



The Good Acre is the largest food hub in Minnesota, it is our mission to unlock economic opportunity for farmers in our region through a unique combination of personalized support and market development. Please support **HF 4471 / SF 4738** which would provide additional funding needed to expand our LEAFF program.

## About LEAFF - The Local Emergency Assistance Farmer Fund

LEAFF is a program that purchases produce from emerging farmers in Minnesota and then donates it to hunger relief partners serving the Twin Cities and beyond. The core focus of LEAFF is the program's ability to pave a pathway to wholesale readiness with the goal of securing a contract to grow for market opportunities beyond the hunger relief sector, including K-12 farm-to-school programs, higher ed food service, local food retailers, healthcare, and more.

For the 2024 growing season, we received 150 applications. We only have enough funding to accept 63 farmers into the first two tiers. We have 38 farmers in Tier three for a total of commitment of \$359,000. With **HF4471/SF4738** we're seeking an additional \$500K from the state to expand the program to more emerging farmers and pilot spoke sites across the state.

### TIER 1 - WHOLESALE BEGINNINGS

Eligible for up to \$5,000 in sales during the season. This tier is for farmers with growing experience but no wholesale experience, or previous contract fulfillment rates under 60%.

### TIER 2 - SUPPORT TO SCALE

Eligible for up to \$7,500 in sales during the season. This tier is for farmers who have completed level one or previously had at least 90% contract fulfillment rate.

### TIER 3 - RISK MITIGATION

This tier is for farmers with established wholesale contracts and allocates 10% of their overall annual contract as a flex fund.



"The LEAFF program is a great opportunity for farmers to expand our market reach, but also help improve our communities by addressing food insecurity through sustainable agricultural practices."



"LEAFF is a bridge between farmers and markets. It's hard for an individual to find market for my products but through LEAFF, farmers, especially emerging farmers, are supported."



## EXPANDING THE PROGRAM

In 2024 we will be piloting the expansion of LEAFF to three additional sites in Little Falls, Northfield, and Marine On St. Croix to increase access to the program and create efficiencies for farmers that will help keep food in the communities where it's grown.



## FOCUS ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Growing for wholesale is a skill, and we offer farmers in LEAFF support related to food safety, delivery and packaging standards, financial management, business strategy, and connections to organizations that provide culturally tailored technical assistance.



## NOURISHING COMMUNITIES & REDUCING FOOD WASTE

By providing a market for locally grown and culturally relevant crops, LEAFF helps get in-demand produce to food shelves and farmers in the program report reducing on-farm food waste. LEAFF was also named in MPCA's Climate Action Plan as a way to Invest in climate-smart local economies.

OUR PARTNERS



SHARING OUR ROOTS



For more information about LEAFF, visit [TheGoodAcre.org](http://TheGoodAcre.org)  
You can also contact Nikki Warner at [nikki@thegoodacre.org](mailto:nikki@thegoodacre.org)

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