



# Emerging Farmers in Minnesota

## Legislative Report



**Mr. Patrice Bailey, Assistant Commissioner  
Ariel Kagan, Strategy & Innovation Specialist**

625 Robert Street North  
Saint Paul, MN 55155  
Phone: 651-201-6643

[www.mda.state.mn.us](http://www.mda.state.mn.us)

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## Introduction

Agriculture has been and continues to be a foundation for Minnesota’s economy. Minnesota ranks fifth in the nation in terms of agricultural production, and there are over 430,000 agricultural related jobs in the state. Minnesota has 68,500 farms covering 25.5 million acres. Agriculture also plays a large role in Minnesota’s culture and heritage, and many Minnesotans feel connected to agriculture even if they themselves have no formal role in the industry.

However, agricultural opportunity is not equally available to all Minnesotans. The history of land ownership in the state has been affected by the Homestead Act (1862), Bonanza Farms (1875), and well documented racial bias in U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant and loan programs (*Keepseagle v. Vilsack*, *Pigford v. Glickman*). These, along with many other programs and institutions which gave preference to white, male farmers, have created the agricultural landscape that we see today. As one indicator, the population of Minnesota is 84.1 percent white, while principle operators of Minnesota farms are 99.16 percent white).

Race	Percent of Minnesota Population	Percent of Minnesota Farmers
African-American/Black	6.80%	0.03%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1.40%	0.16%
Asian	5.10%	0.36%
Hispanic/Latino	5.50%	0.58%
Multiracial	2.50%	0.26%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.10%	0.02%
White	84.10%	99.16%

*Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture*

This report reflects the urgent need in the State to address the future of farming. With the average age of a Minnesota farmer at 56 years old, farm transition and succession planning are critically important for the future of the sector. Within this large-scale land transfer is an opportunity to create pathways for building wealth in historically underserved communities within Minnesota. To understand this opportunity, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) held a series of listening sessions in the fall of 2019 on the topic of Emerging Farmers. The term ‘Emerging Farmers’ encompasses a number of historically underserved communities including women, veterans, persons with disabilities, Native American/Alaska Native, communities of color, young and beginning farmers, LGBTQ+ farmers and more (see [Who is an Emerging Farmer?](#)).

There were a few themes present in all the listening sessions. Barriers to emerging farmers include access to land, the cost of health insurance, discrimination and racism, educational and training opportunities, and profitability of small to mid-size operations.

Identifying solutions to overcome these barriers should be a priority, because of the significant role that agriculture plays in Minnesota’s economy. Ensuring robust pathways to agricultural careers, whether on farm or in service-provider roles, is crucial.

This report includes an overview of Minnesota’s farmer demographics, a description of the process used in the Emerging Farmers listening sessions, further information about specific categories within the term ‘emerging farmers,’ a summary of the key barriers identified in the listening sessions, and a compilation of recommendations taken from the listening sessions and surveys. There is also an appendix which includes the survey and summary data, and a resource list of grants, loans, and programs that currently provide support to emerging farmers.

## Who is an Emerging Farmer?

Previous studies at the state and national levels have been done on barriers facing young and beginning farmers, immigrant farmers, and other specific groups within the farming population. The focus on “emerging” farmers is relatively new. The term reflects the diversity and intersectionality of farmers, and the way that barriers affect multiple communities at the same time. For example, a young, African-American woman interested in farming will likely face a number of systemic barriers, many of which may be similar—and some different—than an older, non-English speaking male immigrant. Using the term “emerging” farmer helps to frame the conversation around the shared experiences of many communities within the conversation.

“Emerging” refers to something that is starting to exist, or something which is just beginning to be noticed. In this regard, Emerging Farmers encompasses both those individuals who are entirely new to farming as well as those individuals who have been farming for generations but were outside the scope of traditional state and Federal agricultural support programs.

Race	Number of Farmers in Minnesota
African-American/Black	39
American Indian/Alaska Native	180
Asian	399
Hispanic/Latino	651
Multiracial	296
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	22
Young	11,520
White	110,824
<b>Total</b>	<b>111,760</b>

*Source: 2017 Census of Agriculture*

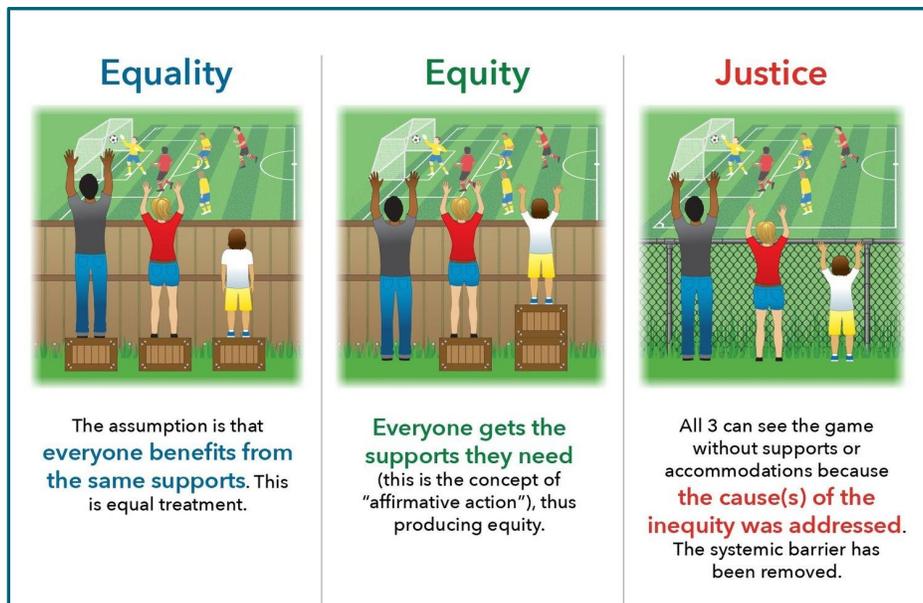
The Emerging Farmers Working Group was initiated by a legislative request (40.1, Sec 21), *“No later than February 1, 2020, the commissioner of agriculture must report recommendations to the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over agriculture finance regarding how best to cultivate and support emerging farmers, with priority given to emerging farmers who are women, veterans, persons with disabilities, American Indian or Alaskan Native, and members of communities of color.”*

These five priority areas (women, veterans, persons with disabilities, American Indian or Alaskan Native, and members of communities of color) are given special attention in this report, but the definition of Emerging Farmer expanded throughout the listening sessions. Additional thoughts about who is an emerging farmer are listed below.

Selected answers to the question, "Who is an Emerging Farmer" from the Listening Sessions

Identity	Practices	Values
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young</li> <li>• Unrelated to a farmer/ no inherited land</li> <li>• Limited capital</li> <li>• Tech savvy</li> <li>• Urban/suburban based</li> <li>• Queer/LGBTQ+</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegetables</li> <li>• Regenerative/sustainable practices</li> <li>• Moving toward another kind of production</li> <li>• Direct marketing</li> <li>• Urban agriculture</li> <li>• Indigenous and culturally relevant crops</li> <li>• Specialty crops</li> <li>• Indoor agriculture</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passionate about farming</li> <li>• Care for the land</li> <li>• Change the system for the better</li> <li>• Solutions based</li> <li>• Food sovereignty &amp; food justice based</li> </ul>

While this work centers on the experience of emerging farmers, the recommendations and insights will benefit all farmers in Minnesota. Established farmers have a significant role to play in advocating for, and providing mentorship to, emerging farmers. Equity and justice in the agricultural system improves the overall sector and can create a more robust and resilient economy for all Minnesotans. Land ownership and agricultural professions are a key pathway to building inter-generational wealth, both for family units and within communities. Opening pathways for emerging farmers can also revitalize rural communities and increase economic activities in Greater Minnesota. Initiatives around equality, equity, and justice are outside of the scope of this report, but there are many resources available on these topics.



From [Young Nonprofit Professionals Network of the Twin Cities](#)

## Women

Women often participate in farm businesses in ways that are not recognized in data collection efforts. For example, the 2017 [Census of Agriculture](#), which the USDA completes every five years, was revised to allow for more than one principal operator to be reported. Previously, only one principal operator was allowed per farm business, which often meant that women who were participating fully in decision making processes on the farm were not counted as principal producers. This resulted in a 27 percent increase in the count of women farmers from 2012 to 2017, though it is likely that many of those women farmers were in the same role in 2012. Women now officially make up 36 percent of all agricultural producers and are listed as a decision maker on 56 percent of farms and ranches in the census. Data collection around demographic characteristics is difficult and often not required for Federal programs, which can make it challenging to understand the effectiveness of programs and policies for target groups.

Women in agriculture are seeking more leadership opportunities and educational resources, and many farm service organizations are focusing more attention women's experiences. As noted in this [2012 Successful Farming story](#), women also tend to live longer than their male counterparts, resulting in a significant increase of farm land ownership being transferred to a female surviving spouse.

In Minnesota, there are several resources focused on women in agriculture. The University of Minnesota (UMN) Extension hosts the [Women in Ag Network](#), which holds an annual conference and maintains a Facebook page and email listserv. Minnesota Farmers Union hosts a [Women's Conference](#) focused on the contributions of women to agriculture. There are a number of national networking and member-based organizations focused on women in agriculture, including the [Women, Food & Ag Network](#) and the Minnesota chapter of [American Agri-Women](#).

For MDA AGRI Value-Added and Livestock Investment Grants, applicants that identify as women are given priority in their application (3 points for the value-add grant, and 5 points for the Livestock Investment Grant).

## Veterans

The Census of Agriculture collects data on service members currently involved in farming. Minority farmers are more likely to be veterans than white farmers, which points to the importance of an intersectional approach in programs and opportunities. Focusing on veterans in agriculture is one way to increase equity in Minnesota's agricultural landscape.

Race	Number of Veterans Farming in Minnesota	Percentage of Total Veteran Farmers in Minnesota
African-American/Black	10	26%
American Indian/Alaska Native	20	11%
Asian	13	3%
Hispanic/Latino	102	16%
Multiracial	31	10%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
White	11,078	10%

In 2015, a Veterans to Agriculture Pilot Program was initiated through legislative action at South Central College in North Mankato. The college was provided \$175,000 per year to “facilitate the entrance of military veterans into careers related to agriculture and food production...” The college continues to expand marketing efforts for the program, with renewed efforts in early 2020.

Minnesota does not have a large footprint in the veteran farmer landscape, unlike many other states such as Virginia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Nebraska. A stronger emphasis on networking and capacity building for veterans interested in pursuing agriculture could benefit Minnesota agriculture. Current discussions are underway regarding the establishment of a [Veteran Farmer Coalition](#) chapter, a national member-based organization that provides trainings, scholarships, and advocacy for veteran farmers.

The [Veterans Farming Initiative \(VFI\)](#) is a Minnesota based non-profit which focuses on education around sustainability and veterans issues. Located in Montrose, Minn., VFI has a 25-acre farm owned and operated by two veterans. Founded in 2018, VFI is working to raise the profile of veterans in agriculture as well as building out diversified markets for value-add products like elderberries and hazelnuts.

The USDA has a Military Veterans Agricultural Liaison office which provides support to veterans through education, employment, and entrepreneurship. Veterans have preference in USDA employment and in USDA grant making.

AgrAbility has an extensive list of resources available for veteran farmers, including funding sources, education and training, and health and advocacy. Nationally, several organizations focus on veteran farmers such as the Farmer Veteran Coalition and Growing Warriors.

## Persons with Disabilities

Health insurance costs and access to health services (rural clinics and hospitals) were one of the top barriers identified in the listening sessions. In their [2017 survey \(PDF\)](#), National Young Farmers Coalition identified healthcare as a top barrier to young farmers. For this report, we define persons with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities as two main population groups: those with physical disabilities entering farming and those who are injured while farming and continue to farm.

A [2018 USDA Economic Research Service study](#) found that the disability rate in the farm population (principle operators and farm laborers) was 12.9 percent. The primary Federal program that focuses on these farmers is AgrAbility. AgrAbility is a Farm Bill funded program that provides funds to Land Grant institutions to deliver education, networking, direct assistance, and marketing activities focused on individuals with disabilities in agricultural professions. AgrAbility has supported technological solutions such as easy-grip hand tools for farmers with arthritis, and lifts for tractors or other equipment for farmers using wheelchairs. All of these can be found in the [Assistive Technology Database](#) on the AgrAbility website.

The University of Minnesota has received two AgrAbility awards, one spanning 2006-2009 and the other from 2010-2015. Both were awarded to the same research team and have similar project objectives. The 2015 funds supported a joint effort between the UMN Extension, Department of Bioproducts and

Biosystems Engineering, and EquipALife Inc. In 2019, EquipALife closed, creating a need for new leadership on Minnesota's AgrAbility award initiatives.

AgrAbility holds an annual conference, which in 2020 will be held in Madison, Wisc. (March 23-26). The AgrAbility website provides a vast amount of practical information for disabled farmers and agricultural professionals.

Farm safety is a great concern, with farming being one of the more dangerous occupations in the United States. The MDA published "The Status of Farm Safety in Minnesota" report in 2017 which addresses these issues in greater detail. There are numerous hazards in farming including falls, machinery malfunctions, working with livestock, and pesticide exposure. Many injuries are not reported formally, as farm labor often includes informal laborers like family members, or the farm business does not employ the number of people required to report workplace injuries to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Farmers without health insurance, or with high deductibles, may also be reluctant to go to a clinic or hospital when they experience an injury.

There are several national programs that provide training and resources to improve on-farm safety. These include AgrAbility, [Agricultural Safety and Health Council of America](#), [National Ag Safety Database](#), and [Progressive Agriculture](#).

Disabilities can affect a wide array of the population and are an often-forgotten part of the conversation about the future of farming. Increasing attention to the needs of persons with physical, cognitive, and emotional disabilities is important for creating an inclusive and robust agricultural system.

## Native American/Alaska Native

Minnesota is shared with [eleven sovereign tribal nations](#), spanning the state and contributing to the greater economic, social, and cultural landscape. After European settlement, decades of treaties, conflicts, and government policies led to the loss of land and land access that many indigenous people depended on for food provisioning. Through ongoing government efforts, many Native Americans experienced land theft and loss of traditional food practices. Programs like the Homestead Act (1862), the Dawes Act or General Allotment Act (1887), and the Nelson Act (1889) all were used to redistribute land from indigenous tenure to white settlers of the region. Further policies, like that of the residential boarding schools, started in the 1860s, and the Indian Relocation Act (1956) were intended to rid Native Americans of their culture, traditions, and inter-generational knowledge. The legacies of these policies and programs continue to be felt today, with many Tribal Nations working to reestablish their reservation lands and to rebuild lost language, knowledge, and foodways.

There are resources and initiatives specifically directed toward Native American/Alaska Native communities. These come from Federal government agencies as well as community-based initiatives. The newly established [Native American Agriculture Fund](#), the result of the *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* (1999) case, is a grant program targeted specifically at Native American entities for business assistance, ag education, technical support, and advocacy services. The first RFP closed on September 30, 2019, and as of this writing the award announcements have not yet been made public. Future funding rounds are an opportunity for Minnesota's tribal nations to support and invest in agriculture.

The Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is a large part of the Native Farm Bill Coalition, an organization that focuses on supporting Native American agriculture through Federal Policy. The report, [“Regaining our Future: An Assessment of Risks and Opportunities for Native Communities in the 2018 Farm Bill”](#) outlines concerns and opportunities for Native Americans/Alaska Natives in each title of the Farm Bill. The 2018 Farm Bill was seen by many as a success for Native Americans, with more work to be done in the future. Policy identification and advocacy is an important tool for tribal nations to set the agenda for government-to-government initiatives with State leadership.

Native American/Alaska Native communities are a vital voice in efforts to create regenerative and sustainable food systems. These communities have generations of knowledge regarding biodiversity, soil health, and conservation. Long overlooked, tribal nations are the expert on their needs, and must be at the table when discussing the future of agriculture in Minnesota.

For MDA AGRI Value-Added and Livestock Investment Grants, applicants that identify as a member of Tribal Community are given priority for their application (3 points for the Value-Added Grant, and 5 points for the Livestock Investment Grant).

## Communities of Color

Communities of color encompass many varied experiences, including immigrants, refugees, African-Americans, Latinx, multiracial, and more. Each community has a unique history and relationship to agriculture. Nationally, non-white farmers own less than 4 percent of agricultural land, and in Minnesota, that rate is even lower. Farmers of color are more likely to rent land and tend to operate smaller farms that produce less revenue. ([2017 Census of Agriculture](#)).

African-American farm ownership was higher in the beginning of the 1900s, at 14 percent of total farms, and has declined over the century to less than 2 percent. The history of how and why these trends exist are rooted in structural and institutional racism, which was well documented in the recent study, [Racial, ethnic and gender inequities in farmland ownership and farming in the U.S.](#) (Horst & Marion, 2018). The decrease in farmland owned by non-whites has impacted the ability to create generational wealth. Land ownership has been one of the main ways that white Americans have been able to create and pass on wealth. Land has been kept away from people of color through policies like the Homestead Act, which removed lands from Indigenous peoples and redistributed them to white settlers and accounted for the redistribution of a full 10 percent of the land in the U.S. (National Park Service, [Homesteading by the Numbers](#)). In Minnesota, there were 85,072 homesteads created that accounted for 20 percent of the total acreage of the state. Other policies, like redlining in urban areas, made it difficult for black families to access federally-subsidized home mortgages the same way white families could. (TPT video, [Jim Crow of the North](#)). This affects the current generation’s ability to buy farmland or start businesses.

The experience of new Minnesotans, like the Hmong and Somali populations which settled in the state in the 1970s and 1990s respectively, has been challenging in terms of land access and public policy as well. Availability of public park land for market gardening has been unstable, and many productive urban farms worked by Hmong farmers in the 1990s were returned to sod by city parks departments. The [Hmong American Farmers Association \(HAFA\)](#) has pushed for policies and programs that support Hmong farmers. Today, Hmong farmers make up 50 percent of farmers market vendors in the Twin Cities. Still, Hmong farmers face barriers that prevent their farms from being sustainable and successful businesses. In 2019, a new initiative called the Somali Farmers Association began and is still in planning

and development stages. [Shared Ground Farmers' Co-op](#) is another organization that serves immigrant and minority farmers by providing coordination for wholesale markets like restaurants and institutional purchases. These associations can help to identify barriers and develop policies that will create pathways for these communities to be successful in agriculture.

There are several organizations nationally that focus on communities of color in agriculture. The USDA has a [Minorities in Agriculture](#) website, and there are quite a few online resources focused on specific minority populations. Some of these are included in [Appendix A: Existing Resources for Emerging Farmers](#).

For MDA AGRI Value-Added and Livestock Investment Grants, applicants that identify as a member of a community of color are given priority for their application (3 points for the Value-Added Grant, and 5 points for the Livestock Investment Grant).

## Process

Six listening sessions were held throughout Minnesota from September 3 through December 11, 2019. Each session was attended by Assistant Commissioner Patrice Bailey, and at least two other MDA staff. In all, the sessions were attended by 144 participants. The listening sessions were open to all, and were shared widely through social media, personal communications, and a press release from the MDA. Each session was listed both on the homepage of the MDA website and on Eventbrite, where members of the public were asked to RSVP.

Date	Location	Attendees
September 3, 2019	St. Paul	44
November 8, 2019	Crookston	8
November 12, 2019	Marshall	13
November 14, 2019	Duluth	19
December 4, 2019	St. Cloud	21
December 11, 2019	Rochester	39

The sessions included an overview of current MDA resources for emerging farmers, a brief background on why this topic is of importance to the MDA, and a guided discussion with the participants. The guided discussion used the “collective brainstorm” method where participants were assigned small groups and asked to write their thoughts about barriers affecting emerging farmers on a large format paper pad. The sheets of paper were then exchanged between groups to foster discussion and capture a variety of insights. MDA staff were also taking notes of the conversations. At the end of each session, participants were asked to fill out a survey, which included demographic questions and additional space for qualitative feedback.

The survey was also available online in English, Somali, Spanish, and Hmong from December 12, 2019 through January 10, 2020.

Between the in-person and online survey collection, 201 responses were gathered. The survey questions and a summary of responses are in [Appendix B](#). The quotes in the following sections of the report are pulled from survey responses.

## Themes

MDA staff took notes during each of the listening sessions and reviewed the written comments from the surveys and collective brainstorm process. The following themes were identified based on what was discussed at the listening sessions. Where possible, the themes include direct quotes from participants.

### Financial Barriers

Access to capital and financial challenges were identified as a key barrier for emerging farmers. Down payments on land purchases, interest on large loans, and credit histories are all part of this area of concern. Cash flow on farms can be seasonal, and many farm sales are low-margin wholesale accounts. Banks tend to be risk averse and may not be willing to give loans to farmers without a business history. While the USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) provides direct and guaranteed loans, the applications can be onerous, or the farmer may not be eligible for one or more of the loan products. Smaller farms growing specialty crops may not be able to provide the market research and economic data that commodity producers have access to, which can make it difficult for banks and farm credit institutions to evaluate loans. Many financial institutions require crop insurance on any crop that receives a loan. Often crop insurance is not available for diversified, small operations or new operations without a robust financial history. Predatory lending practices may increase in the coming years, with traditional lenders refusing applications and farmers looking for capital sources from unregulated sources ([Wisconsin Public Radio](#)). These loans can include high-interest rates or balloon payments and are targeted at vulnerable communities that may not have the ability to access traditional financing tools.

The MDA administers the [Agricultural Microloan Program](#) which provides non-traditional farmers capital to develop their farm business. The microloan, up to \$10,000, can be used for working capital, equipment and other assets, but may not be used for real estate purchases or to pay off existing debt. The microloan program is only available for applicants using funds to produce specialty crops or eligible livestock, and who are a member of a protected group, such as minority, women, or disabled farmers.

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*“Interest on the volume of money to buy land and equipment makes it nearly impossible to make it a profitable venture.”*

*“Lack of access to capital and unwillingness/inability of banks to give loans. Also down payments.”*

*“Finding capital while building a nontraditional business is a struggle. Combine that with discrimination makes it even harder.”*

*“Loan programs are prohibitively strict and complicated.”*

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### Discrimination/Racism/Sexism

Institutional and systemic racism was cited as a major barrier for minority farmers at every point in their journey, from education and training resources, to access to credit and markets. Participants at listening sessions spoke about the reluctance of existing farmers to sell their land to immigrant farmers because

it might upset neighbors, or that the farming practices of immigrant or young farmers may be too different from what has been done in the area. Implicit and structural biases exist at all levels and at all institutions. Taking an anti-racist approach to planning and program development is key for ensuring that existing programs are not implicitly favoring one group over another.

Discrimination has been well documented across the agricultural lending landscape, including in the USDA. The discrimination in lending may include a variety of practices including failing to apply measures to slow foreclosures, speeding up foreclosure processes, requiring more collateral than other loans, and unfair loans terms and conditions ([Government Accountability Office, 2012, PDF](#)). A number of cases have been filed against the USDA for discrimination and have resulted in the establishment of dedicated funds for minority/socially disadvantaged farmers. These include *Pigford v. Glickman* (1997) which brought claims from African-American farmers, *Keepseagle v. Vilsack* (1999) brought forth by Native American Farmers, and *Garcia v. Vilsack* (2000) filed by Hispanic Farmers.

*Institutional racism includes policies, practices and procedures that work better for white people than for people of color, often unintentionally or inadvertently*  
– Government Alliance on Race & Equity (2015)

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*“I urge that the MDA establish a section of department to help immigrant farmers. We have been left out. Please help!”*

*“It is very intimidating as a woman to enter the farming world- people often do not take you seriously or think it is a job for a woman.”*

*“Lenders (mostly white) are most familiar in working with large commodity farmers (also mostly white). For emerging farmers that are growing something else and don't identify as white, this can be a real barrier to getting farm credit, loans, grants, and especially land. The history of indigenous genocide and anti-blackness and slavery in this country, including the policies and systems developed to intentionally keep them out of agriculture live on. In addition, farm laborers and workers continue to be invisible and are often exploited. It's not fair that farmer laborers work so hard and can't afford to put healthy, nourishing food on their own family's dinner table. The issues are numerous. As a publicly funded agency, I think it's imperative that the agency invest its limited resources (money, people and time) in places that need it most. If we (collectively), continue to invest in well resourced farmers and operations, nothing will ever change. We can't continue to do the same things and expect different results. Emerging farmers have the answers. Let's listen to them.”*

*“Centuries of injustice against people of color and indigenous communities render their access to land even more difficult as they suffer from a lack of wealth building that centuries of white people have had. So of course they can't invest in land without capital.”*

*“...think about internal work around racism in the food system at work that the MDA also needs to prioritize so that whatever they build for farmers comes with the support structures in place to actually make them succeed.”*

*“Discrimination in lending means farmers of color don’t have access to capital- it’s already hard for white beginning farmers”*

*“treaty rights must be acknowledged”*

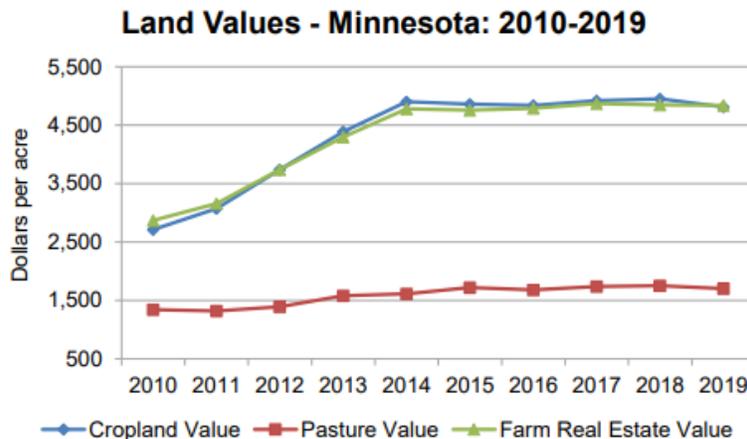
*“Discrimination: race, sex and more, but also due to farming style, like organic, nonconventional, cover crops, direct marketing. Prevents access to financing, land, services, and programs.”*

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## Land Availability and Prices

Land access is the most cited barrier for emerging farmers. However, the reasons why “access to land” is difficult are myriad. Land prices, real estate listings, land quality, proximity to markets, and proximity to educational and health establishments all create challenges for farmers looking for land.

Land prices have risen steeply over time, while farm revenues have stayed stable or declined. Available farm land may never be formally listed on a public market, instead being advertised through word-of-mouth or informal networks like churches or social clubs. Certain farmers may be looking for acreage suited to row crops while others may be looking for land that has a specific soil type or that has existing infrastructure (barns, silos, wells, residence). Many emerging farmers include direct marketing in their business plan, such as CSAs, wholesale accounts, restaurant accounts, or other options that require proximity to population centers. The land surrounding these metro areas tends to be more expensive, as farmers are competing with residential, commercial, and industrial developments which also prefer proximity to metro areas. Even for farmers who would be able to find markets in more rural parts of the state, proximity to other employment opportunities for spouses, schools for children, and healthcare services can be a major part of whether a farm’s location is suitable.



*Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service*

The MDA administers [FarmLink](#), a directory of farm properties that are for sale or rent and/or farmers who are interested in providing opportunities to a beginning farmer by transitioning an existing farm with no current heir. Farmland with or without building sites for rent or for sale can be listed free of charge. 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. Emerging farmers can post information about themselves on FarmLink for current farmers to review. Farms of all sizes and production methods are welcome. Resources are available for assistance in transitioning farmland. To learn more about the program, contact Jim Ostlie at 320-842-6910 or [jim.ostlie@state.mn.us](mailto:jim.ostlie@state.mn.us) or go to the website [mda.state.mn.us/farmlink](http://mda.state.mn.us/farmlink).

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*“As an emerging farmer I’ve struggled to find farmland that I can afford near the markets I hope to sell to.”*

*“Unless you are a son of a legacy farmer who has received thousands of dollars in subsidies, finding good available land is hard. If you’re also young and have thousands of dollars of college debt, impossible to come up with 20% down.”*

*“Inflated land prices make it almost impossible to have a profitable business.”*

*“Many times, when land changes hands it’s not advertised”*

*“No access to long term land means it’s harder to invest in infrastructure and soil health.”*

*“Even as someone who has some capital, land prices are prohibitive and only non-farmers and investors can afford.”*

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## **Health Insurance/Rural Health Care**

Health insurance and health care are issues that directly relate to the viability of rural communities and emerging farmers.

Health care, meaning health insurance options and prices, proximity to clinics, hospitals, and OB-GYN services, and availability of mental health services, is a major factor for emerging farmers’ success. It can be difficult for people with employer-provided health insurance to transition to the public market. Subsidized health insurance plans available through the Affordable Care Act are based on expected annual income, which may be hard to estimate, or may be affected by when in the year the person leaves their full-time employment. The plans available may also vary based on the person’s location, and the choices of plans can also vary widely in terms of coverage, premium rates, and deductibles.

Further, rural health care services have declined over the past decade, leaving many towns in Greater Minnesota with limited clinics, hospital services, and specialized doctors. Over the past year, there have been many news stories regarding the lack of OB-GYN services in Greater Minnesota, which is a specific need of many young, beginning, and women farmers looking to build and raise families in these communities. ([UMN Rural Health Research Center](#)). Daycare and childcare services are also an important part of this topic and were raised by quite a few participants.

Addiction is an additional health issue that affects rural populations at a higher rate ([Addiction Center.com](#)). Opioids and methamphetamine both have had significant impacts on the health and well-

being of farm families and rural communities. These topics are worth further attention from farm-service providers and are relevant in the discussion about emerging farmers.

Rural mental health is of growing concern, and the MDA offers several resources to assist farmers in crisis. Price volatility, market changes from trade negotiations, and variability in weather have affected overall farm income, and led to a number of farm bankruptcies and retirements. There has been an increase in the number of suicides in rural communities in the upper Midwest in recent years and there is a growing discussion about the need for mental health services for farmers and rural communities. The Minnesota Farm & Rural Helpline is available 24/7 [833-600-2670], and calls are answered by trained staff and volunteers. *SafeTalk* is a program co-sponsored by the MDA and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) that provides a half-day training in suicide prevention and discussing mental illness. In 2019, there were eight sessions offered throughout the state, all of which sold-out. Additional trainings are planned for 2020. The MDA and the Red River Farm Network have also partnered to create a podcast series called [TransFARMation](#) which increases awareness about farm stress and highlights resources available.

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*“It is hard to leave a company job with health care to work for yourself and have to buy private health insurance.”*

*“health insurance for all would make it easier for apprenticeships and/or beginning farm businesses”*

*“Healthcare is a challenge”*

*“Health care costs are so high that families can’t afford to even start farming and expect adequate health care coverage.”*

*“[There is] difficulty finding part-time childcare in rural areas.”*

*“If your family won’t have healthcare where you want to start a farm, you might start elsewhere.”*

*“We need help and support – financially, emotionally and socially”*

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## **Available Resources Serve Larger-Scale Agriculture**

There are many farm service providers in Minnesota, but the focus of their businesses tends to be on larger-scale commodity-based farms. Smaller, diversified, or otherwise alternative farm models may have a difficult time finding resources like farm credit, agronomists, seed purveyors, equipment providers, and animal nutritionists who are familiar with and supportive of new types of farming. There is also a lack of small to mid-size processing facilities that would serve and support emerging farmers’ products and provide opportunities for value-add revenue. This is particularly an issue in meat processing, where wait times in USDA plants can be up to six months for small to mid-size producers

trying to sell into direct market channels. Contracting for sales can also be difficult for smaller farmers, since wholesale markets generally want larger volume contracts over a set time period. All these factors work against emerging farmers looking to enter the agricultural field.

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*“Available resources [are] geared toward large commodity farmers.”*

*“[There is] little understanding in farm agencies of regenerative farming, land regeneration and lack of resources for it.”*

*“Our current system is set up to promote and finance large agribusiness on all levels, this unbalanced system makes it very difficult for farmers who are raising non-commodity crops (food!) to participate in this system. We need systems changes.”*

*“Government has a role here as well in helping rebuild the infrastructure that used to support local.”*

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## Education/Training Resources

Many participants cited either a lack of training resources or confusion about the offerings of trainings available for emerging farmers. There were many conversations about the rural brain-drain and how young people are pushed to move to urban areas; if they return or move to a rural community they're met with surprise. Changing this narrative about people who chose to stay, move, or live in rural communities was cited as an important part of supporting emerging farmers. This starts in K–12 education, where teachers and counselors may not share information on jobs in agriculture or encourage students to live in rural places. Comments were also made about the lack of representation in the field of teaching, with few teachers of color in classrooms, particularly in agricultural education.

Post-secondary education options for agribusiness are offered throughout the state, but there are fewer programs that focus on hands-on farming and farm business management for producers. Many nonprofits offer beginning farmer training programs which were cited by many participants as a key resource for emerging farmers. Others pointed to the price tags for such programs as a barrier to entry. Many participants expressed that they don't have the ability to do a cross-comparison of the offered educational programs to decide which is best for their enterprise.

Extension educators were cited by many as a key resource, and others drew attention to the need for more diversified extension educators who can provide technical assistance for emerging farmers pursuing non-traditional enterprises. Another need was for practical and hands-on learning experiences, such as how to manage a tractor or how to use specific tools.

Apprenticeships are one way of formalizing hands-on education. Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry supports the [Minnesota Apprenticeship Initiative](#) and the [Dual-Training Pipeline](#) program. These programs support employers in providing training and education in high-demand sectors. Agriculture is included in both programs; however, the scope of the validated occupational areas is limited to: agriculture equipment mechanic, agronomist, application technician, farm animal manager, grain merchandiser, quality assurance/food safety supervisor, and swine technician (grow finish/sow

farm). Of the over 500 registered apprenticeship employers, only six are agricultural and five of those are arborists.

Overall, the theme of education as a barrier relates to the issues of pursuing a non-traditional farming business, with new practices, markets, and challenges that are not addressed in available education and training resources. A key aspect of this is creating networks for emerging farmers to connect with established farmers and develop mentorship-based relationships for knowledge sharing. Many cited mentorships as a factor in their success as emerging farmers.

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*“Hard to know where to start when you don't come from generations of farmers farming the same land each year”*

*“It is difficult to know where to start when you are a beginning farmer and who you can trust to work with you.”*

*“[Emerging farmers] should find a mentor if they are not experienced enough. They need a way to learn things they don't know yet. For example: I did not know how to use a chainsaw properly, so I spent the day with my neighbor getting wood and now I am pretty darn good with a chainsaw.”*

*“For immigrant farmers, the learning curve is long to understand how to access financing and to understand the system and rules related to farming here.”*

*“It has been hard to make connections and learn about farming”*

*“Long-term, cohort-based programs like Land Stewardship's Farm Beginnings, or MN State SE's amazing sustainable food & ag skills program, or the programming of Extension are all examples of learning opportunities that need to be offered in a catalogue and supported with funding to develop multi-lingual offerings....Drop the barriers to understanding all of that... and I believe we will see people of great industriousness repopulate our sparsely populated rural areas.”*

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## **Broadband Availability**

Many participants cited online resources like videos, reports, and peer-to-peer learning platforms as primary methods for finding information about farming. Implicit in these resources is the ability to access and use the Internet. The issue of broadband availability is widely discussed in the State as a key component to rural vitality and viability. ([Minnesota Office of Broadband Development](#)). Most efforts in expanding broadband access focus on download speeds of 25 megabytes per second (Mbps), which allows enough speed for video streaming without interference. Minnesota has a plan to achieve statewide 25Mbps download and 3Mbps upload speeds by 2022. Currently, 92.7 percent of Minnesotans have access to this level of service, though that number is lower in rural areas with just 83.7 percent of households served at this speed. Further effort to expand broadband service and improve speeds is an important part of supporting emerging farmers' access to educational resources and networking.

One part of the broadband effort that is often overlooked is the upload speed. Upload speeds are important for users that are creating data or content to put online, such as e-commerce sites, or using any sort of smart-farming technology (GPS, sensor-based data collection, etc.) Most broadband initiatives consider upload speeds of 3Mbps as high-speed, but users at this speed are often left with slow or non-usable connections during the upload. Some farmers report leaving their computers on overnight to upload data from their sensors, or they struggle to update social media or inventory on their e-commerce websites.

Broadband is critically important for many rural and urban development strategies, including healthcare access, commerce, teleworking, and continuing education. Both upload and download speeds should be considered in any public or private investments in broadband. Additional attention toward adoption and use, beyond just infrastructure and deployment, is also critical for any broadband initiative.

## Climate Change

Changing weather patterns and unpredictable precipitation and temperatures make it difficult for emerging farmers to do financial and market planning. Flooded fields, crop failures, and new pests are all especially challenging for farmers doing direct-marketing, or who are just beginning to establish market channels. While larger farms may be able to manage climate risk by using different plots of land, small farms may not have the ability to hedge risk through planting decisions.

All farmers will be challenged by climate change in Minnesota. Building the resiliency of rural communities, soil health, and food systems are all climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. Some participants noted that because emerging farmers tend to “learn-by-doing,” climate change responses are built into their practices, while some established farmers may be more dedicated to traditional practices and procedures. There are many market opportunities for products raised with sustainable or regenerative agricultural practices, and this is an area where emerging farmers, who may still be identifying market channels, can be experimental in their growing decisions.

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*“Regarding climate change, my production field has flooded four times in three years.”*

*“Climate instabilities will make conventional farming difficult if not impossible. New technologies and new ideas are necessary to make and keep farming viable.”*

*“Tax farmers and farm organizations that contribute to climate change through irresponsible farming and polluting.”*

*“Emphasize how sustainability practices on small farms and local buying/selling can result in a more resilient landscape to climate change.”*

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## Market Access and Infrastructure

The ability for emerging farmers to access markets and negotiate prices for their products was identified as a barrier by many. Market access can include everything from distance to point of sale, forward

contracts, sales contracts, retail distribution needs, and payment terms. Often, emerging farmers are selling non-commodity agricultural products, and need to invest more time in the marketing side of the business than farmers who sell through commodity brokers. Infrastructure was another key issue, with a lack of storage, processing facilities, meat plants, and transportation options. Many participants made the point that much of the market infrastructure is optimized for larger-scale commodity-based agriculture, making it difficult to establish secondary or parallel markets for smaller farm products or specialty crops. Around the state, many organizations and businesses are working to rebuild some of the small/mid-sized infrastructure for food processing and marketing, including food hubs, buying co-ops, and direct marketing aggregation tools. Robust markets are key to financial sustainability, and additional attention to market development and infrastructure needs for emerging farmers will be important in any effort.

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*“Some grocery stores are helping by sourcing local (and even coaching).”*

*“Our entire food system is set up for big ag, as well as our transportation infrastructure.”*

*“Vertical integration by agribusiness has shut beginning and specialty crop farmers out of all but a few markets.”*

*“Huge learning curve for the various functions of farming & marketing.”*

*“All commodities are oversupplied so prices are too low for non-legacy new farmers. Over supply is less of an issue in local foods.... Government has a role here as well in helping rebuild the infrastructure that used to support local. The how-to-do-this is feasible but it will take courage...”*

*“Lack of supply management coupled with no local foods infrastructure support.... We’ve already invested millions in ethanol; it’s time to redirect to local foodshed infrastructure.”*

*“Support farmers markets. Help establish links with local food businesses, coordination of supply to mid-sized businesses, and aggregation.”*

*“Increase MN Grown support so more people use this to access local foods and items.”*

*“Provide a list of farm-to-school participants to solicit for bidding. Farm-to-School has been an ideal and helpful scenario for my farm. Whenever I can set my price and have a guaranteed sale, farming becomes financially feasible.”*

*“More meat inspectors/make it easier for meat plants to work with inspectors, and encourage new plants to open in outstate Minnesota – animals raised here are rarely sold and eaten here – this is a drain of resources.”*

*“Encourage CPG (consumer packaged goods) companies to purchase regenerative crops, directly from growers. Train and otherwise enable those growers to solve a problem for processors/buyers/the market.”*

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## Culturally Appropriate Resources

For many emerging farmers, there is a lack of culturally appropriate resources that would support their farming practices or markets. For example, there is a demand for locally grown kosher and halal meat in Minnesota, but a lack of processing infrastructure for specialty meat is holding back the market. The recent MDA and Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI) report on the [Market for Halal and Kosher Meat](#) goes more deeply into this issue. Another example is the need for halal structured financial instruments that fit the religious and cultural practices of Muslims interested in farming. Additional considerations exist for those from other cultural backgrounds and should be explored by farm service providers to ensure that all people interested in farming feel welcome and included.

## Navigating Regulations

Regulations were a frequent topic in the listening sessions, with some participants strongly advocating for regulations as part of the public good, and others stating that regulations are holding back small farmers and markets. The answer likely lies somewhere in the middle, with some regulations upholding public health and safety, and others poorly designed or implemented. The [Local Foods Advisory Committee](#) and the [Food Innovation Team](#) are groups that assist farmers and food businesses in navigating regulatory oversight, and both committees work closely with regulators at the MDA and MDH.

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*“The regulatory environment makes it confusing and difficult for small-scale operations to get a start. For example, the cottage food law keeps narrowing what ingredients I can or can't use, so I have to adapt recipes that my family has always used, experiment with different things, all of which I have to pay for whether it works or not.”*

*“One of the best examples of issues surrounds the groups that run the nutrient application regulations. Can we please all get on the same wavelength? No one knows for sure who regulates what because so many different orgs run it.”*

*“Decision makers at all levels of government should be aware of new farming ideas and trends.... There are many laws and ordinances that make agri-entrepreneurship next to impossible.... Ordinances work for conventional agriculture but not alternative agriculture”*

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## Recommendations

There are many opportunities to support and cultivate emerging farmers in the State. The following recommendations are a starting place for these efforts to begin. Creating vibrant communities for emerging farmers to create successful careers in agriculture will take ongoing attention.

### We recommend:

- Establish an emerging farmers task force that can provide guidance to the Commissioner of Agriculture on developing programs and initiatives that support emerging farmers.
- Increase the agricultural microloan program from \$10,000 to \$20,000.
- Create a one-stop shop for resources for emerging farmers, which includes training resources, grants and funding opportunities, and other materials. One model is the [Starting a Food Business Roadmap](#), hosted by the MDA and developed in partnership with community organizations and businesses.
- Classify agriculture more broadly for apprenticeship eligible professions.
- Address health insurance costs and student loan debt for emerging farmers.
- Support equity and inclusivity training in farming communities to strengthen connections between current farmers and emerging farmers.
- Audit state programs that support farmers for equity and unintended biases and consequences of funding.
- Assess MDA's lending and grantmaking practices to evaluate equity.
- Create specific grant opportunities for emerging farmers that assist with establishing a farm business, rather than improving or expanding an existing farm business. Consider higher percentages of cost-sharing, and/or longer loan terms for emerging farmer groups.
- Implement advanced payment options for grant funding for emerging farmers, based on the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#). This NRCS program allows for practice payments in advance of implementation of practices for [historically underserved producers](#).
- Provide trainings to farm service providers that help reduce barriers for emerging farmers, including equity and implicit bias training, and alternative models of agriculture (regenerative, direct-marketing, perennial etc.).
- Create budget for translation services and build translation of documents into processes for state agencies.
- Provide funding for farm service providers to translate materials and trainings.

- Dedicate further attention to the history of land ownership and farming in Minnesota. University research on the cultural and social history of agriculture in the state would provide context for emerging farmers and the communities in which they live.
- Advance Farm-to-School/Institution initiatives as a market development tool for emerging farmers.
- Articulate a vision for agriculture in Minnesota that encompasses emerging farmers and small/midsize farming businesses.
- Work to reframe the story of farming as an opportunity for underserved communities. Market the stories of emerging farmers to show examples of how farming can be practiced.

## Appendix A: Existing Resources for Emerging Farmers

Note: These were gathered from Listening Session surveys and are not a comprehensive list of resources.

### Federal

[USDA Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Loan](#)

[USDA Farm Service Agency \(FSA\)](#)

[USDA Local and Regional Food Sector Toolkits and Handbooks](#)

[USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service \(NRCS\) Environmental Quality Incentive Program \(EQIP\)](#)

[USDA New Farmers Website](#)

[USDA Rural Development](#)

[USDA Urban Agriculture Tool Kit](#)

### State

[Aggie Bond Beginning Farmer Loan Program](#)

[Beginning Farmer Tax Credit](#)

[Board of Water and Soil Resources](#)

[Dual-Training Pipeline](#) (MN Department of Labor and Industry)

[FarmLink](#)

[Farm to School](#) (MN Department of Education)

[Farm to School](#) (MN Department of Health)

[MDA Grants](#)

[MDA Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation Program](#)

[Farm Business Management Scholarships](#)

[Livestock Investment Grant](#)

[MDA New Markets Program](#)

[Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant](#)

[Value-Added Grant](#)

[MDA FarmLink](#)

[Minnesota Grown](#)

[Starting a Food Business Roadmap](#)

[Workplace Safety Consultation](#) (MN Department of Labor and Industry)

### Non-Government Resources

[Agua Gorda Cooperative](#)

[AURI](#)

[Big River Farms](#)

[Black Family Land Trust](#)

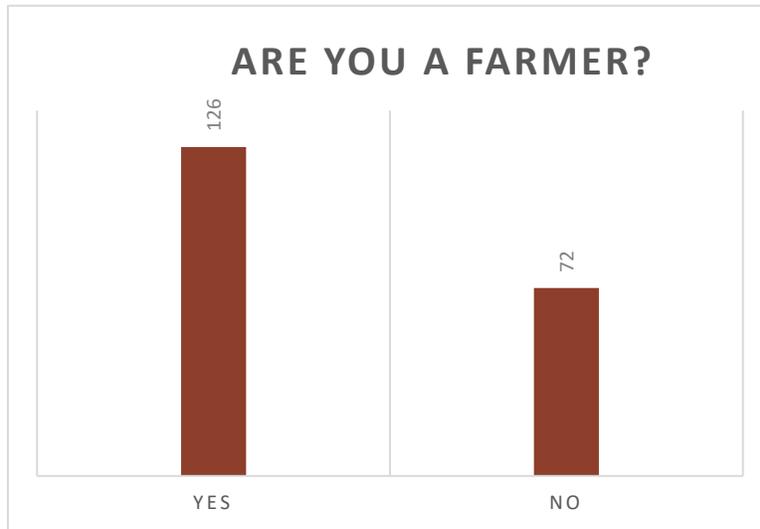
[Blue Zones](#)

[Carpenter Nature Center](#)  
[Clean Energy Resource Teams](#)  
[Compeer Financial Emerging Markets, Local Food & Non-Traditional Ag](#)  
[Dairy Grazing Apprenticeship](#)  
[Dream of Wild Health](#)  
[Driftless Grown](#)  
[Emerging Farmers Conference](#)  
[Farm at the Arb](#)  
[Farm Commons](#)  
[Farmer Veteran Coalition](#)  
[Farmers' Legal Action Group](#)  
[Farmland Access Hub](#)  
[Food Animal Concerns Trust](#)  
[Grow and Farmer Fund](#)  
[Hmong American Farmers Association](#)  
[Hmong American Partnership](#)  
[Holistic Management](#)  
[Iroquois Valley Farmland REIT](#)  
[Lake Superior College Eco-Entrepreneurship Program](#)  
[Land Access Workshops](#)  
[Land Stewardship Project](#)  
[Local Food Advisory Committee \(MISA\)](#)  
[Main Street Project \(Northfield\)](#)  
[Midwest Sustainable Ag Working Group](#)  
[Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture \(MISA\) Sustag Newsletter](#)  
[Minnesota Organic & Sustainable Education Service](#)  
[Minnesota State Horticultural Society](#)  
[Minnesota Dairy Initiative](#)  
[Minnesota Farm Bureau](#)  
[Minnesota Farmers Union](#)  
[Minnesota Farmers Union-New Leader Academy](#)  
[Minnesota State Agricultural Centers of Excellence](#)  
[Midwest Organic & Sustainable Education Services \(MOSES\)](#)  
[National Center for Appropriate Technology-ATTRA Sustainable Agriculture Program](#)  
[National Farmers Union-Beginning Farmer Institute](#)  
[National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition](#)  
[Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust](#)  
[Northern Growers & Markets Conference](#)  
[No-Till Growers](#)

[Organic Broadcaster \(bi-monthly farmer-focused news\)](#)  
[Organic Grain Resource and Information Network \(OGRAIN\)](#)  
[Practical Farmers of Iowa](#)  
[Regenerative Agriculture Alliance](#)  
[Renewing the Countryside](#)  
[Riverland College Farm Business Management](#)  
[Rochester Community and Technical College Horticulture Technology Program](#)  
[SCORE Mentors St. Paul](#)  
[SLP SEEDS](#)  
[Soul Fire Farm](#)  
[South Central Minnesota Growers Network](#)  
[Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation](#)  
[Sustainable Farming Association](#)  
[The Good Acre](#)  
[The Land Stewardship Letter](#)  
[University of Minnesota-Duluth Land Lab](#)  
[University of Minnesota Extension](#)  
[University of Minnesota Extension-Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships](#)  
[University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum](#)  
[Young Farmers Coalition](#)

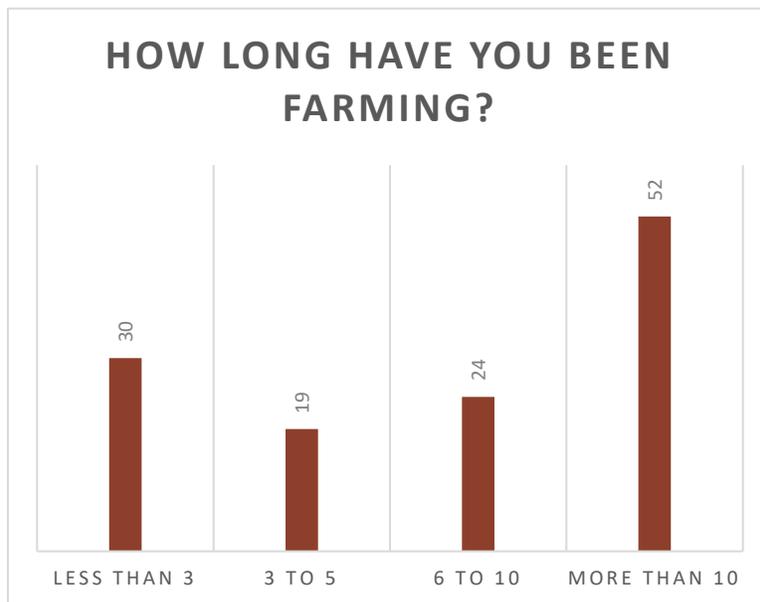
## Appendix B: Survey Results

Are you a farmer?



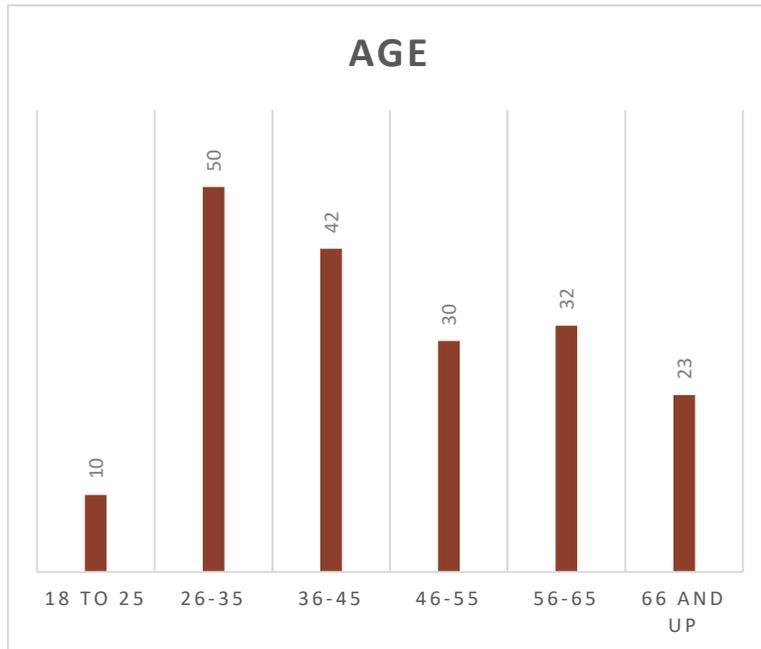
*N=198*

How long have you been farming?



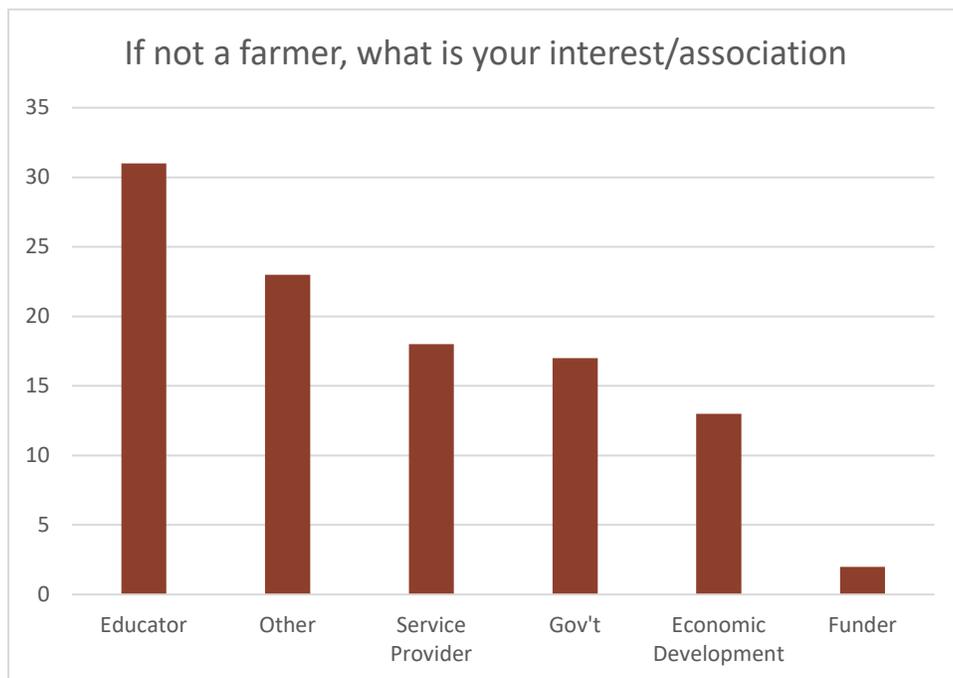
*N=125*

## How old are you?



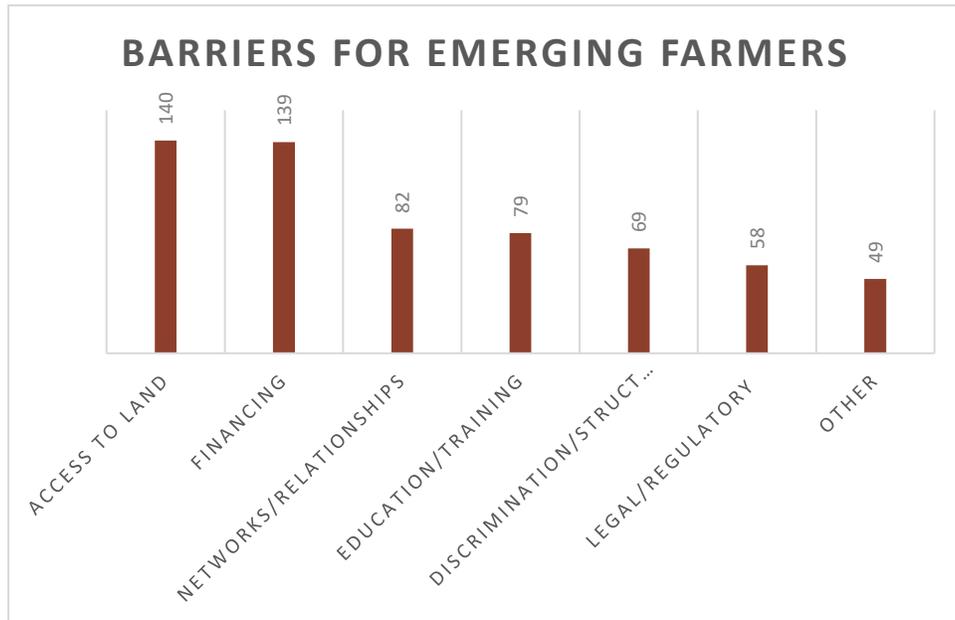
N: 187

## If you're not a farmer, what is your interest in Emerging Farmers?



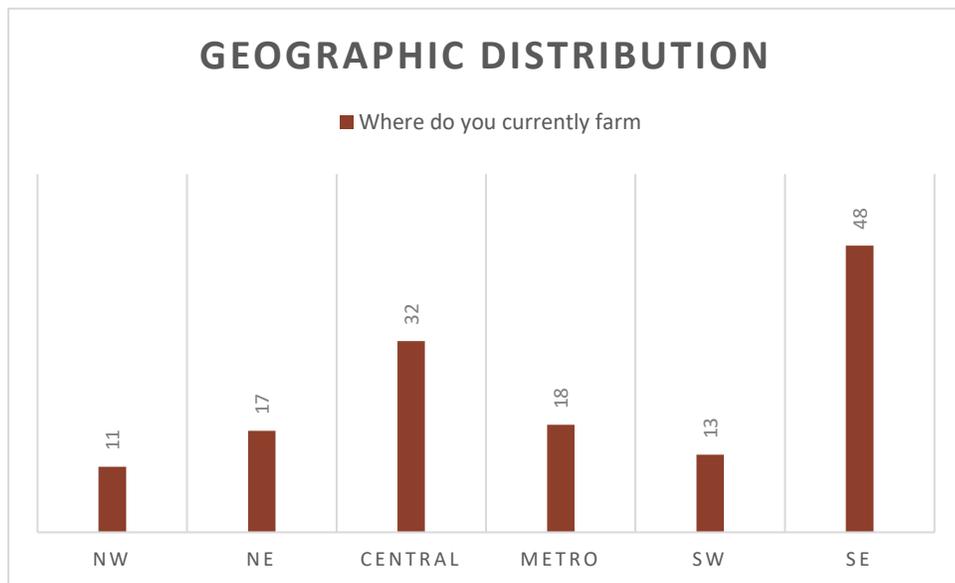
N: 74

## Which issues make it difficult for emerging farmers to start or continue farming?



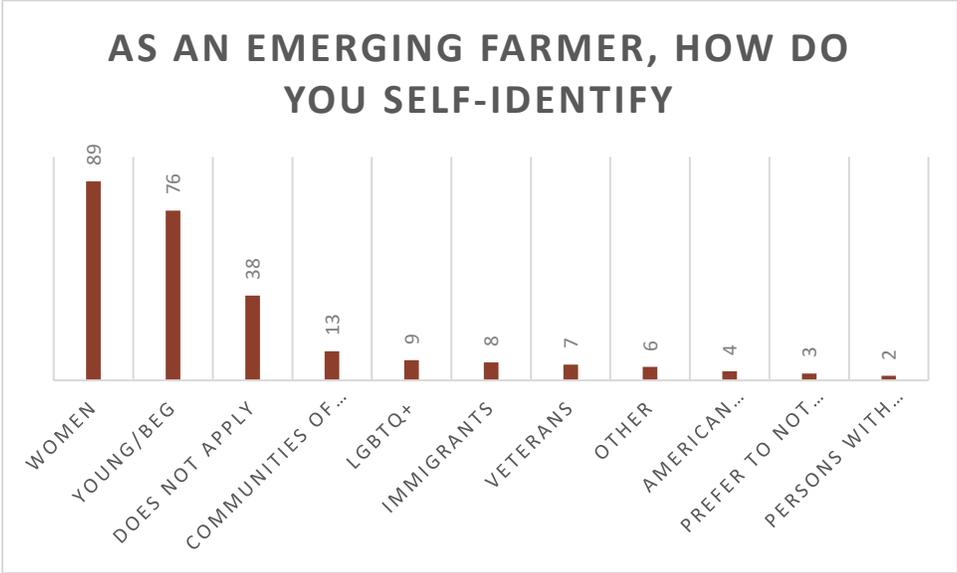
N=171

## Where in Minnesota do you farm?



N=157

**Do you identify yourself in one or more of these emerging farmer groups?**



N=173

# Appendix C: Survey Questions

## Emerging Farmers Survey (English)

**Privacy Notice:** *You are not legally required to participate in this survey. Should you choose to do so, the information you provide is governed by the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and may be made available to any person who requests it.*

**1) Are you a farmer?**

- Yes
- No

**a) If yes, how long have you been farming?**

- Less than 3 years
- 3 to 5 years
- 6 to 10 years
- More than 10 years

**b) If no, do you want to become a farmer?**

- Yes, I want to become a farmer
- No, I don't want to be a farmer

**2) How old are you?**

- 0 to 17 years old
- 18 to 25 years old
- 26 to 35 years old
- 36 to 45 years old
- 46 to 55 years old
- 56 to 65 years old
- 66+ years old

**3) Do you identify yourself in one or more of these emerging farmer groups? If yes, mark all that apply.**

- Prefer not to respond
- Young/beginning farmer
- Communities of color
- Immigrants
- Women
- Veterans
- Persons with disabilities

- American Indian and Alaska Natives
- LGBTQ+
- Does not apply
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**4) Where in Minnesota do you farm? (mark all that apply)**

- Northwest
- Northeast
- Central
- Twin Cities metropolitan area
- Southwest
- Southeast
- I'm not currently farming

**5) Where in Minnesota would you like to farm? (mark all that apply)**

- Northwest
- Northeast
- Central
- Twin Cities metropolitan area
- Southwest
- Southeast
- I don't want to farm (not applicable)

**6) Where do you currently live? (list your county or tribal reservation/community)**

**7) If you are not a farmer, what is your interest in Emerging Farmers? (mark all that apply)**

- Service provider
- Funder
- Government

- Economic development
- Educator
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

- Legal/regulatory concerns
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**8) Which issues make it difficult for emerging farmers to start or continue farming?**

- Education/training
- Access to land
- Networks/relationships
- Financing
- Discrimination/structural racism

**9) Explain or give specific examples of how these issues make it difficult.**

**10) What are some ways that Minnesota can encourage and support emerging farmers?**

**11) Please tell us about current programs, resources, training, and organizations that emerging farmers should know about.**

*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.*

## Encuesta para agricultores emergentes (Spanish)

**Aviso de privacidad:** No está obligado por ley a participar en esta encuesta. Si elige hacerlo, la información que provee se rige por la Ley de Prácticas de Datos del Gobierno de Minnesota y podrá ponerse a disposición de cualquier persona que la solicite.

### 1) ¿Es agricultor/a?

- Sí
- No

#### a) Si la respuesta es afirmativa, ¿cuánto tiempo se ha dedicado a la agricultura?

- Menos de 3 años
- 3 a 5 años
- 6 a 10 años
- Más de 10 años

#### b) Si la respuesta es negativa, ¿quiere ser agricultor/a?

- Sí, quiero ser agricultor/a
- No, no quiero ser agricultor/a

### 2) ¿Cuántos años tiene?

- 0 a 17 años
- 18 a 25 años
- 26 a 35 años
- 36 a 45 años
- 46 a 55 años
- 56 a 65 años
- Más de 66 años

### 3) ¿Se identifica en uno o más de estos grupos de agricultores emergentes? Si la respuesta es afirmativa, marque todas las opciones que correspondan.

- Prefiero no responder
- Agricultores jóvenes/principiantes
- Comunidades de color
- Inmigrantes
- Mujeres
- Veteranos
- Personas con discapacidades
- Indoamericanos y nativos de Alaska
- LGBTQ+
- No corresponde

Otra: \_\_\_\_\_

### 4) ¿En qué lugar de Minnesota realiza la actividad? (marque todas las que correspondan)

- Noroeste
- Noreste
- Centro
- Área metropolitana de las Ciudades Gemelas
- Suroeste
- Sureste
- Actualmente no me dedico a la agricultura

### 5) ¿En qué lugar de Minnesota le gustaría realizar la actividad? (marque todas las que correspondan)

- Noroeste
- Noreste
- Centro
- Área metropolitana de las Ciudades Gemelas
- Suroeste
- Sureste
- No quiero dedicarme a la agricultura (no corresponde)

### 6) ¿Dónde vive actualmente? (indique su condado o reserva/comunidad tribal)

### 7) Si no es agricultor, ¿cuál es su interés en Agricultores emergentes? (marque todas las que correspondan)

- Proveedor de servicios
- Financiado
- Gobierno
- Desarrollo económico
- Educador

Otra: \_\_\_\_\_

**8) ¿Qué cuestiones dificultan que los agricultores emergentes comiencen o continúen en la agricultura? (marque todas las que correspondan)**

- Educación/capacitación
- Acceso a la tierra
- Redes/relaciones
- Financiamiento
- Discriminación/racismo estructural
- Cuestiones regulatorias/legales
- Otra \_\_\_\_\_

**9) Explique o brinde ejemplos específicos de cómo estas cuestiones dificultan que los agricultores emergentes comiencen o continúen en la agricultura.**

**10) ¿De qué maneras Minnesota puede alentar y apoyar a los agricultores emergentes?**

**11) Cuéntenos acerca de los programas, recursos, capacitaciones y organizaciones actuales que deberían conocer los agricultores emergentes.**

*De conformidad con la Ley sobre Estadounidenses con Discapacidades, esta información está disponible en formas alternativas de comunicación a solicitud llamando al 651/201-6000. Los usuarios de TTY pueden llamar al Servicio de Retransmisión de Minnesota al 711. El Departamento de Agricultura de Minnesota (MDA) es un proveedor y empleador que ofrece igualdad de oportunidades.*

## Sahaminta Beeralayda Soo Baxaya (Somali)

**Ogeysiiska Asturnaanta:** *Sharci ahaan sharci ahaan lagaama rabo inaad kaqeybqaadato sahamintan. Haddii aad dooratid inaad sidaas sameyso, macluumaadka aad bixiso waxaa xukumaya Sharciga Nidaamka Ku-Dhaqanka Macluumaadka ee Dowladda Minnesota waxaana loo heli karaa qof kasta oo codsada.*

### 1) Beeraale miyaad tahay?

- Haa
- Maya

#### a) Hadday haa tahay, muddo intee la'eg ayaad beeraale tahay?

- Wax kayar 3 sano
- 3 ilaa 5 sano
- 6 ilaa 10 sano
- In ka badan 10 sano

#### b) Hadday maya tahay, ma dooneysaa inaad beeraale noqoto?

- Haa, waan rabaa inaan beeraale noqdo
- Maya, marabi inaan beeraale noqdo

### 2) Imisa jir ayaad tahay?

- 0 ilaa 17 sano jir
- 18 ilaa 25 sano jir
- 26 ilaa 35 sano jir
- 36 ilaa 45 sano jir
- 46 ilaa 55 sano jir
- 56 ilaa 65 sano jir
- 66+ sano jir

### 3) Miyaad isku tilmaamaysaa mid ama in ka badan oo kamid ah kooxahaas soo kacaya ee beeralayda ah? Hadday haa tahay, calaamadee dhamaan inta quseysa.

- Dooro inaad ka aamusto
- Beeraleey Yar/Billoow ah
- Bulshooyinka midabka leh
- Soo Galooti
- Dumar
- Ciidamadii hore
- Dadka naafada ah
- Hindi Mareykan iyo Dhalad Alaskan
- LGBTQ+

Anan Khuseeyn

Kuwo kale: \_\_\_\_\_

### 4) Xagee baad ku beerataa Minnesota? (Calaamadee dhammaan kuwa ku habboon)

- Waqooyi-galbeed
- Waqooyi-bari
- Bartamaha
- Magaalada Twin Cities
- Koonfur Galbeed
- Koonfur-bari
- Hadda ma ihi beeraale

### 5) Xagee baad ku beeran lahayd Minnesota? (Calaamadee dhammaan kuwa ku habboon)

- Waqooyi-galbeed
- Waqooyi-bari
- Bartamaha
- Magaalada Twin Cities
- Koonfur Galbeed
- Koonfur-bari
- Ma rabi inaan noqdo beeraale (munaasab ma'aha)

### 6) Xagee hada ku nooshahay? (Iiis garee degmo ama degmo boos / bulsho)

### 7) Hadaanad ahayn beeraale, waa maxay danaha aad ka leedahay Beeraleyda soo Baxeysa? (Calaamadee dhammaan kuwa ku habboon)

- Adeeg bixiye
- Maal-galiye
- Dowlad
- Horumar dhaqaale
- Bare

Wax kale: \_\_\_\_\_

**8) Waa kuwee arrimaha ku adkaynaya soo-saarkii beeralaydu inay bilaabaan ama sii wadaan wax-soo-saarka beeraha? (Calaamadee dhammaan kuwa ku habboon)**

- Waxbarasho/tababar
- Gaaridda dhulka
- Shabakadaha / xiriirka
- Dhaqaaleeyn
- Takoorka / cunsuriyadda qaabdhismeedka
- Walaac sharci / maamul

Wax kale \_\_\_\_\_

**9) Sharax ama sii tusaalayaal gaar ah oo ku saabsan sida arrimahani u dhibaateyneyso beeralayda soo-ifbaxaysa inay bilaabaan ama sii wadaan wax-soo-saarka beeraha.**

**10) Waa maxay qaababka qaarkood ee ay Minnesota ku dhiirrigelin karto oo ay ku taageeri karto beeralayda soo baxaya?**

**11) Fadlan inoo sheeg barnaamijyada hadda jira, kheyraadka, tababbarka, iyo ururada soo ifbaxaya ee beeralayda inay tahay inay ogaadaan.**

*Sida ku xusan Sharciga Naafada Mareykanka, macluumaadkan waxaa lagu heli karaa qaabab isgaarsiin oo kale marka la codsado adigoo wacaya 651 / 201-6000. Isticmaalayaasha TTY waxay wici karaan Adeegga Relay ee Minnesota 711. MDA waa loo-shaqeeye iyo bixiye fursad loo wada siman yahay.*

## Tshawb Xyuas Neeg ua Liaj ua Teb Tshiab (Hmong)

**Privacy Notice:** Kev yeeg teb lus tshawb xyuas nyob tawm tus kheej. Kev teb tshawb xyuas txog tus kheej saib xyuas los tawm Vajtswv Minnesota ntawv txheeb txog lig lub caij ua ib pej tsoom muaj lub suab yeem teb.

### 1) Koj puas yog neeg ua liaj teb?

- Yog
- Tsis yog

#### a) Yog li, ua liaj teb lom ntev li cas?

- Tsawg dua 3 xyoo
- 3 txog 5 xyoo
- 6 txog 10 xyoo
- Ntaus dua 10 xyoo

#### b) Tsis yog, pua xav yog neeg ua liaj teb?

- Xav, kuv xav yog neeg ua liaj teb
- Tsis xav, kuv tsis xav yog neeg ua liaj teb

### 2) Koj muaj lub xyoo li cas?

- 0 txog 17 lub xyoo
- 18 txog 25 lub xyoo
- 26 txog 35 lub xyoo
- 36 txog 45 lub xyoo
- 46 txog 55 lub xyoo
- 56 txog 65 lub xyoo
- 66+ lub xyoo

### 3) Hai txog koj tu kheej yog ib losyog ntau dua ntawm pab neeg ua liaj ua teb tshiab? Yog, yog lawm mas cim thoob hu si.

- Tsis thov teb
- Tshiab/Pib ua liaj teb
- Kob kev nrog tau
- Neeg txawv tebchaws
- Poj niam
- Tub rog
- Neeg tua ceg
- Neeg Amelikas Idia thiab Alaskan
- LGBTQ+
- Tsi thov siv
- Lwm yam: \_\_\_\_\_

### 4) Daim teb nyob qhov twg tawm lub Minnesota? (cim thoob huv si yog tag nrho)

- Qaum teb sab hnuv poob
- Sab hnuv tuaj pem ntej
- Nruab plawv
- Lub nroog sib ntxaib
- Sab qab teb rau sab hnuv poob
- Sab hnuv tuaj phab nram hav
- Kuv tsim yog neeg ua liaj teb tam sim no

### 5) Koj nyiam ua liaj teb nyob qhov twg ntawm Minnesota? (cim thoob huv si yog tag nrho)

- Qaum teb sab hnuv poob
- Sab hnuv tuaj pem ntej
- Nruab plawv
- Lub nroog sib ntxaib
- Sab qab teb rau sab hnuv poob
- Sab hnuv tuaj phab nram hav
- Kuv tsim yog neeg ua liaj teb (tsim ua tiag li)

### 6) Tam sim no koj nyob qhov twg? (sau lub npe tuam nroog los sis pawg neeg/zog)

### 7) Yog tias tsim yog neeg ua liaj teb, koj xav paub dabtsi ntawm neeg ua liaj teb tshiab? (cim thoob huv si yog tag nrho)

- Ua tu pab
- Tu pab nyiaj
- Vajtswv
- Pab tsim kev noj haus
- Tu pab qhia kev kawm
- Lwm yam: \_\_\_\_\_

### 8) Muaj ib yam tw ua nyuab ntawm neeg ua liaj teb tshiab vim xav pib los sis xav ntxiv mus? (cim thoob huv si yog tag nrho)

- Kev kawm/Kev txawj
- Txais teb av
- Vej xaij/kev ntseeg
- Kev ua luam
- Xai ntes muag/ntxub law haiv neeg
- Kevcai/kev tsim txhawj txog
- Lwm yam: \_\_\_\_\_

**9) Dabtsi nyuab ntam neeg ua liaj teb tshiab vim xav pib los sis xav ntxiv mus sim piav los sis muab yam ntxwv los.**

**10) Dabtsi ua kov Minnesota zoo ua thiab hwj neeg ua liaj teb tshiab?**

**11) Pab qhia peb li ntawm ib txoj kev pab tam si nov, tej yam uas muaj tseg tau siv, qhia Kev txawj, thiab koom ua kev mus tawm neeg ua liaj teb tshiab es koj paub.**

*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.*