2017 Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

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This project is a comprehensive, multi-year process that addresses farmland access challenges facing beginning farmers in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. We will develop an integrated process that assists new, resource-limited farmers in accessing farmland that is a good match for their operation and offers secure terms.

Goals

Objectives

Goal 1: Beginning farmers will be better prepared to seek land and to make smart land acquisition choices.



220 beginning farmers receive farmland access literacy training by 2020.

80 beginning farmers will participate in day-long bootcamps to become better prepared for pursuing their land access goals.

400 beginning farmers and 200 beginning farmer supporters will connect to resources, information, and expertise at booths at key farming conferences in the region and on a webpage that will serve as the online presence for this project.

Goal 2: Beginning farmers will gain secure and affordable access to farmland.



Farmland Access Hub will be developed and launched.

By the end of the grant, at least 36 beginning farmers will be served by the Farmland Access Hub and be provided customized assistance to navigate the process of securing land - either through ownership, long-term lease, or farm transition agreement.

Goal 3: Increase awareness and support for the need for affordable, secure farmland access for new farmers



Conduct an educational campaign that reaches at least 40,000 people in both rural and urban communities.

Hold a Farmland Access Summit with at least 100 stakeholders.

Engage media in telling the story of farmland access

challenges

Share profiles of beginning farmers who are working to access land

Goal 4: Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa organizations work closely and collaboratively on farmland access issues



At least 20 people from 16 organizations, businesses, agencies and farms will work with the Farmland Access Hub and help to recruit and assist new farmers who need land access assistance, organize events, and secure media coverage.

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