



Resources for Minnesota Farmers

Farmers' Legal Action Group, Inc. (FLAG)

6 West Fifth Street, Suite 650

St. Paul, MN 55102-1404

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Email: lawyers@flaginc.org

Website: www.flaginc.org

This list of contacts below is intended to be a resource for family farmers seeking assistance in a variety of areas, including legal services, beginning farmer programs, changes in operation, and lending resources. This is not an exhaustive list for farmers in Minnesota, but a starting point for additional information.

Minnesota Family Farm Law Project

The Minnesota Family Farm Law Project provides legal information and referrals to family farmers. It provides legal representation to eligible farmers.

Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS)

12 Civic Center Plaza, Suite 3000

P.O. Box 3304

Mankato, MN 56002

Mankato office contacts: Gary Petersen, Barry Bartelt

Phone: 507-387-5588 / Toll-Free: 800-247-2299

The Mankato office serves the entire 33-county SMRLS service area.

Minnesota Farm Advocates

Farm Advocates provide one-on-one assistance for Minnesota farmers who face a crisis caused by either a natural disaster or financial problems. They are trained and experienced in agricultural lending practices, mediation, lender negotiations, farm programs, crisis counseling, disaster programs and to recognize the needs for legal and/or social services.

For a list of Advocates, visit the Minnesota Department of Agriculture website at www.mda.state.mn.us or call 1-800-967-AGRI for an Advocate working in your area.

Mediation

The Farmer-Lender Mediation Program brings eligible farmers and creditors together to try to renegotiate, restructure, or resolve farm debt with the help of a trained mediator.

Contact: Mary Nell Preisler, Statewide Mediation Coordinator

Phone: 218-935-5785

Website: www.extension.umn.edu/mediation

Federal Resources – Farm Service Agency (FSA)

FSA is an agency within the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) that administers farm loan and commodity programs. FSA has several offices in Minnesota: county offices, district offices (covering a region of counties), and a state office.

Minnesota State FSA Office

375 Jackson Street, Suite 600 (mailing address: Suite 400)
St. Paul, MN 55101

Contact: Linda Hennen, State Executive Director

Phone: 651-602-7700

Fax: 651-602-7743

Website: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/mn>

Federal Resources – National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

NRCS is an agency within the USDA that works directly with farmers, ranchers, and others to provide technical and financial conservation assistance in order to help people conserve, maintain, and improve natural resources and the environment. NRCS has several offices in Minnesota: county offices, district offices (covering a region of counties), and a state office.

Minnesota State NRCS Office

375 Jackson Street, Suite 600

St. Paul, MN 55101

Contact: Don Baloun, State Conservationist

Phone: 651-602-7900

Fax: 651-602-7914

Website: <http://www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Farm Resources – Beginning Farmers, Changes in Farming Operation, and Farm Management

Land Stewardship Project (LSP) – Twin Cities Office

821 East 35th Street
Suite 200
Minneapolis, MN 55407
Phone: 612-722-6377
Fax: 612-722-6474
Website: landstewardshipproject.org

Contacts for Farm Beginnings Program:

Southeastern MN: Karen Stettler, Program Organizer
Phone: 507-523-3366

Western MN: Amy Bacigalupo, Program Director
Phone: 320-269-2105

Minnesota Food Association

New Immigrant Agriculture Program

14220-B Ostlund Trail North
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047
Phone: 651-433-3676
Fax: 651-433-5050
Website: www.mnfoodassociation.org

Contacts: Glen Hill, Executive Director
Joci Tilsen, Assistant Director

University of Minnesota – Extension Service

U of M - Extension Service has several county and regional offices. For more contact information, visit www.extension.umn.edu or contact Brian Buhr, Department Head for Farm Management and Marketing, at 612-625-0231.

Office of the Dean
240 Coffey Hall
1420 Eckles Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55108
Phone: 612-624-1222

Farm Business Management

Farm Business Management education programs are available through the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU).

Contact: Richard Joerger, System Director for Agriculture and Business Program Coordination
Phone: 651-297-1484
Website: www.mgt.org/fbm/index.htm

Farm Resources – Minnesota Government

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

625 Robert Street North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Phone: 651-201-6000 / Toll-Free: 800-967-2474
Website: www.mda.state.mn.us

Contacts: Kevin Plante, Minnesota Farmer Assistance Network (MFAN) Coordinator
Noi Lee, Ag Marketing and Development

Minnesota Department of Revenue

600 Robert Street North
St. Paul, MN 55146
Phone: 651-556-3000
Website: www.taxes.state.mn.us

AgStar Financial Services

AgStar is a private lending service offering microloans to farmers.

AgStar Financial Services Mankato Office

1921 Premier Drive
P.O. Box 4249
Mankato, MN 56002
Phone: 866-577-1831

Contact: David Krueger, Assistant VP of Rural Capital Network & Director of Minority Lending
Phone: 507-381-5005

Small Business Administration

Small Business Administration (SBA)

Phone: 800-827-5722
<http://www.sba.gov>

SBA Minnesota

100 North Sixth Street
Suite 210-C Butler Square
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Phone: 612-370-2324
Fax: 612-370-2303
www.sba.gov/mn/

Community-Based Organizations

Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women

235 East Roselawn Avenue, Suite 9

Maplewood, MN 55117

Phone: 651-222-0475

Website: <http://aahwmn.org>

Hmong American Partnership

1075 Arcade Street

St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-495-9160

Fax: 651-495-1699

Legal Educational Materials

All materials listed below are available to download for free at www.flaginc.org, or by calling the FLAG office at 651-223-5400 or toll free at 877-860-4349.

Understanding Farmers' Market Rules (*English*)

Kom Totaub Khw Muag Zaub Cov Cai Tswj (*Hmong*)

Entendiendo las Reglas de los Mercados de Campesinos (*Spanish*)

Recordkeeping Instructions and Templates for Small-Scale Fruit and Vegetable Growers (*small fee for copies and mailing*)

Before You Sign on the Dotted Line: Questions for Farmers to Ask Before Entering into a Direct Marketing Agreement

Farmers' Guide to Farm Employees: Federal and Minnesota Labor and Employment Law for Small-Scale Family Farms

Leasing Farm Land in Minnesota

Selling Your Products - Level I / Maug Koj Cov Khoom

Selling Directly to Schools: Tips for Farmers

Harvesting Healthier Food: Safe Food Handling Practices for Hmong Farmers (*slide presentation*)

On-Farm Food Safety Reminders (*poster*)

Farmers' Guide to Organic Contracts

Farmers' Guide to Minnesota Lending Law

Farmers' Guide to Disaster Assistance

Farmers' Guide to GMOs

Managing Debt to Prepare for a Farm Transfer

Making the Most of Your Milk Check: What Dairy Farmers Need to Know about Assignments

Questions to Ask Before You Sign a Poultry Contract

An Introduction to Chapter 12 Bankruptcy: Restructuring the Family Farm

Bankruptcy Reform: Changes to Chapter 12—Family Farm Reorganization

USDA's National Appeals Division Procedures and Practice

Tools for Dairy Farmers in Tough Economic Times