

Looking Forward to Brighter Horizons...

When you want help taking your dairy farm business to a new level of sustainability, call us.

There are no cookie-cutter approaches to dairy farm changes. We assess each farm and farming family individually. Our mentor farmers and dairy professionals provide help based upon your goals and vision. This assistance helps you make better decisions for your operation.



You are the expert for your operation. We can help you create the farm business you want and help you make the decisions you need to accomplish your goals.



SUSTAINABLE FARMING ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA

State Office:
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Minnesota Dairy Initiative



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*Helping Build a
Sustainable Future in Dairy*

Sustainable Dairy Farming for Minnesota

The Minnesota Dairy Initiative (MDI) is a Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) funded project designed to help



Cows on grass...the natural way.

dairy farmers in Minnesota successfully produce dairy products into the 21st century. As a participant in MDI, the Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota (SFA) specializes

in assisting dairy farmers interested in sustainable production practices such as management intensive grazing, organics and on-farm dairy processing.

Personnel and funding are available for you to explore and make changes to your business. There are many options for change and your options will be assessed on an individual basis. You can use the resources of MDI to help bring your goals and visions to reality. You may not have the time and energy to undertake these changes alone. SFA, using MDI resources, can help you carry your ambitions forward.

Potential Projects...

- **Goat, sheep or cow** dairy improvement
- **New dairy** startup
- **Add dairy** to an existing non-dairy farm
- **Expand** an existing dairy farm
- Add or improve **intensive rotational grazing**
- Convert a dairy farm to **certified organic**
- Family farm **ownership transfer**
- Create a **business plan** to explore a new idea
- Correct an on-going **production problem** such as herd health, somatic cell count, cropping, milk volume, etc.
- Many other projects can be considered

What You'll Get...

- Resources for your project valued at **greater than \$500.**
- One, or more, **mentor farmers** who've successfully accomplished a similar project on their farm.
- **Professionals**, as needed, to guide you through complicated planning processes.
- Improved **profitability** and herd health/performance.
- Improved **quality of life.**
- Access to **new markets.**

Project Steps

1. Think about and write down goals for your cow, sheep or goat dairy farm.
2. Contact SFA and fill out an MDI application.
3. Submit \$200 for the annual project fee.
4. Work with the SFA-MDI Coordinator to build a team of people who can you create the farm business you want.

Contact:

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