



## *Our Mission*

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

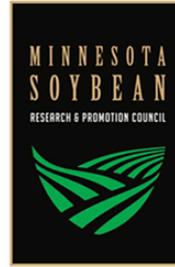
### **Fields of Innovation kicks off 2026 with alfalfa webinar**



Alfalfa's role in agriculture is evolving. Join AURI's Fields of Innovation – **Beyond Forage: Expanding Alfalfa's Potential for Food Innovation** (Part 1) on March 18 from noon to 1 p.m. CT to explore emerging non-forage markets, human-grade food applications, and new protein technologies. This free webinar is designed for growers, processors, and industry stakeholders. Save the date for April 16 (Part 2). Registration is required — secure your spot today.

Register today

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## Spots remain for Food Safety Cost-Share Program



Minnesota food businesses can now access AURI's Food Safety Cost-Share Pilot Program, offering 50% reimbursement (up to \$2,500) for eligible food safety improvements. Funds are limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The program helps companies strengthen compliance, reduce risk, and invest in critical food safety systems. Learn more and apply today.

[Learn more](#)

## MN meat processors eligible for free benchmarking tool



Stronger margins start with better data. AURI is offering Minnesota's local and regional meat processors a confidential, no-cost benchmarking opportunity designed to uncover real operational gains. Participants can compare financial and production performance against industry peers, pinpoint efficiency gaps, and make smarter, data-backed decisions. The program includes a free subscription plus a stipend for qualifying processors. Space is limited. Enroll now to gain new insights about your business.

**Don't Miss Out! [Apply today](#)**

[Read more](#)

## Almost Full! Free food Safety Assessment Program available



Only a few seats remain for AURI's new Food Safety Assessment Pilot Program, which provides free, one-day professional evaluations from a food safety expert with a written assessment providing insights on compliance, risks, and action steps for your business's food safety plan. Additionally, these evaluations will prepare you to take advantage of future food safety improvement funding opportunities!

[Apply today](#)

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## AURI in the News

[Red River Farm Network](#) | [MN Business Reporter](#) |  
[The New Ulm Journal](#)

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*Upcoming*

# AURI Events

**March 18, 2026**

[Beyond Forage: Expanding Alfalfa's Potential for Food Innovation \(Part 1\)](#)

(Fields of Innovation Webinar)

**April 16, 2026**

[Beyond Forage: Expanding Alfalfa's Potential for Feed & Fertilizer \(Part 2\)](#)

(Fields of Innovation Webinar)



*Did you miss an event?*  
**We have you covered.**

Visit and [Subscribe to AURI's YouTube channel](#) to view more on-demand videos from AURI's Webinar Wednesday series, Fields of Innovation events, UnTapped, Minnesota Renewable Energy Roundtable, and more!

[Check out our most recent webinar on the future of lipids in the marketplace.](#)

[Watch Past Webinars](#)

The logo for Ag Innovation News features a stylized leaf icon to the left of the text "Ag Innovation News". The word "Ag" is in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font, "Innovation" is in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font, and "News" is in a bold, lowercase sans-serif font.

**Ag Innovation News**

The newspaper is designed to make research and technical information easy to read and enjoyable for the average user.

From an initial subscription list of 4,000, it has grown to reach more than 12,000 print and online readers every quarter, covering AURI's work in the development of new food products, renewable energy, biobased products and new uses for agricultural coproducts.

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*Ag Innovation News*  
**PODCAST**

The Ag Innovation News podcast features Jamie Dickerman of Red River Farm Network having in-depth conversations with some of the brightest minds and most recognizable personalities in Minnesota's value-added agriculture ecosystem.

[Check out our latest interview about SoyFoam with MN Soybean's Mike Youngerberg and Dave Garlie of Cross Plains Solutions.](#)



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