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# Private Pesticide Applicator Recertification in 2026

University of Minnesota Extension

If you plan to use a Restricted Use Pesticide on land or sites for the production of agricultural commodities, reside in the state of Minnesota, and your private pesticide applicator certification expires on March 1, 2026, you need to renew your certification. The cost to renew your certification is \$100, except if you renew by taking the online test (cost = \$120 which includes a \$20 fee for use of the Honorlock system). You can double check your certification status at: [z.umn.edu/PPATcertlookup](http://z.umn.edu/PPATcertlookup). You must be at least 18 years old to recertify (or to obtain your initial certification).

**Option 1:** Attend a

live in-person workshop. Workshops offer a great opportunity to review regulations and safety issues related to pesticide application, as well as provide you with the latest University research on best practices in managing crop pests and integrated pest management. Recertification workshops scheduled for Southwestern MN include (complete list at [www.pat.umn.edu](http://www.pat.umn.edu)):

· **Jan 28**, Pipestone, MN West Community & Technical College-Rm 103: 12:30 - 4:00 pm

· **Jan 29**, Slayton, Murray County 4-H Bldg. Exhibit Hall: 12:30 - 4:00 pm

· **Feb 2**, Marshall, MERIT Center: 12:30 - 4:00 pm

· **Feb 4**, Sleepy Eye,

Sleepy Eye Event Center: 12:30 - 4:00 pm

· **Feb 5**, Albert Lea, Riverland Community College-Rm 124: 12:30 - 4:00 pm

· **Feb 9**, Fairmont, Knights of Columbus: 12:30 - 4:00 pm

· **Feb 17**, Jackson, American Legion: 12:30 - 4:00 pm

· **Feb 18**, Montevideo, American Legion: 12:30 - 4:00 pm

· **Feb 20**, Lamberton, Southwest Research and Outreach Center: 12:30 - 4:00 pm

· **Feb 23**, Worthington, Worthington Event Center: 9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Anyone attending a workshop for recertification MUST bring a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license

or passport AND your Private Pesticide Applicator Certification Card or number. Please note you must attend the entire workshop to meet recertification requirements.

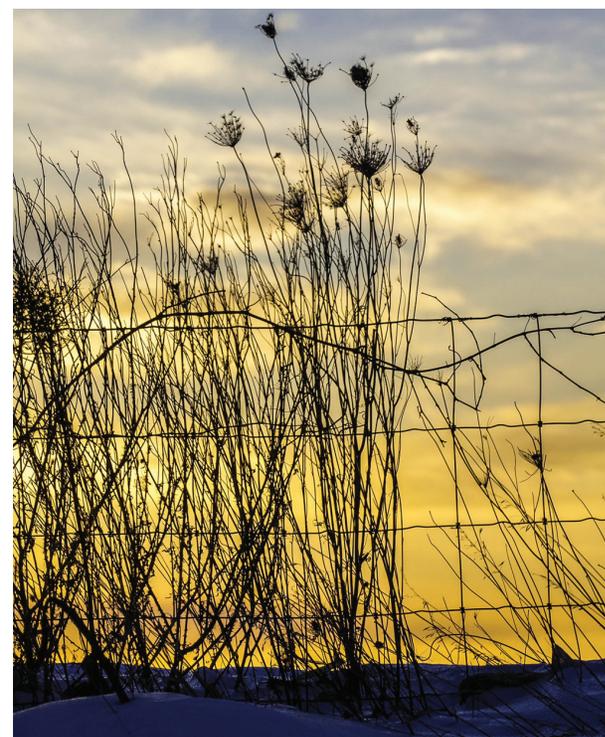
Walk-ins are welcome, but pre-registration (requires credit card payment) is available up to 3 days prior to the event at [www.pat.umn.edu](http://www.pat.umn.edu) (please note cancellation policies). Check-in will start 30 minutes prior to the posted start time. For walk-ins, payment will be collected by checks only, payable to "University of Minnesota".

Before heading out to a workshop, check for any last-minute updates in case a workshop has been canceled or postponed due to a facility issue, illness, or bad weather. If you pre-registered online, check your email for a cancellation notice. Workshop updates will also be posted on the PSEE webpage at [z.umn.edu/2026PPATworkshops](http://z.umn.edu/2026PPATworkshops) or the Farm Information Line at 1-800-232-9077.

Workshop topics this year include Pesticide Law and Regulation Updates, Health Risks and Pesticide Use, Aging on the Farm, Making Herbicides Work Better, and Current Pest Issues and Integrated Pest Management.

**Option 2:** Attend a live, online Zoom workshop. Join Feb 27, 9:00 to 12:30 pm. Space is limited and pre-registration is required. See more details at [www.pat.umn.edu](http://www.pat.umn.edu).

**Option 3:** Do the online, self-paced recertification course. Registration is required for this



recertification option and the course must be 100% completed by the end of the day Feb 28, 2026 to receive recertification credit. See more details at [www.pat.umn.edu](http://www.pat.umn.edu).

**Option 4:** Take the exam online (Proctored – NEW in 2026). Go to [www.pat.umn.edu](http://www.pat.umn.edu) and click on "Exam" under the "Certification" heading for more details and requirements. The study manual (19th edition), is available online at no cost.

**Option 5:** Take the mail-in written exam. Pick up a test packet at most county Extension offices or contact the Worthington Regional Extension Office (507-372-3900, Ext 3901). You may also pick up a hard copy of the study manual for \$10.

Successful completion of any of these options will renew your certification for 3 years. For more

details and requirements on all the options, including payment and cancellation policies, go to: [www.pat.umn.edu](http://www.pat.umn.edu).

If you wish to apply paraquat, additional training is required for certified applicators: See <https://z.umn.edu/paraquat> for more details.

**NOTE:** If you have never been certified or your certification has lapsed, you MUST take the test either online or by mail-in option to receive your certification. After successfully becoming certified, you will be eligible for recertification options when it is time to renew in 3 years.

Please contact Liz Stahl, Extension Educator in Crops (507-372-3900 ext. 3912, or [stah0012@umn.edu](mailto:stah0012@umn.edu)) if you have questions or need further information about these workshops.



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**MINNESOTA AG TODAY**

# When is it time to upgrade your farm equipment?

Garen Paulson,  
Extension educator

Making the decision to trade in an old piece of farm machinery for new equipment is one of the biggest financial calls you'll make. It's a moment of balancing spreadsheet numbers with gut instinct and real-world risk.

The key to knowing when to trade boils down to comparing two costs: the long-term average cost of a new machine versus the yearly expense of keeping your old one.

## The economic test

To get a clear, unbiased look at your options, we use an economic concept called Equivalent Uniform Annual Cost (EUAC).

Think of the EUAC as the average total cost per year to own and operate a machine over its entire life. It takes the huge upfront purchase price, all the future interest, and all the repair bills, adds them up, and spreads them out evenly into one annual payment.

The EUAC is made up of two major costs that pull in opposite directions:

## Capital Recovery (cost of ownership):

This includes de-

preciation (the loss of value) and the interest you pay (or could have earned). This cost is highest when the machine is new.

Annual Operating Costs (cost of running): Primarily driven by repairs and maintenance. This cost is lowest when the machine is new and rises sharply as it ages.

The goal is to find the point at which your repair costs start rising faster than your depreciation slows.

## The trade decision: AMC vs. EUAC

You use the EUAC of the new machine to set the benchmark cost, then compare it with the cost of keeping the old machine for one more year.

## The benchmark (the new machine's cost)

First, calculate the Minimum EUAC for a new, \$250,000 combine. This gives you your target cost for maximum efficiency.

In our example, the lowest long-term annual cost of the new combine is \$33,277.

## The annual test (the old machine's cost)

Next, calculate the Annual Marginal Cost (AMC) of keeping your

\$100,000 used combine for the next 12 months. This is simply the estimated repair bill for that year, plus the estimated loss in trade-in value (depreciation) and the interest on the \$100,000 you could sell it for today.

In our example, the cost of keeping the old combine for one more year is calculated at \$28,000 (repairs, depreciation, and interest). Of course, estimating repair costs is a real challenge.

The economic conclusion is clear: Keep the old machine as long as its cost to run for one more year (\$28,000) is less than the benchmark average cost of the new one (\$33,277).

## Operational and financial checks

The spreadsheet may say "Keep," but a farmer's final decision must always be filtered through two critical real-world factors that the EUAC can't fully measure:

## Operational reality: the downtime factor

Risk: Does the low cost of keeping the old machine (\$28,000) outweigh the risk of a major breakdown during a critical window, such



as harvest?

Cost of failure: The true cost of a combine breaking down isn't just the repair bill; it's the lost yield, rush repair fees, and potential weather damage from being delayed. For farms with tight windows, the reliable uptime of a new machine is a valuable insurance policy. If your farm cannot afford any downtime, you must trade sooner.

## Financial reality: the balance sheet capacity

Cash flow: Even if the

economic figures say the new machine is a smart move, can your farm's cash flow support the down payment and the large monthly loan payments that come with a \$250,000 purchase?

Balance sheet: Taking on significant debt for machinery might compromise your debt-to-equity ratio, which lenders consider when you need money for other purposes, such as buying land. If your balance sheet is already stressed, you must delay the trade.

The optimal trade

time is the moment when the economic risk of replacement plus the cost of failure becomes too high, and your financial position can comfortably support the purchase.

## The final decision

Relying solely on gut feeling (or solely on the repair bill) is risky. Using the EUAC and AMC analyses provides the objective data you need to make the best possible choice.

# Farming into retirement: maximizing write-offs and avoiding the recapture trap

Tonya Knorr, Southwest Minnesota Farm Business Management Association

As the 2025 tax year winds down, many farmers are looking toward retirement. While the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) has brought back 100% bonus depreciation, the transition from active farming (Schedule F) to retirement requires careful navigation to avoid unexpected tax bills.

## 100% bonus depreciation in 2025

Under the new OBBBA rules, 100% bonus depreciation is officially back for property acquired and placed in service after January 19, 2025.

## What qualifies?

Most farm assets with a recovery period of 20 years or less (machinery, equipment, and drainage tile). Even machine sheds can qualify. Gener-



al-purpose sheds are 20-year property, while single-purpose structures (like hog or poultry houses) are 10-year property. Both are eligible for the full 100% write-off.

To claim this, the asset must be

placed in service while you are still an active farmer filing Schedule F.

## Understanding depreciation recapture

The biggest risk in retirement is recapture: when the IRS takes back the tax benefits you took in previous years. This happens when you stop using an asset for business. The recaptured depreciation is taxed as ordinary income immediately following a triggering event.

## What triggers recapture?

Sale or exchange: Selling your equipment or buildings.

Conversion to personal use: Moving your business tractor to your personal tractor for private gardening.

Section 179 trap: If business use drops below 50% during the recovery period, Section 179 benefits must be

recaptured as ordinary income.

## The rental loophole: a better way to retire?

If you aren't ready to sell everything, converting your assets to rental use can defer the tax bill.

No immediate recapture: Simply stopping Schedule F and starting a rental activity (e.g., renting your land and shed to a neighbor) does not trigger immediate recapture.

Ongoing depreciation: You can continue depreciating the property under rental rules (typically on a straight-line basis), keeping your tax liability lower.

Tax deferral: Recapture is only triggered later if you eventually sell the property or convert it to purely personal use.



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## Register now for the 2026-2027 SowBridge Program

University of Minnesota Extension

SowBridge, the webinar series for those who work with sows, boars, and piglets, begins its next program year in early February 2026. Registration is now underway. The series is provided online through the Zoom platform, and each session is recorded for later viewing.

Sarah Schieck Boelke, University of Minnesota Extension swine educator said, "SowBridge provides all participants with the opportunity to hear directly from experts, and to contact those experts following the individual sessions." Sessions are generally scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Central Time.

One exception this year: the fifth session is moved up one week to May 27 to avoid conflicts with World Pork Expo.

Each registration provides access to one Zoom connection per session and all program materials provided by presenters.

The cost for the series is \$200 for the first registration from a farm entity and half the amount for each subsequent registration from the same farm entity.

Registration is due January 15, 2026, to ensure materials are received for the first session. Registration after that time will be accepted too. A flyer with information and registration form is available on Iowa State University's website (<https://www.ipic.iastate.edu/sowbridge.html>).

iastate.edu/sowbridge.html).

SowBridge 2026 session dates and topics are as follows:

- Feb. 4 – The role of specialized people in reducing sow mortality
- March 4 – New World Screwworm – What to look for?
- April 1 – Managing large litters
- May 6 – When to process piglets in relation to survival
- May 27 – Gilt feeding strategies to enhance longevity & productivity
- July 1 – Water quality, biofilms, and water line management
- Aug. 5 – What are cull sow buyers looking for?
- Sept 2 – On-farm semen management – tips and tricks



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# MDA Opens Grants for Urban Agriculture Projects

## Funding supports youth education, economic development, and strengthening community partnerships

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is now accepting applications for Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Urban Agriculture Grants. New this year, the MDA is offering two opportunities under the AGRI Urban Agriculture Grant umbrella:

The AGRI Urban Agriculture Youth Education Grant support projects that establish or expand agriculture-based education programs serving youth.

The AGRI Urban Agriculture Community and Economic Development Grant supports projects that strengthen community development or in-



crease economic vitality through urban agriculture.

“Urban agriculture brings people together around food, learning, and opportunity,” said MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen. “These grants are a great investment in youth education, workforce skills, and strong community partnerships that build economic vitality and help ensure a strong fu-

ture for agriculture in Minnesota.”

Grant funds may be used to purchase equipment, make physical improvements, develop curriculum, provide transportation to Minnesota farms for youth field trips, and more. Full grant eligibility requirements and application details are available on the AGRI Urban Agriculture Grant webpage. Applications for each grant must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026, and include a letter of support demonstrating community support for the proposed project.

The MDA may award up to \$1.93 million in total funding through a competitive review process. Applicants may request between \$5,000 to \$75,000 per project, with a minimum

25% cash match required.

A virtual information session was presented on Thursday, Jan. 15 to provide an overview of each grant program, eligible project expenses, reporting and reimbursement requirements, and the application process, with time for Q&A included at the end. The session was recorded and posted on the Urban Agriculture Grant webpage.

Funding for the AGRI Urban Agriculture Grant is made available through the MDA’s AGRI Program, which administers grants to farmers, agribusinesses, schools, and more throughout Minnesota to advance the state’s agricultural and renewable energy sectors.

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# Changes in payment limits for farm business entities

**Susanne Hinrichs,**  
Extension educator

Summer of 2025, Congress passed a bill titled “An Act to Provide for Reconciliation Pursuant to Title II of H. Con. Res. 14,” commonly referred to as the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBBA). OBBBA has drawn both praise and criticism from various reviewers. One notable change will positively impact farms operating as business entities and the payment limits set by the Farm Service Agency (FSA).

Previously, if your farm operated as a business entity—such as an LLC or an S Corporation—the FSA treated the entity as a single



“person,” capping payments like Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) at \$125,000, regardless of the number of owners or sharehold-

ers. Under the new rules, which generally apply to the 2025 crop year (payments issued after October 1, 2026), members of qualified pass-through

entities (LLCs, corporations, and partnerships) are eligible for separate payment limits, provided each individual meets the “actively engaged in farming” requirement.

#### Example:

The Johnson family has four members actively involved in their farming operation. They previously farmed as a

general partnership—sharing equipment, labor, and profits, but without liability protection for personal assets. Under the old rules, this allowed them to receive multiple FSA payments.

With the changes introduced by OBBBA, the Johnsons could form an LLC, gaining liability protection in case of accidents or business

debt while continuing to share farm profits. Under the new rules, each family member who meets the “actively engaged in farming” requirement will qualify for a separate FSA payment limit.

An important distinction: anyone claiming a separate FSA payment limit must provide labor or management and capital contributions proportional to their ownership share. FSA enforces this through detailed documentation of ownership attribution and farm business records, retaining authority to audit and verify genuine farming activity.

Finally, note that this topic is different from the Farmer Bridge Assistance Program, which has been in the news recently. For more details on that program, visit the USDA website.



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## Registration open for Extension Women in Agriculture Conference

### University of Minnesota Extension

ST. CLOUD, MN. (12/4/2025)—"Building Your Business: Starting Strong, Scaling Smart, Succeeding Strategically" is the theme for the 2026 Extension Women in Agriculture Conference, hosted by University of Minnesota Extension, in partnership with the Minnesota Farm Service Agency.

The conference will bring together farmers and those working in agriculture to learn from speakers and from each other to share practical tools, proven strategies, and inspiring stories for launching and maintaining resilient farms and agribusiness ventures.

The Women in Ag Conference will be held 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on

Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, at The Park Event Center, Waite Park, Minnesota. Optional pre-conference sessions will be offered the day before, Monday, Feb. 2. This one-day conference includes a farmer panel to kick off the morning, interactive break-out sessions, and multiple opportunities to reconnect with friends in the farming community and make new connections. Whether you're a beginner, future, mid-career or seasoned farmer, industry professional, or agriculture enthusiast, this conference is for you. This conference is for everyone who finds the topics interesting — all attendees are welcome regardless of race, gender, or any other protected status. All are welcome!

Susanne Hinrichs, Agricultural Business Management educator with Extension, shares:

"This year's conference will focus on farm business management and production, with topics including cottage food safety, paddock management for grazing livestock, MDA farm grants, building healthy soil, raising small ruminants, farm finances, NRCS programs, and more. We're especially enthused about a creative cover-crop seed activity that Becks Seeds is providing. There's something for everyone!" For more information and to register, visit [z.umn.edu/WAGN2026](http://z.umn.edu/WAGN2026). Early bird rates are available through Jan. 14, 2026.

# Organic row crops day - Lamberton

### Event information

**Date:** Thursday, March 5, 2026

**Time:** 1 - 6:30 p.m. Central time

**Location:** UMN Southwest Research and Outreach Center 23669 130th St. Lamberton, MN 56152

Each event will feature researchers and organic farmers presenting about nutrient management, weed management, marketing, and new or emerging technologies in organic farming. Participants will learn more about organic nutrient management, weed management techniques, and organic crop marketing. There will also be an opportunity to hear from a panel of local organic farmers at each event location. Networking time is built into each event



to allow participants to learn from one another as well.

### Topics and speakers

Organic manure management and updates - Melissa Wilson, University of Minnesota Extension

Fitting alternative and emerging crops into the rotation - Matt Leavitt, University of Minnesota Forever Green Initiative

What's new and what's working in organic row crop production technologies - James Schroepfer, Crop Fertility Services

Organic crop marketing - Richie Breeggemann, Grain Millers

Organic weed management panel - Ryan Batalden, organic farmer and Ryan Miller, University of Minnesota Extension

### Audience

Row crop and livestock farmers who are currently certified organic, using organic practices, are considering transitioning to organic, or are simply interested in learning more about organic row crop and forage production.

### Cost

Free

### Registration

Register by March 1.

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# Join us for “Strategic Farming: Let’s talk crops!” 2026!

University of Minnesota Extension

Pull up a chair and join in or bring the conversation with you as you go about your day. Whatever works best for you, join us this winter to discuss some of the key issues and questions around commodity crop production facing Minnesota farmers today through the University of Minnesota Extension “Strategic Farming: Let’s Talk Crops!” webinar series. This live, online program will provide up-to-date, research-based informa-

tion to help optimize your crop management strategies for 2026.

For more details on the program and to register, go to [z.umn.edu/strategicfarming](http://z.umn.edu/strategicfarming)

Sessions will be held over Zoom, which can be accessed via your computer, phone, or other mobile device, and will run from 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesdays, January 7 through March 25, 2026. Sessions will be very informal and open to all interested. Each session will start with a brief presentation by the discussion leaders for the

day, followed by discussion framed around farmer/participant questions on the topic.

There is no charge to participate, thanks to generous sponsorship from the Minnesota Soybean Research and Promotion Council and the Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council. Not able to attend a day? No problem. Sessions will be recorded and posted for viewing later at your convenience.

We hope you will take this opportunity to join with University of Min-

nesota Extension in discussing crop topics at our “Strategic Farming: Let’s Talk Crops!” program in 2026!

**Dates, topics, and speakers include:**

**January 7:** Soil compaction: Quick to cause, slow to remedy: Jodi DeJong-Hughes, UMN Extension Educator, Water Resources

**January 14:** Edge of field technology for managing nitrate losses: Jeff Strock, Professor and Soil Scientist, UMN Southwest Research and Outreach Center & Brad Carlson, UMN Extension Educator, Water Quality, Crops and Soils

**January 21:** LIVE at the MN Ag Expo: Current priorities for corn

and soybean production: Commodity Group Representatives, Farmer Leadership and UMN Researchers

**January 28:** Farm finance: News from grain markets, FINBIN & USDA data, & the Farm Bill: Frayne Olson, North Dakota State University Crops Economist & Nathan Hulinsky, UMN Extension Educator, Ag Business Management

**February 4:** Protect pollinators and still produce plenty: Dan Cariveau, Associate Professor, UMN Bee Lab

**February 11:** Forecasting tools for crop and pest management: Anthony Hanson, UMN Extension Educator, Integrated Pest Management in Agronomic Crops

& Ryan Miller, UMN Extension Educator, Crops

**February 18:** Cover crops: Addressing key questions, challenges and opportunities: Axel Garcia y Garcia, UMN Sustainable Cropping Systems Specialist, Southwest Research and Outreach Center & Jeff Vetsch, Researcher, UMN Southern Research and Outreach Center

**February 25:** How do we adapt to insects breaking previously reliable management tools? Fei Yang, UMN Extension Corn Entomologist & Bob Koch, UMN Extension Soybean Entomologist

**March 4:** Will corn leaf diseases be a continuing threat to Minnesota corn

**FARMING to Page 16**



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# Talking farmer mental health with University of Minnesota

University of Minnesota Extension

Income for Minnesota farmers continues to decline, an added challenge on top of unpredictable weather events, tariffs and labor shortages. These stressors can take a toll on people working in the agricultural sector.

Extension Educator Emily Krekelberg and Jeff Bender, director of the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH), share what you need to know about farmer mental health.

**Q: What are the most common men-**



Emily Krekelberg and Jeff Bender  
University of Minnesota

**tal health concerns among farmers?**

Bender: There are many uncertainties in farming, including finances, weather, fatigue and commodities

markets. These factors are often compounded over time and become long-term stressors that wear on farmers, their

**HEALTH to Page 12**

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**HEALTH from Page 11**

families and people in their communities. Cultural stoicism also keeps many folks from talking about these stressors. And on top of that, many farmers experience social isolation, and may lack convenient access to mental health services.

**Q: What factors influence farmer mental health?**

Krekelberg: Mental health is shaped by the interaction between personal, occupational and environmental factors. Unpredictable elements like weather events, market volatility and animal disease outbreaks can cause significant psychological strain. At the same time,

a strong social network, access to support services and engagement in health-promoting behaviors — like adequate rest, nutrition and physical activity — can play a direct role in improving mental health.

**Q: What are warning signs that someone in your life might be struggling?**

Krekelberg: Changes in behavior are key indicators — withdrawal from the community, increased irritability or anger, lack of interest in daily tasks and neglect of personal or farm responsibilities. Other warning signs could include sudden uncontrollable emotions, emotional numbness, poor eating or sleeping habits, and

an increase in physical illness. It's important to remember that all of us have bad days, so also consider how long you've been observing these warning signs. If someone seems "off" for more than a few days or weeks, it's worth checking in. Having someone notice and reach out can be a critical step toward getting support.

**Q: What challenges do rural farmers face in accessing the care they need?**

Bender: Farmers face a number of challenges, including inadequate availability of services, limited accessibility of those services, and the low social acceptability for those seeking mental health services. It's

estimated that 62% of rural communities face a shortage of mental health professionals and that half of U.S. counties have no mental health practitioner. The good news is that the situation has improved over the past decade, as additional services have become available.

**Q: How does your work at the University of Minnesota support farmer mental health?**

Bender: At UMASH, we've learned that addressing farmer mental health requires bringing people together. We've gotten involved several times around key events, especially during outbreaks like Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus and Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, which had a major impact on farmers, their families and rural communities. Supporting mental health in these situations takes a team

effort that involves healthcare providers, University of Minnesota Extension, industry partners, veterinarians and others — all of whom have a role to play. By building these networks, we create opportunities for collaboration, engagement and stronger support systems for farmers, their families and rural communities.

Krekelberg: I work on a variety of programs that support farmer mental health. These programs include Farm Couple Retreats to help strengthen relationships and communication, Ambiguous Loss and Farming programs to educate farm families on dealing with ongoing grief and monthly suicide prevention trainings in partnership with NAMI Minnesota.

Emily Krekelberg is an Extension Educator focused on farm safe-

ty and health. She is based out of Extension's regional office in Rochester. Her areas of expertise include livestock management and safety, youth farm safety, farm incident prevention, ambiguous loss in farming, and farmer mental health and suicide prevention.

Jeff Bender is a professor in the School of Public Health and director of the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH). Bender is also a veterinarian and public health practitioner with over 20 years of post-graduate experience on a broad range of research and surveillance projects pertaining to diseases and injuries at the human-animal interface.

Megan Schossow, UMASH's former center coordinator and director of outreach, also contributed



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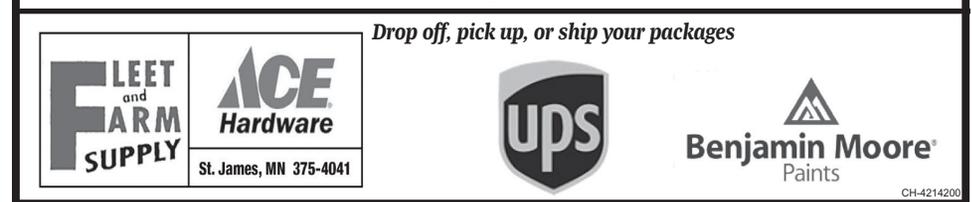
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# University of Minnesota Extension to Host “Flock Foundations and Coop Conversations” Poultry Workshops

University of Minnesota Extension

The University of Minnesota Extension is inviting small flock owners and producers to attend a series of workshops titled “Flock Foundations and Coop Conversations” in early 2026 across Minnesota. The workshops are designed to provide essential knowledge for raising a healthy and productive small flock and to address common poultry care misconceptions.

Participants will connect with University of

Minnesota Extension educators and specialists and other poultry enthusiasts while discussing mobile poultry housing, heritage breed research, and practical biosecurity measures to keep flocks disease-free.

The workshop series



will be held at four locations across Minnesota. Cost to attend is \$10.

Pre-registration is preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. Register here: <https://z.umn.edu/ffccregister>

### Event Details

- Buffalo: January 29, 5-7 p.m.
- Sandstone: February 17, 4-6 p.m.
- Park Rapids: March 12, 5-7 p.m.
- Long Prairie: March 17, 4-6 p.m.

Learn more about small flock poultry at [z.umn.edu/smallpoultry](https://z.umn.edu/smallpoultry)

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## FARMING From Page 10

production? Dean Malvick, UMN Extension Plant Pathologist & Ryan Miller, UMN Extension Educator, Crops

**March 11:** Strategies for winning the war against waterhemp: Debalin Sarangi, UMN Extension Weed Management Agronomist &

Rodrigo Werle, University of Wisconsin Extension Cropping Systems Weed Scientist

**March 18:** Is your water quality hurting your weed control?: Greg Dahl, Adjuvant Development Advisor & Joe Ikley, North Dakota State University Extension

Weed Specialist

**March 25:** Planting the 2026 crop with an eye on investment returns: Seth Naeve, UMN Extension Soybean Specialist & Jeff Coulter, UMN Extension Corn Agronomist.

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# Application Period Opens for Minnesota's 2026 Industrial Hemp Program

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Anyone wanting to grow or process hemp in Minnesota in 2026 can now apply online for a license from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). Both individuals and businesses are required to complete the application process.

Along with the online application form, first-time applicants and authorized representatives need to submit fingerprints and pass a criminal background check. Applications must be submitted by April 30, 2026. Licenses are valid for the 2026 calendar year. The application can be found on the MDA website."

A hemp license is for growing and processing

industrial hemp only. The hemp license is not for the growth or sale of adult-use or medical cannabis. The application is also not intended for the extraction, manufacturing, marketing, or sale of hemp-derived cannabinoid products. Adult-use cannabis and hemp-derived cannabinoid product information can be found on the Office of Cannabis Management website.

Growers and processors need to be aware of the following for 2026:

The extraction of cannabinoids derived from hemp is now regulated by the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM). Those interested in cannabinoid processing will need a license with the OCM starting in 2026.

License fees are changing. The minimum cost of a hemp license is \$400. Each location added to a license for growing or processing is an additional \$250. There will no longer be a \$250 license fee for processors. A 5% license surcharge is again being applied to support the modernization of the MDA's technology systems which will provide better online services and more efficient processing of applications.

All authorized representatives designated by the applicant must pass a criminal history background check prior to the issuance of a license.

Every lot of hemp grown requires pre-harvest THC regulatory

testing. Each official regulatory sample collected by the MDA will cost \$100.

While the deadline to apply or renew is April 30, 2026, those actively growing hemp plants indoors past Dec. 31, 2025, must renew their license before expiration at the end of the year.

Questions about the MDA's Industrial Hemp Program should be sent to [hemp.mda@state.mn.us](mailto:hemp.mda@state.mn.us) or 651-201-6600.



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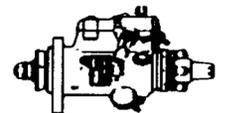


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