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| FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | Contact: <Name>, (XXX)-XXX-XXXX, email |
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 Climate-Smart Agriculture Funding Available to <X County> Farmers

**NEWS RELEASE**

**January 2, 2025**

<LGU location> — Producers in <X County> are eligible to receive $100 per acre or animal for integrating climate-smart agricultural practices into their farming operations.

Over $9 million is available to producers in eight Minnesota counties over the next two years: (East) Otter Tail, Fillmore, Houston, Kandiyohi, Redwood, Renville, Stevens and Wadena. Landowners can apply for up to 160 acres or animal units per year on up to two farm number bundles, for a maximum of 320 acres or animal units.

An initial signup period in July 2024 resulted in nearly 400 producers receiving funding, providing approximately $6 million in producer payments.

Funding is available through the [Alliance to Advance Climate Smart Agriculture](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.allianceforcsa.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmary.juhl%40state.mn.us%7C6bb9566fedcb40797bcb08dc5edf2ef2%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C0%7C638489559917513322%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=jaOBT5Zh2b5yBrjmU530J4ezXh5PYvgRhZbtY1j4eZM%3D&reserved=0), a national USDA-funded pilot program led by Virginia Tech University (formerly known as the RIPE100 program) to support the adoption of climate-smart practices. During the three-year pilot program, a total of $80 million will be available to partners in Minnesota, Virginia, Arkansas and North Dakota for program administration and direct financial incentives for producers. The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is facilitating the pilot program for Minnesota. Additional state partners include the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), the Minnesota Farmers Union, the Minnesota State Cattlemen’s Association, the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota, Renewing the Countryside, and the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition.

“This funding will help farmers adapt their operations for the future,” said <Name, position – this should be an LGU contact>. “We look forward to partnering with local producers to implement practices that improve soil health, reduce erosion and improve water quality.”

Eligible practices include prescribed grazing, cover crops, no-till, pasture and hay planting, nutrient management and more.

**How to apply:** [Producers can apply directly online here.](https://www.allianceforcsa.org/partners/minnesota/) Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact their local SWCD office <insert contact info here> for assistance with applying. Applications will be accepted starting Jan 2; the deadline to submit applications is Feb. 14.

