

# [***Minn. Agriculture Dept.: Requests Far Outpace Funding for New Soil Health Grant***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BPW-PH91-DYG2-R10J-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture issued the following news:

Demand is high for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) new ***Soil Health*** Financial Assistance Grant.

The MDA recently awarded 81 grants to individual producers, producer groups, and local governments to purchase or retrofit ***soil health*** equipment. The grants total over $2.35 million.

Interest far outpaced available funding. The MDA received 284 applications for $8.4 million in requests - more than three times the money in this round of grants.

The grants will provide up to 50% cost-share for equipment and parts, up to a cap of $50,000.

"Given the amount of interest in this program, we see Minnesota farmers want to invest in healthy ***soils*** that provide important benefits to water quality and our other natural resources," said MDA Commissioner Thom Petersen. "Specialized equipment and machinery can be a financial barrier for most producers trying to implement ***soil health*** practices. Yet we can offset costs through the ***Soil Health*** Financial Assistance Grant, helping to expand the number of Minnesota farmers and acres engaged in ***soil health*** activities."

The equipment provided by these grants is estimated to be used on more than 141,000 acres annually across Minnesota (SEE MAP). The ***soil health*** practices on those acres include cover cropping, no-till planting, strip tillage, incorporation of perennials into cropping systems, low-disturbance nutrient application, and more. The most common types of equipment noted in the grant awards were no-till drills (21) and strip tillage equipment (12).

This is the first full round of the ***Soil Health*** Financial Assistance Grant. A pilot program in early 2023 awarded $475,000 to 16 individuals and organizations across 15 counties. The pilot program received more than 230 applications for more than $6.5 million - over 13 times the available funding.

Applications for the next round of the ***Soil Health*** Financial Assistance Grant will open in August.

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Original text here: [*https://www.mda.state.mn.us/requests-far-outpace-funding-new-****soil-health****-grant*](https://www.mda.state.mn.us/requests-far-outpace-funding-new-soil-health-grant)

Contact: Allen Sommerfeld, MDA Communications, 651/201-6185, [*Allen.Sommerfeld@state.mn.us*](mailto:Allen.Sommerfeld@state.mn.us)

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