

December 5, 2023

Grant Anderson Chairman---AFREC

Bruce Montgomery -- AFREC Coordinator



AFREC: Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council

This program was created by the MN Legislature to ensure that Minnesota farmers and ag professionals have access to high quality fertilizer recommendations and "state of the art" technology.

Since conception in 2009, AFREC has invested over \$13 Million into soil fertility research and education projects.







What Does AFREC Provide?

AFREC's mission is to improve fertilizer efficiency, farm profitability, and Minnesota's agricultural environment

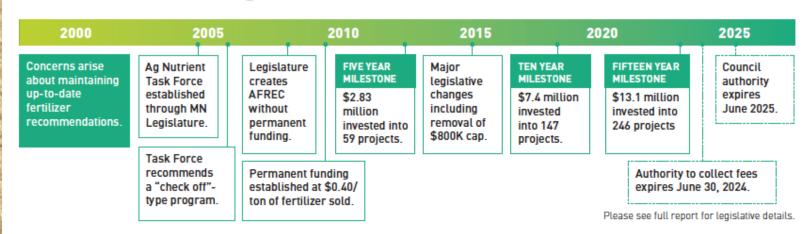
AFREC provides leadership, long-term funding, leveraging, and coordination across farm organizations, industry, academics and state government





AFREC History

Timeline of Legislative Dates and Achievements







How is AFREC Funded?

- 40 cents per ton on all fertilizers sold
- Cost per Cropland Acre? Statewide average is roughly
 6 to 8 cents per acre per year
- Vast majority (95%+) of the funds are provided by fertilizers used for agricultural production
- \$1.0 to \$1.2 Million is commonly available each year
- Competitive grants via Request for Proposals





AFREC Council Membership

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FORMAL MEMBERSHIP

- MN Crop Production Retailers;
- MN Corn Growers Association;
- MN Soybean Growers Association;
- Sugar Beet Growers Industry;
- MN Association of Wheat Growers;
- Potato Growers Industry;
- MN Farm Bureau;
- MN Farmers Union;
- MN Irrigators Association;
- MN Grain and Feed Association;
- MN Independent Crop Consultant Association or CCA

Ex Officios from UM, MDA, and Edible Beans

Factsheet for Legislators MAFREC AFREC Factsheet For Legislators Purpose of AFREC FACTSHEET FOR LEGISLATORS This Document Agricutural Community The fertilizer tonnage Support for AFREC tee that supports AFREC is scheduled to sunset June 30, 2024. In order to Legislators and other key decision makers: continue this important AFREC (Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council) has a sind and mendarism histories since is surablishmons (General) has program, Minnesota What is AFREC? legislators need to take AFREC (Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council) has a rich and productive history since its establishment of the council) has been catefully invested into soil fertility. AFREC stands for the Agricultural Fertilizer Research and had a rich and productive bistory since its enablishment streen years and education has been carefully invested into soil territory. Lablaned actentific findings have urgent action. 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It is imperative that soil fertility research continues conceived, developed, led, and funded by Minnesoes's agricultural and can make an informed The Minnesota Department of Agriculture serves as an important partner to AFREC by collecting and managing important partner to AFREC by collecting and multisaccor important partner are accordance to the property of the pr to advance to keep Pace with an ever-changing world. AFREC was one of the organizations listed below enthusiastically support important partner to AFREC by collecting and managing the tomage fee, providing legal and technical guidance. The tomage fee, providing legal and technical guidance. the normage ree, providing legal and rechnical guidance, and overseting all associated contracts. While the economic newbork on the § 2 million immediately in the providing the providi conceived, developed led, and funded by Minnesoes's agricultural continuing this important program. 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AFREC Accomplishments 2008 through 2023

- Development of unbiased and scientifically defensible Fertilizer Guidelines and associated 4Rs/BMPs
- Huge improvements in fertilizer outreach
- MDA has managed over 250 individual awards, most in partnership with the University of Minnesota
- Serves as the "cornerstone" for all fertility research across the various research councils





Agricultural Community Support for AFREC

- Legislative authority to collect the fees sunsets June 30, 2024;
- All 11 farm organizations strongly support the continuation of the AFREC program;
- Recommend keeping the fee at 40 cents per ton;
- Retain the existing program structure;
- Reauthorize for another 10 years (MN Statutes 18C.70, 18C.71, 18C.80, and 18C.425)

Agricutural Community Support for AFREC

Legislators and other key decisionmakers:

AFREC (Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council) has had a rich and productive history since its establishment fifteen years ago in 2008. Over \$13 million has been carefully invested into soil fertility research and education programs. Unbiased scientific findings have reassured farmers and agricultural professionals that current fertilizer recommendations and associated management practices are highly relevant, and also provide cutting edge technology. These investments can yield huge gains in both farm economics and environmental protection.

AFREC is funded by a 40 cent/ton fee on fertilizer sales, which is collected by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MN Statutes 18C.425). This authority is scheduled to sunset June 30, 2024. Associated Council functions (established in MN Statutes 18C.70,71&80) are scheduled to sunset June 30, 2025.

We are asking for a ten-year extension and keeping the supporting fee at 40 cents/ton.

It is imperative that soil fertility research continues to advance to keep pace with an ever-changing world. AFREC was conceived, developed, led, and funded by Minnesota's agricultural community. The organizations listed below enthusiastically support continuing this important program.

We are asking for a ten-year extension and keeping the supporting fee at 40 cents/ton.







Questions?

Thank You



