

# Minnesota **MEAT** MINUTE

Photo: Pete Bouman

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## Value Added and Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk Grants Open

The Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Value-Added and Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk (MPEM) Grants opened on Tuesday,

March 31. Applications will be accepted until 4 p.m., Wednesday, June 17. The goal of the MPEM grant is to increase sales of Minnesota-raised livestock products by investing in equipment and physical improvements that support processing capacity, market diversification, and market access. The MDA expects to award up to \$2.25 million between the Value-Added and MPEM Grants. Individual awards will range from \$1,000 to \$150,000 and require a cash match. Individuals (including farmers), businesses, agricultural cooperatives, nonprofits, educational institutions, local governments, and Tribal governments are all eligible to apply.

Full eligibility requirements and application details are available on the Meat, Poultry, Egg, and Milk (MPEM) Grant [program webpage](#).

Contact the MDA with questions at [MDA.AGRIGrants@state.mn.us](mailto:MDA.AGRIGrants@state.mn.us) or 651-201-6500.



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.



## University of Minnesota to Host HACCP, Sanitation, and Auditing Workshop

The workshop will be held June 10-11, 2026, at 365 Hacker Hall at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul campus. Topics covered include Pre-Requisite Sanitation programs, Good Manufacturing Practices and Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures, 7 Principles of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), Development of a HACCP plan, Labeling and Allergens, Minnesota State Inspection Program, Food Defense Plans, and more.

Breakfast, refreshments and lunch are included in registration. Cost of registration is \$350 per person. [More information and to register.](#)

## Custom Exempt and Retail Food Handler Renewals

Custom Exempt and Food Handler–Retail License renewal forms will be mailed during the week of May 11, 2026. Please review your information carefully and follow all instructions provided. As a reminder, the U.S. Postal Service has updated its postmarking procedures. Postmarks now reflect the date mail is processed at a regional facility rather than the date it is placed in or collected from a mailbox. As a result, there may be a delay of three or more days before mail receives a postmark. To help ensure your renewal is received on time and to avoid late fees, we recommend mailing your completed forms at least one week prior to the due date.

Food Handler–Retail licenses will be changing to align with the food license modernization legislation that was passed last year. Renewal notices will include instructions for a prorated fee schedule, and the renewed license will be valid from 7/1/2026 through 12/31/2026. A second renewal notice will then be sent in November for the next license period, which will run from 1/1/2027 through 12/31/2027. Additional information about this transition will be provided in an upcoming GovDelivery publication.

Contact us at [dmid.licensing.mda@state.mn.us](mailto:dmid.licensing.mda@state.mn.us) or 651-201-6300 with any licensing questions.

## Retail Exemptions Adjusted Dollar Limitations

The Food Safety and Inspection Service has adjusted the dollar limitations on the amount of meat, poultry, and meat and poultry food products that a retail store can sell to hotels, restaurants, and similar institutions without disqualifying itself for exemption from inspection requirements. Effective May 28, 2026, the value for the dollar limitations on sales to hotels, restaurants, and institutions increased to \$109,600 for meat and meat food products and increased to \$76,100 for poultry and poultry products for the calendar year 2026.

[View the Federal Register online.](#)

## Meat Inspector Calendar No Inspection Dates

- May 25 – Memorial Day
- June 19 – Juneteenth Holiday
- July 3 – July 4 Observed
- September 7 – Labor Day
- November 11 – Veterans Day
- November 26-27 – Thanksgiving Day and Day After
- December 25 – Christmas Day

## Meat, Poultry, and Egg Inspection Staff

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**QUESTIONS?** Call the Dairy and Meat Inspection Division at 651-201-6300