



## Our Mission

Accelerate the expansion of the agricultural economy by empowering expanded uses and markets of agriculturally derived products

## 2025: Ingenuity at Work for Minnesota Agriculture



*Dear AURI partner and ally,*

*I am proud to share AURI's accomplishments and impacts to the ag economy over the last year. Ingenuity is a key value at AURI and underpins our forward-minded approach to the agricultural industry and entrepreneurial community. We also depend on the ingenuity of farmers, small businesses, researchers, and the corporate community as they look to the future.*

*While there have been many challenges across the agricultural economy recently, AURI was created in the 1980s for just this reason. Our goal is to be future-forward and yet commercially focused in the short term, driving new demand opportunities to utilize the commodities that Minnesota's farmers have worked so hard to grow.*

*We remain steadfast in our mission to deliver short-term impacts while balancing long-term opportunities to support the agriculture industry and state economy.*

*Please read on to join us in celebrating our achievements last year, many of which would not have been possible without partners like you. I'm confident together we will continue to find innovative ways to enrich and support a healthy economy and a sustainable future for our farmers.*



**Shannon Schlecht**  
Executive Director

[Read the 2025 Annual Report](#)

[Year-in-Review Podcast](#)

## AURI Impacts: At a Glance



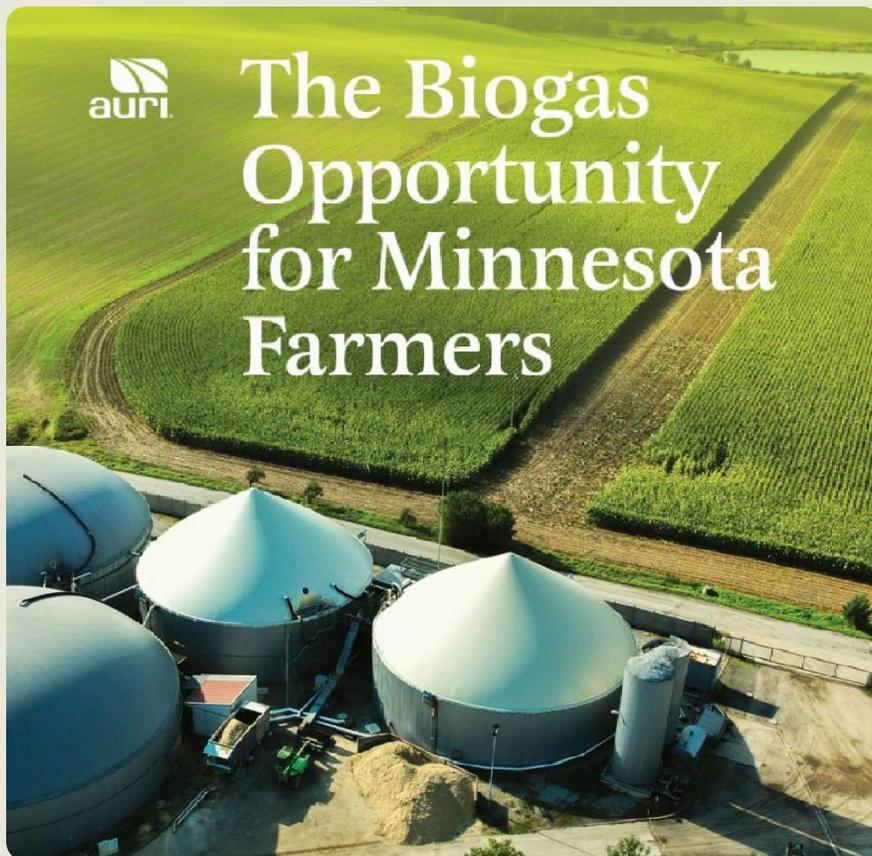
- AURI conducted 196 projects in FY25.
- Clients served over the past five years reported AURI contributed to delivering \$188,964,252 in new annual commercial sales for products utilizing agricultural feedstocks.
- AURI helped businesses derisk \$129,008,229 in capital investment over the most recent five-year period and

helped create and retain 686 jobs across the state and region.

- AURI estimates over \$800 million in economic impacts have occurred or will ensue across the region in sector areas that AURI has been working to broadly advance and support through our public-facing initiatives, in collaboration with many stakeholders.

[Read the 2025 Annual Report](#)

## AURI Tackles Biogas and Minnesota's Role



Biogas momentum built in 2025. With one-time state funding, AURI developed a [producer guide](#) answering key questions around anaerobic digestion and renewable natural gas, convened industry thought leaders to help chart Minnesota's biogas future, supported multiple client projects, and engaged nationally to anticipate market impacts for agriculture. We also hosted a [Renewable Energy Roundtable](#) to align partners and tackle challenges. In the year ahead, AURI will release a

roadmap outlining how Minnesota can support and lead in this growing space.

## Connecting MN's Value Chain Through Learning, Innovation



In FY25, AURI Connects brought Minnesota's value chain together through high-quality events and timely topics that sparked learning and collaboration with audiences across 10 countries and 31 states. From [Webinar Wednesdays](#) to the in-person and virtual [Fields of Innovation](#) series, to signature events like the [Minnesota Renewable Energy Roundtable](#), AURI engaged nearly 700 participants in energy, food, feed, and biobased conversations. Explore upcoming and past [AURI Connects programs](#) to stay connected with AURI's growing innovation community.

## AURI Partnership Explores Protein Crops for Animal Feed



# MBOLD™

MINNESOTA: LEADING THE WAY  
TO THE FUTURE OF FOOD

As part of MBOLD's Protein Catalyst initiative, AURI co-led an animal feed project exploring the opportunities and challenges of using industrial hemp meal, winter camelina meal, and alfalfa protein solubles. Both hemp and winter camelina are well suited to Minnesota conditions, offering low-input production, soil health benefits, and added economic and environmental value within existing crop rotations.

Read More in the [2025 Annual Report!](#)

*Don't Miss Out!*

## **New Grant Opportunities**

[Value-Added Producer Grant Program](#) (USDA)

[Prevention of Wasted Food and Food Rescue Grant](#) (MPCA)

## **Events**

**February 26, 2026**

[Partners in Ag Innovation Conference](#)

**March 18, 2026**

AURI Fields of Innovation Webinar — *Beyond Forage:*  
*Expanding Alfalfa's Potential for Food Innovation* (Part One).  
12–1 p.m. (CST).

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