Outstanding
Teacher
Award



Agricultural
Literacy & First
Year Teacher
Grants



Educator
Advisory
Team

SCHOOL GARDENS



School Garden
Conference



School Garden
Week



School Gardens
Resource Hub



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Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom

40TH ANNIVERSARY

A Night to Remember

The **40th Anniversary Celebration** for Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC) brought together current and former board members, staff, investors, agricultural partners and friends for an evening of connection and recognition.

Honoring the People Behind the Mission

Special guests included Minnesota Agriculture Commissioner Thom Petersen and Al Withers, MAITC's first executive director. Their presence helped connect the organization's early years with its impact today.

Looking Ahead

The evening celebrated four decades of shared commitment while recognizing the people and partnerships continuing to grow agricultural literacy across Minnesota.



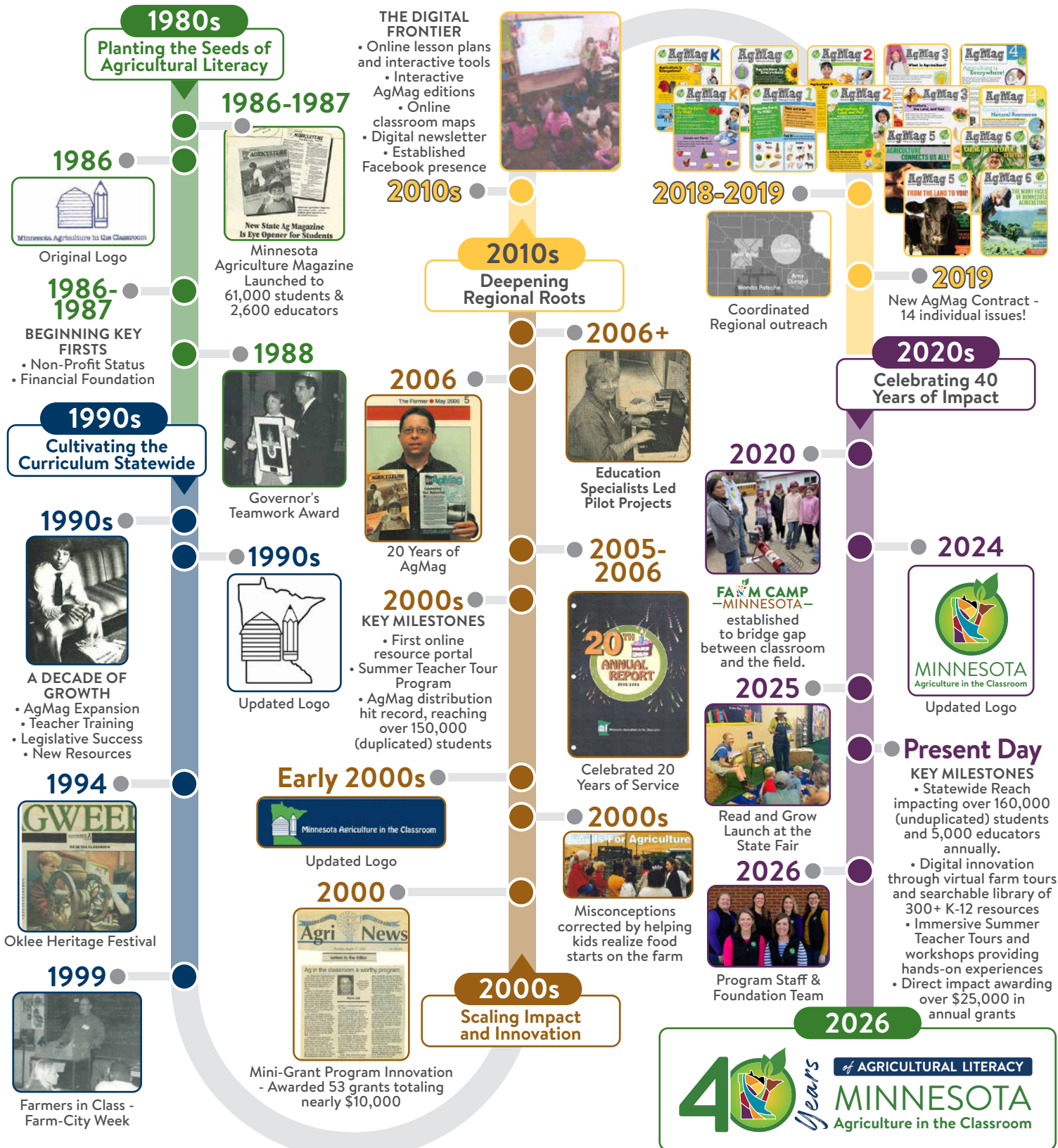
LEARN MORE
about the 40th celebration!
Scan or click QR code



Additional Photos on **Page 12**



Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom 40-YEARS OF IMPACT



40TH ANNIVERSARY Continued



National Ag in the Classroom CONFERENCE

A delegation of twelve Minnesotans attended the **National Agriculture in the Classroom Organization (NAITCO) Conference** in Providence, RI, June 22-25, 2026. This conference is the premier professional development event for pre-K-12 teachers, volunteers, and professionals in agricultural literacy.

Four Minnesota educators received scholarships to attend the NAITCO Conference:

- **Marie Kruse**, kindergarten teacher at Bluff View Elementary in Lake City, MN, was recognized as a **National Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture Award** winner.
- **Tiffany Kobbermann**, Agriculture teacher at Minnewaska Area Middle School in Glenwood, MN, was awarded a **Culver's Scholarship**.
- **Nate Lund**, sixth grade teacher at Glacial Hills Elementary School in Starbuck, MN, was awarded a **CHS Foundation Scholarship**.
- **Brianna Havir**, STEM Teacher and Coordinator at Heritage E-STEM Middle School in West St. Paul, received the **MAITC Educator Advisory Member Scholarship** from the MAITC Foundation.

Conference-goers had the opportunity to attend workshops and tours, explore exhibits, and network with other professionals to help them learn more about teaching through an agricultural lens.



School GARDENS



School Garden Conference Bringing Garden Leaders Together

Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC), the [University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum](#), [Minnesota Department of Agriculture](#) (MDA) and the [MN Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education](#) hosted the **2026 School Garden Conference**, bringing together more than 200 educators, Master Gardeners and school garden leaders from across Minnesota.

Participants explored school gardens as spaces for academic learning, food education and community connection while networking with others leading garden-based education.

Learning for Every Stage

Conference attendees selected from three professional development tracks:

- Morning sessions on bees and pollinators at the [University of Minnesota Bee and Pollinator Center](#)
- 45-minute breakout sessions featuring classroom activities and growing strategies
- 12–15-minute lightning talks highlighting school garden successes and challenges from across Minnesota



Turning Ideas Into Action

The conference helped participants see school gardens as integrated learning spaces, not simply areas for growing food. Attendees explored how gardens can support academic achievement, agriculture and careers while encouraging students to take responsibility, manage soil and water, and build healthy habits.

Each participant developed an action plan based on five lesson plans, tools and connections gathered during the conference. Their plans focused on three areas: applying learning in their own work, sharing information with others, and collaborating to expand their impact.



BREAKOUT SESSION DETAILS

Click title above or visit
mnagmag.org/school-garden-conference/



School Garden Week Celebrating Gardens Across Minnesota

The second annual [School Garden Week](#) brought students, educators and community members together May 18–22, 2026. Across **69 registered sites in 31 Minnesota counties**, more than **11,000 students** planted seeds, explored food systems and participated in garden-based learning.

Delicata squash was selected as the 2026 Vegetable of the Year. Each registered site received free seeds, creating a shared growing experience for schools across the state.

31
Minnesota
Counties

69
Registered
Sites



11,000+
Students

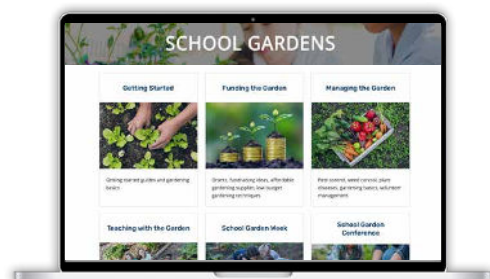


School Garden Resource Hub

Tools to Help School Gardens Grow

The [School Garden Resource Hub](#) brings trusted tools and information together in one easy-to-use location. Educators and garden leaders can find support for starting, funding and maintaining a garden, along with lesson plans and ideas for connecting garden experiences to classroom learning.

Resources range from quick introductory guides to detailed handbooks, videos and research-based gardening information, helping users find support that fits their experience, goals and available time.



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Outstanding **TEACHER AWARD**



Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC) is proud to honor Marie Kruse of Bluff View Elementary School in Lake City as the **2026 Outstanding Teacher Award winner**.

Kruse brings agriculture to life for her kindergarten students through imaginative play with farm equipment and animal toys, along with an interactive farm area that introduces agricultural terms and processes. Her work helps students connect agriculture to their food, clothing and everyday lives.

Kruse was also recognized as one of six Excellence in Teaching About Agriculture Award (EITAA) winners by the National Agriculture in the Classroom (NAITC) Organization at the 2026 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference in Providence, Rhode Island.



WATCH EITAA RECAP VIDEO

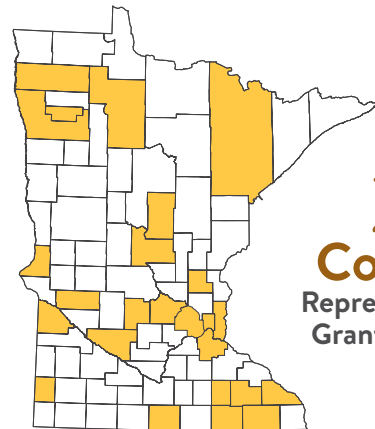
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youtu.be/iTHndvE9lq4

Ag Literacy **GRANTS**



Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC) is a unique public/private partnership between the MAITC Foundation and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The Foundation has included the Ag Literacy Grant program in their budget. The **Ag Literacy Grant Program** provides awards of up to \$1,000.

These grants help K-12 educators bring agriculture and food systems to life in their classrooms by launching new ideas or enhancing existing projects. The focus is on giving students meaningful, hands-on, cross-curricular experiences with agriculture.



25
Counties
Represented by all
Grant Recipients

In the 2025-2026 school year, MAITC awarded **22 grants**, reaching **2,330 students** statewide in grades K-12 from the Ag Literacy Grant Fund and the Transportation Fund.



First-Year Teacher **GRANTS**



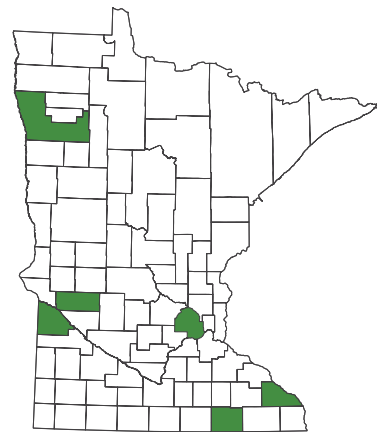
The **First-Year Teacher Grant Program** provides awards of up to \$200 to help new K-12 educators bring agriculture into their classrooms in meaningful, hands-on ways.

Grants may be used to purchase classroom supplies, agriculture-focused resources, or materials for engaging learning projects that connect students to real-world agriculture.

Beyond providing financial support, the program helps MAITC build lasting relationships with emerging teachers and supports integration of agricultural literacy from the very beginning of their careers.

In the 2025–2026 school year, MAITC awarded **6 grants**, reaching **244 students statewide** in grades K-12.

5
Counties
Represented by all
Grant Recipients



6
Grants

244
Students



Educator **ADVISORY TEAM**



The **Educator Advisory Team** was introduced in 2022 as a way for Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC) staff to stay connected and get quality feedback from Minnesota K-12 educators.

Educators are selected through a competitive application process to serve a three-year term on the Educator Advisory Team.

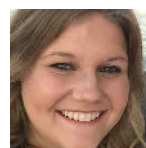
Team members contribute their expertise and time through quarterly meetings, lead a hands-on professional development session for their peers using MAITC resources, and provide valuable feedback and insight on resource development and program elements. Educators receive a stipend for their service, as well as reimbursement for travel expenses.

The contributions of the Educator Advisory Team have been instrumental in shaping MAITC's work, strengthening its resources and programs, and ensuring that agricultural literacy reaches Minnesota K-12 students in relevant, meaningful, and impactful ways.

2025-2026 TEAM MEMBERS



JODY
RUEN



HEATHER
MORE



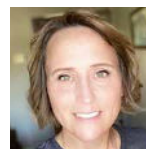
KERRY
SCHULTE



KIMBERLY
PENNING



HANNAH
SEEGAR



LIVIA
ZITZOW



TRACY
BOCKBRADER



MEGAN
HALL



STEPHANICE
MCCLEEREY



BRIANNA
HAVIR



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FOUNDATION

25 in 2025 Professional Learning **COHORT**

A Year of Learning, Connecting and Sharing

Where the Experience Began

The MAITC Foundation provided full scholarships for 25 Minnesota educators to attend the **2025 National Agriculture in the Classroom Conference** in Minneapolis. The conference brought the educators together for hands-on learning, agricultural tours, classroom resources and connections that launched the yearlong 25 in 2025 professional learning cohort.



Turning Learning Into Action

Cohort members identified academic standards they could teach through agriculture and developed plans to bring those connections to life. Each educator received funding for an agriculture-themed classroom enhancement tailored to their students, subjects and grade levels.

The educators also developed hands-on professional development opportunities for their peers. By sharing agricultural resources, lessons and experiences with fellow teachers, they extended the cohort's impact into additional classrooms and communities.

Growing a Statewide Network

The yearlong experience created a connected group of educators prepared to serve as agricultural literacy leaders in their schools. The cohort concluded at the inaugural Growing Minds Conference, where participants reconnected and celebrated a year of learning, application and shared impact.

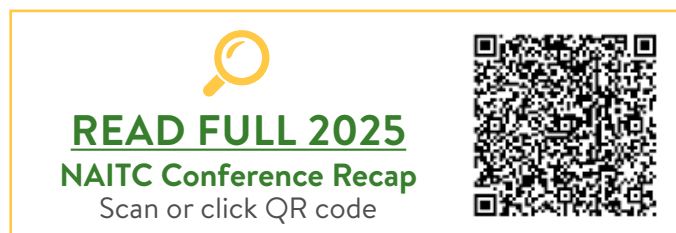


Learning From Agricultural Experts

Throughout the 2025–26 school year, cohort members participated in three virtual learning sessions shaped by the topics they wanted to explore.

University of Minnesota experts shared insights into agricultural trade and tariffs, as well as agricultural engineering, robotics and drones. Representatives from the National Center for Agricultural Literacy introduced standards-based resources available through the Agriculture in the Classroom Curriculum Matrix.

Each session also included grade-level breakout conversations where educators shared ideas, challenges and strategies for teaching through an agricultural lens.



After School **PROFESSIONAL DEV.**

 Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC)'s **After School Professional Development** series offered educators engaging online sessions led by MAITC team members, experienced educators, and agriculture experts.

69 teachers, impacting 5,117 students registered to attend the series. These interactive opportunities introduced teachers to real-world agricultural resources and provided grade-appropriate lessons they could take directly into the classroom.

Participants also earned CEU credits and enjoyed fun incentives such as soil kits containing soil samples from

across Minnesota, and hatch kits containing an egg incubator, heat plate, and additional equipment needed to hatch kits in a classroom.



DIGGING INTO SOIL
Thursday, March 19, 2026
LIVE 3:45-4:45 p.m.



Joe Brennan
State Soil Scientist
Minnesota NRCS



43 Teachers

3,224 Students





CLASSROOM EGG HATCHING
Thursday, January 22, 2026
LIVE 3:45-4:45 p.m.



Carrie Allord
3rd Grade Teacher at St. Francis Catholic School in Edenburg, MN



26 Teachers

1,893 Students





Featured Teacher **LESSON SPOTLIGHT**

During the 25-26 school year, Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC) launched **Featured Teacher Lesson Spotlights**. This new initiative, features a new Minnesota K-12 educator each month who enthusiastically uses agriculture as a context for teaching and learning.

These teachers represented a variety of grade levels, subject areas, and geographic locations across Minnesota. Details about the featured teacher, including their most-used MAITC resources, were highlighted through video and text on the MAITC website and social media.

2025-2026 Featured Teachers:

Nate Lund, Glacial Hills Elementary School, Starbuck, MN; **Jodi Landro**, Thomas Lake Elementary School, Eagan, MN; **Allison Zaccardi**, Harding High School, St. Paul, MN; **Jordan Christianson**, Cherry Public School, Iron, MN; **Heather More**, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Elementary School, Janesville, MN; **Melissa Brueske**, Jefferson Elementary, Mankato, MN; **Leah Hood**, St. Catherine University, St. Paul, MN; **Jeni Mihalick**, Hill-Murray School, Maplewood, MN; and **Marie Kruse**, Bluff View Elementary School, Lake City, Minnesota



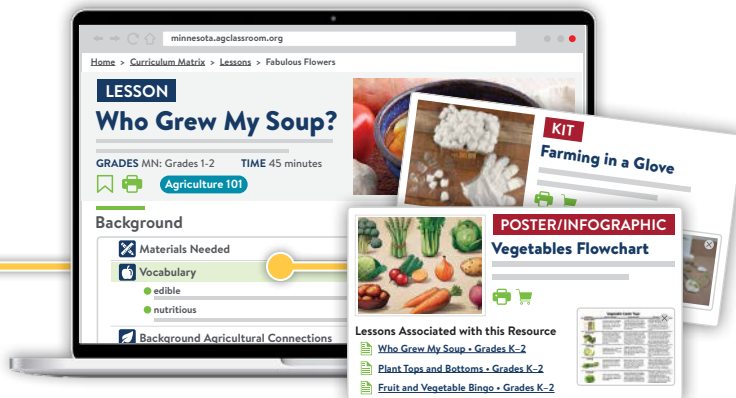
VIEW FEATURED TEACHERS
Click each teacher's name listed or visit minnesota.agclassroom.org/



Featured Teacher Lesson Spotlight
"Who Grew My Soup?"
Grades K-2 Lesson Plan
Jodi Landro
Thomas Lake Elementary
October 2025



Agriculture Themed Lessons Plans Curriculum Matrix
minnesota.agclassroom.org/matrix/




Virtual FIELD TRIPS



Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC) provides students and educators with unique experiences that build agricultural literacy.

One key initiative is the **Virtual Field Trip Series**. It brings farms and agricultural sites into the classroom through live (Zoom) and on-demand (YouTube) **30-minute** tour experiences designed for **K-5 students**.

In the 2025-2026 school year, **10,346 students and 514 teachers participated**, gaining firsthand insight into the people, places, and practices that shape our state's agriculture.



WATCH THE FIELD TRIPS

Scan or click QR code



Virtual FIELD TRIP
 Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
 Tuesday, September 30, 2025
 at 1 p.m.

John Swanson
 Sunflower Farm
 Mentor, MN

**JOHN SWANSON
SUNFLOWER FARM**

98 Teachers

2,056 Students

Virtual FIELD TRIP
 Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
 Tuesday, November 25, 2025
 at 10 a.m.

John Zimmerman
 Turkey Farm
 Northfield, MN

**JOHN ZIMMERMAN
TURKEY FARM**

255 Teachers

5,316 Students

Virtual FIELD TRIP
 Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
 Tuesday, December 16, 2025
 at 10 a.m.

Scherber's Morning
 Star Dairy
 Rogers, MN

**SCHERBER'S
MORNING STAR DAIRY**

102 Teachers

1,977 Students

Virtual FIELD TRIP
 Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
 Thursday, January 22, 2026
 at 1 p.m.

Maple Wood Farms
 Faribault, MN

**MAPLE WOOD
FARMS**

59 Teachers

997 Students

Farm & Food BOOK MONTH



Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC)'s **Sixth Annual Farm & Food Book Celebration** expanded this year from a week into a month-long event, featuring four special readings spread throughout February.

Building on the success of past years, the celebration invited guest readers to share agriculture-themed books

virtually with classrooms across Minnesota, sparking curiosity and conversations about food and farming.

In total, the 2025 celebration reached **27 classrooms** and connected with **756 students**, giving them the chance to experience agriculture through stories that make learning fun and relatable.

**FARM & FOOD
Book Month**
 Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
 February 11, 2026 **LIVE** 10 a.m.

Andi Anderson
 Gate Woods Farm

ANDI ANDERSON
 Book Read:
Woolbur

**FARM & FOOD
Book Month**
 Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
 February 12, 2026 **LIVE** 10 a.m.

Cameron Addington
 Minnesota FFA State President

CAMERON ADDINGTON
 Book Read:
John Deere That's Who

**FARM & FOOD
Book Month**
 Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
 February 17, 2026 **LIVE** 9 a.m.

Malorie Thorson
 Princess Kay of the Milky Way

MALORIE THORSON
 Book Read:
Tales of the Dairy Godmother

**FARM & FOOD
Book Month**
 Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom
 February 23, 2026 **LIVE** 1 p.m.

Thom Petersen
 Commissioner, MN Department of Agriculture

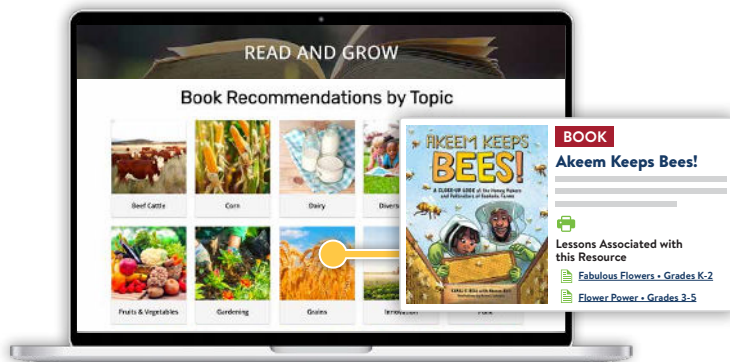
THOM PETERSEN
 Book Read:
Farm Boots



Read & Grow **BOOK RECOMMENDATION HUB**



Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC) launched the **Read and Grow Book Recommendation Hub**, a new initiative focused on agriculture-themed children's books. The online hub features **over 100 books sorted into 15 categories**. Each book includes online lessons from our Curriculum Matrix associated with that book.



EXPLORE ONLINE HUB

Scan or click QR code



Read and Grow: MN Agriculture Storytime

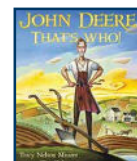
A new series premiered at the Minnesota State Fair with daily guest readers (MN authors, Princess Kay of the Milky Way, FFA Officers, 4-H Ambassadors) and bookmark giveaways. These bookmarks featured a QR code that leads to our new online Read and Grow Book Recommendation Hub.



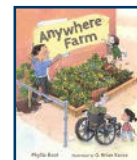
Guest Readers



PHYLLIS ALSDURF
Book: **It's Milking Time**



TRACY NELSON MAURER
Book: **John Deere That's Who**



PHYLLIS ROOT
Book: **Anywhere Farm**



MALORIE THORSON
Book: **Tales of the Dairy Godmother**

Food For **THOUGHT**



Food for Thought connects Minnesota geography and agriculture through **17 lessons, 42 static maps, and interactive map layers** designed for K-12 students. This resource engages learners in exploring Minnesota's agricultural landscape and understanding the relationship between geography and agriculture.

For the 2025-2026 school year, MAITC added new **GeoInquiry activities**, short, map-focused inquiries aligned with Minnesota's academic standards for geography that encourage critical thinking and exploration of connections among land resources, climate, population, and agriculture.

Educators ordered **5,998 Food For Thought Desk Maps** during the 2025-2026 fiscal year for student reference and use with the Teacher Guide lessons. Desk maps are also available digitally.



VIEW MAPS AND MORE

Click title above or visit
minnesota.agclassroom.org/educator-center



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Farm Camp MINNESOTA



Farm Camp is a three-part agriculture experience that connects the classroom with the agriculture community through immersive learning for grades 5th-12th.

These unique experiences reinforce academic standards, engage, and create real-world connections with agriculture and careers.

Our Farm Camp Director coordinates each unique experience with educators and hosts. Farm Camps are **free** through MAITC.

The Three-Parts of Farm Camp

Each Farm Camp includes **In-Classroom Learning**, a **Hands-On Farm or Agribusiness Experience**, and **Career Exploration**.

15 Farm Camp Experiences 	41 AgHost Locations 
--	---



"I was surprised that everything you do has something to do with agriculture."
- Farm Camp Student

16 Transportation Grants 



	1,031 Students
25 Schools	35 Educators



Transportation Grants



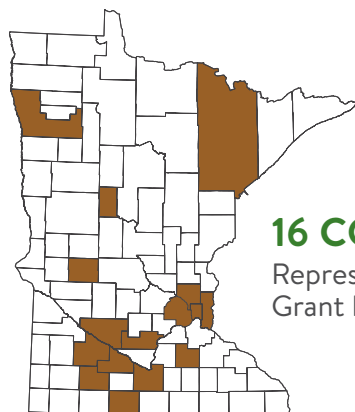
Transportation Grants made a big impact during the 2025-2026 school year, helping **16 schools** bring students to Farm Camps.

Grants help lower travel costs and remove barriers to participation. Schools of every size may qualify for support to connect students with local agriculture and careers.

From a group of just 8 students to a group of 150 students, the program proves essential for schools of every size. In total, **22 buses were funded** through these grants.

Support also extended to bussing for educators; summer professional development opportunities for Educators.

A continuing challenge, however is the limited availability of bus drivers.



16 COUNTIES
Represented by all
Grant Recipients

"I was very happy to learn that Transportation Grants were available once again. That is wonderful news!" - St. Cloud Educator



Farm Camp Features: 5th Grade Ag Day in Renville County

Farm Camp Minnesota hosted the first annual **5th Grade Ag Day in Renville County**, welcoming more than 110 fifth-grade students and nearly 40 volunteers to the Renville County Fairgrounds and local agriculture stops.

Students explored farms, businesses, equipment, conservation, farm safety, drones, sugar beets, soybeans, corn-based products, and agriculture careers, helping them see how agriculture is part of everyday life.

Post-event survey responses showed that many students could better identify agriculture in food, technology, natural resources, everyday products, and careers close to home.



FARM CAMP —MINNESOTA—



BROWSE WEBSITE

Scan or click QR code



Sebeka STEM Students Connect Classroom Learning to Local Agriculture

On May 8, 2026, seventh grade STEM students from **Sebeka Secondary** visited Ten Finns Creamery and R.D. Offutt Farms through Farm Camp Minnesota, connecting science, math, dairy, potatoes, and careers while increasing students' ability to list three ways they use agriculture from **52.4 to 83.3 percent**.



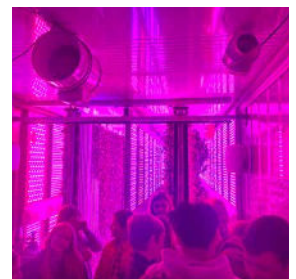
Hill-Murray Middle School STEM Farm Camp Experience Brings Agricultural Technology to Life

On April 21, 2026, 73 STEM students from **Hill-Murray Middle School** visited Scherber's Morningstar Dairy and Minnesota Equipment through Farm Camp Minnesota, connecting classroom learning to robotics, hydraulics, dairy, equipment, and agriculture careers while increasing student knowledge of the industries visited from **78 to 97.1 percent**.



Avail Academy 7th Graders Explore Hydroponics and Aquaponics at Farm Camp

On November 21, 2025, **Avail Academy 7th graders** visited the University of Minnesota CFANS and Frisk Fra Boksen through Farm Camp Minnesota, where a Transportation Grant supported hands-on learning in hydroponics, aquaponics, plant growth, and controlled environment agriculture, increasing student knowledge from **63.2 to 81.3 percent**.



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The AGMAG

102,662+ AgMags Distributed

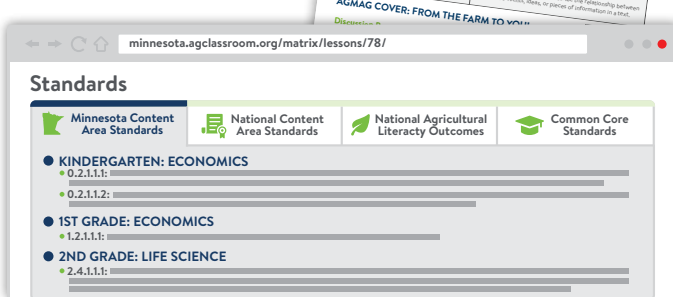
The **AgMag series** continues to connect Minnesota students with agriculture each year and includes two ready-to-use grade-specific issues (Fall and Spring) for every K-6 grade level. Aligned with Minnesota Academic Standards, each issue complements traditional resources with stories about Minnesota growers and agriculture businesses. AgMag is available for **Free** in print and online.

During FY2026, **102,662+ AgMags reached Minnesota classrooms** with three new editions added through Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC)'s ongoing initiative to keep content up-to-date. Free **teacher guides**, lesson plans, and interactive resources accompany each issue.



Minnesota's Academic Standards

AgMag content aligns with Minnesota's Academic Standards in Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, and Health. Each issue features Minnesota agricultural people, places, plants, and animals to provide real-world examples and practical applications of these key academic standards.



TOP WEBSITE METRICS

35,743 Users • 71,441 Page Views

Top 10 Pages *Excludes checkout process pages

Page	Page Views
1. Order Free Resources	11,241
2. Homepage	10,386
3. Growing Minds Conference	3,785
4. Teacher Tour	1,190
5. Lesson / The Cycles of Matter	1,179
6. AgMag 1 Product Ordering	1,103
7. Teacher Guides & Worksheets	845
8. AgMag K Product Ordering	725
9. Summer Opportunities	717
10. AgMag 2 Product Ordering	703

EXPLORE AGMAGS
Scan or click QR code



MN Ag in the Classroom's WEBSITES

Expanding Our Reach Online

Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC)'s four websites connect educators, students, and supporters

with resources and opportunities, extending the reach and impact of MAITC well beyond the classroom.



MAITC PROGRAM minnesota.agclassroom.org



Updates

- Read & Grow Book Recommendation Hub
- Featured Teachers
- School Gardens

**Managed by MDA; includes VantagePoint-supported performance*



MAITC FOUNDATION maitcfoundation.org



Updates

- Update new logo and website audit
- Add/update pages: Resource Guide, Team updates, Growing Minds Conference & sponsor request, board orientation, Volunteer & Interest, & more.

**Managed by VantagePoint*



AGMAG mnagmag.org



Updates

- Updated new AgMag K, 1 and 2 editions
- Add/update pages: What are AgMags, Growing Minds Conference, Summer Opportunities, Teacher Tour, and event ticketing

**Split management by MDA and VantagePoint*



FARM CAMP MINNESOTA farmcampminnesota.org



Growth & Updates

- Focus areas added to intake form
- Updated Farm Camp website content and functionality.

**Managed by VantagePoint*



MN Ag in the Classroom's SOCIAL MEDIA

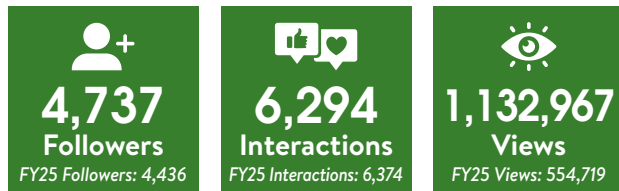
Connecting Through Social Media

Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC)'s social media platforms create additional opportunities to

connect with educators, schools, AgHosts, investors and partners. Content includes MAITC resources, programs, events, new initiatives, campaigns and more!

MAITC Program Platforms

Facebook

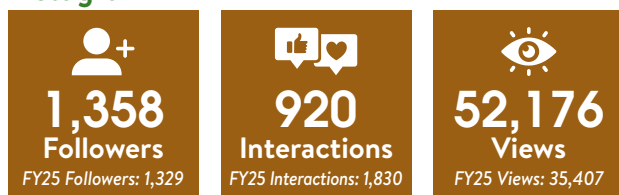


Top 3 Facebook Posts



 [@MNAgintheClassroom](https://www.facebook.com/MNAgintheClassroom)

Instagram



 [@MNAGClassroom](https://www.instagram.com/MNAGClassroom)

*Managed by MDA; includes VantagePoint-supported performance

MAITC Foundation Platforms

Facebook



Top 3 Facebook Posts



 [@MAITCFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/MAITCFoundation)

LinkedIn



 [@MAITC-Foundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/MAITC-Foundation)

*Managed by VantagePoint

Social Media ADVERTISING

Paid Facebook and Instagram (Meta) campaigns helped Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC) reach broader audiences throughout 2025-2026, building awareness, increasing engagement, and driving website traffic to programs, events, AgMag sign-ups and other key initiatives.

Campaign Focus Areas

- AgMag, Fall Sign-Up
- AgMag, Spring Sign-Up
- Growing Minds Conference
- Teacher Tour
- Summer Opportunities



Campaign Totals - Fiscal Year 2026*



*Totals exclude boosted posts



Growing Minds Conference PLANNING

During FY2026, we partnered with Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom to plan the first-ever [Growing Minds Conference](#) in St. Paul.

Held **July 27-28, 2026**, following the reporting period, the conference welcomed over **85 educators** for [agriculture tours](#), breakout sessions, a keynote speaker, and networking. It also marked the culmination of our yearlong 25 in 2025 cohort, continuing our investment in educators as they bring agriculture into their classrooms.

Read the [Growing Minds Conference Recap Blog Post](#) and help us celebrate the people and partnerships who made this conference a success!



GROWING MINDS
Conference

JULY 27-28 • '26 • MN



Foundation STRATEGIC PLAN

At the MAITC Foundation, we're committed to increasing our impact and supporting educators, students, and communities.

With input from key stakeholders, we've developed a [new strategic plan](#) focused on relationships, growth, impact, and sustainability.

Goal 1: Strengthen Relationships with Educators and Industry Partners

We aim to maintain and deepen relationships with educators, investors, and agriculture advocates to broaden our impact statewide.

Key Metrics

- School district and county engagement coverage
- Year-over-year educator retention
- Volume of educator and community partnerships
- Donor engagement in annual activities
- Consistent communication and contractor performance

Goal 2: Expand Student Understanding of Agriculture and Careers

We are committed to enhancing student awareness of agriculture as a vibrant industry with diverse career opportunities.

Key Metrics

- Improvement in student learning via pre/post assessments

- Distribution and use of AgMags
- Access and usage of career exploration tools
- Student reach via partners and programs

Goal 3: Maintain a Strong Financial Foundation

Long-term success requires a diverse, stable funding model supported by strong relationships and transparent practices.

Key Metrics

- Revenue source diversification
- Balance of administrative vs. program expenses
- Actual vs. budget financial performance
- Donation frequency, size, and retention rates
- Strength of investor relationships and recurring gifts

Goal 4: Engage Key Audiences with Data-Driven Communication

We aim to communicate our impact effectively and grow our audience using meaningful data and storytelling.

Key Metrics

- Growth in website and social media engagement
- Program-level data collection integration
- Quality of storytelling in annual and impact reports

Thank you, **Brandon, with Mustful Strategic Counseling,**
for your dedication to the process and the mission.



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Our Valued **INVESTORS**

At the **Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. Foundation**, we are incredibly grateful for the generous support of our sponsors and investors.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the organizations and individuals who have invested in this work and partnered with us:

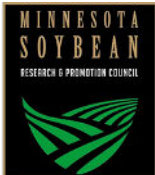
40+ YEARS

-  Compeer Financial



35+ YEARS

- **Minnesota Beef Research & Promotion Council**
- **Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association**
-  Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council



- Midwest Dairy Association
- Minnesota Farm Bureau Foundation
- Minnesota Pork Board
- **Minnesota Association of Agricultural Educators**
-  Minnesota Corn Growers Association



- **Minnesota Crop Production Retailers**
- Northharvest Bean Growers Association
- Minnesota Wheat Research & Promotion Council

30+ YEARS

- **Minnesota Turkey Research & Promotion Council**
- **Minnesota Grain and Feed Association**
- **Red River Valley Sugarbeet Education Foundation**
- **Minnesota Honey Producers Association**
- **James Ertl**

25+ YEARS

- CHS
- First District Association
- Midwest Food Products Association
- Minn-Dak Farmers Cooperative
-  The Rosen Family Foundation Inc.



The Rosen Family Foundation, Inc.

- Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative

20+ YEARS

- **Minnesota Area II Potato Research & Promotion Council**
-  AgCountry Farm Credit Services



15+ YEARS

- University of Minnesota - CFAN
- Lac Qui Parle County Farm Bureau
- Minnesota CattleWomen

10+ YEARS

- MN Agricultural Education Leadership Council
- Yellow Medicine County Corn Growers
- Bongards Creameries



INVESTOR SPOTLIGHTS

Click on names in green and underlined



10+ YEARS

- Walter Munsterman
- SE Grains & Feed Dealers
- David and Bonnie Mathiowetz
- Carver County Farm Bureau
- CoBank
- Randy Mathiowetz
- Kari Schwab
- Minnesota Agri-Women
- Mary Larson
- Joel Mathiowetz
- Ed Frederick - *In Memory*
- Christensen Farms
- Sarah & Dallas Dornink
- Charles & Yvonne Erickson

5+ YEARS

- Vernon Cardwell
- Dakota County Farm Bureau
- McPherson Crop Management
- Renville County Corn & Soybean Growers Association
- Absolute Energy LLC
- Dennis Bjorklund
- New Fashion Pork
- Dakota Farm Bureau
- Town & Country Agency
- Vicky & Scott Singlestad
- Joanne Dale
- Connie Mulder
- Martin County Pork Producers
- RD Offutt Company
- NuWay- K&H Cooperative
- Paul & Val Aarsvold
- Riverview LLP
- Steven & Kathleen Geis
- Mark & Mary Davis Foundation
- Agri Bank
- Sue Knott
- Miles & Sarah Kuschel

- Greta Tank
- Jennifer Wagner-Lahr
- McLeod County Corn & Soybean Growers
- Martin County Corn & Soybean Growers
- Brown County Rural Electrical Association
- Crow Wing County Association
- Schwartz Farms, Inc.
- Fairmont Veterinary Clinic
- Ann Marie Ward
- Keri Sidle
- Pam Debele
- Eric & Erica Sawatzke
- Peter Bakken
- Minnesota Cultivated Wild Rice
- Guardian Energy, LLC
- VantagePoint Marketing
- Katie Drewitz
- Paul Hugunin
- Scott & Jean Winslow

1-4 YEARS

-  **U.S. Department of Ag NRCS**



- Haley Ammann-Ekstrom
- Jessica Petroske
- Sarah Kuechle
- Emily & Ryan Ponwith
- Mark Greenwood
- Tiffany Kortbein Family
- Kayla Pieh
- Brandi Wulkan
- Ashley Wulf
- Abby Gail Little
- Angela Guentzel
- Form-A-Feed
- Rock County Farm Bureau

Thank You!

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

-  **Generations Club** (\$60,000 and up)
-  **Cultivating Our Future** (\$40,000 - \$59,999)
-  **Growing the Mission** (\$20,000 - \$39,999)
-  **Seeds of Support** (Up to \$19,999) No icon shown



OUR INVESTORS
Current list available online!
Scan or click QR code



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FOUNDATION

Board of **DIRECTORS**

Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC), Inc. Foundation is led by Executive Director, Ann Marie Ward, under the direction of a Board of Directors.

Their expertise and commitment are instrumental in delivering innovative and engaging learning experiences.



LEARN MORE
about each board member!
Scan or click QR code



MARK GREENWOOD

★ **Board Chair**
📁 Agriculture Advocate
📍 Sleepy Eye



KAYLA PIEH

📁 Agriculture Advocate
📍 Stillwater



PAM DEBELE

★ **Vice-Chair**
📁 Farm Bureau
📍 St Michael



ABBY GAIL LITTLE

📁 CFANS, University of Minnesota
📍 Minneapolis



TIFFANY KORTBEIN

★ **Treasurer**
📁 Greenvale Park Elementary
📍 Northfield



ANGELA GUENTZEL

📁 Minnesota Corn Growers Association
📍 Kasota



KATIE DREWITZ

★ **Secretary**
📁 U of Minnesota Extension
📍 Chatfield



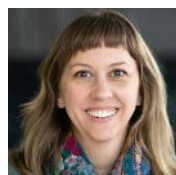
CASSIE MONGER

📁 CatalystAg
📍 Foley



HALEY AMMANN-EKSTROM

📁 NuWay-K&H Cooperative
📍 Odin



CATHLEEN DRILLING

📁 CFANS, University of Minnesota
📍 St. Paul



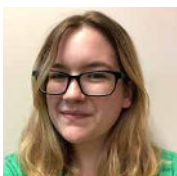
SARAH KUECHLE

📁 Kuechle Dairy & Form-A-Feed
📍 Eden Valley



LORI FETZER

📁 Compeer
📍 Plum City, WI



WINONA ANDERSON

📁 Minnesota Farmers Union
📍 Crystal



PAUL HUGUNIN

★ **Ex-Officio Director / Non-voting**
📁 Ag Marketing & Development – MN Department of Agriculture
📍 St Paul



ASHLEY WULF

📁 Minnesota Beef Research and Promotion Council
📍 Benson



KARI SCHWAB

★ **Ex-Officio Director / Non-voting**
📁 MN Agricultural Education Leadership Council
📍 St Paul



Financial REPORT

1:43 PM

09/14/26

Accrual Basis

Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation

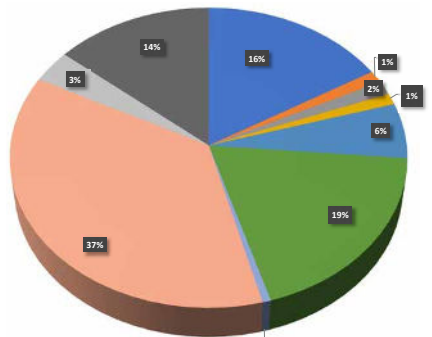
Balance Sheet

As of June 30, 2026

	Jun 30, 26	Jun 30, 25	% Change
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Checking/Savings			
1100-MA · MAITC Bank Accounts			
1101 · Checking-Bremer Bank 2974	-952.45 <i>*See note</i>	28,558.86	-103.3%
1103 · Savings-Bremer 8146	0.00	307,719.79	-100.0%
1106 · Profinium Checking	31,467.75	0.00	100.0%
1107 · Profinium Savings	378,437.56	0.00	100.0%
1108 · Old Natl Checking xx2974	5,406.32	0.00	100.0%
1109 · Old Natl Savings xx8146	9,123.46	0.00	100.0%
Total 1100-MA · MAITC Bank Accounts	423,482.64	336,278.65	25.9%
Total Checking/Savings	423,482.64	336,278.65	25.9%
Total Current Assets	423,482.64	336,278.65	25.9%
TOTAL ASSETS	423,482.64	336,278.65	25.9%
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Credit Cards			
Profinium CC	-0.02	0.00	-100.0%
1939 · Bremer CC - x239	0.00	8.40	-100.0%
Total Credit Cards	-0.02	8.40	-100.2%
Total Current Liabilities	-0.02	8.40	-100.2%
Total Liabilities	-0.02	8.40	-100.2%
Equity			
3001 · Unrestricted Equity	7,977.01	7,977.01	0.0%
3002 · Restricted Equity	42,864.76	42,864.76	0.0%
3900 · Retained Earnings	285,428.48	264,735.96	7.8%
Net Income	87,212.41	20,692.52	321.5%
Total Equity	423,482.66	336,270.25	25.9%
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	423,482.64	336,278.65	25.9%

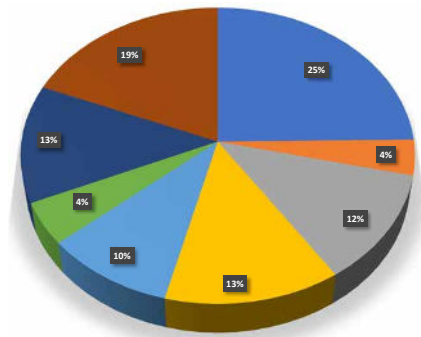
**amount of outstanding checks tied to former bank account*

2025-2026 Income by Type



- 4011 · Business/Organization Donations - 16%
- 4012 · Individual Donations - 1%
- 4050 · Interest Income - 2%
- 4519 · MAELC Grant - 1%
- 4521 · Transportation Grant - 6%
- 4522 · NRCS Grant - 19%
- 4523 · PLCC Grant - 1%
- 4510 · Grant Donations - 37%
- 4540 · Programing Income - 3%
- 5000-FC · Farm Camp Income - 14%

2025-2026 Expense by Type



- 61000 · MN Agriculture Magazine Series - 25%
- 62000 · Ag Literacy Grant Program - 4%
- 63000 · Farm Camp Minnesota - 12%
- 64000 · Outreach Programs - 13%
- 65000 · Resource Specialist - 10%
- 70000 · Fundraising Expense - 4%
- 80010 · Statewide Marketing Plan - 13%
- 80000 · Supporting Services - 19%

Farm Camp Minnesota is under the umbrella of Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom, Inc. Foundation.



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Agriculture is valued by ALL.

Increasing Agricultural Literacy
through K-12 Education



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ANN MARIE WARD
Executive Director



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