

# AFREC Factsheet For Legislators

## What is AFREC?

AFREC stands for the Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council. The program, which began in 2008, is tasked with improving fertilizer efficiency, farm profitability, and Minnesota's environment through soil fertility research, technology development, and education.

The council is made up of Minnesota farmers and crop advisors from each of the major agricultural groups in the state. The council's funding comes from a 40 cent per ton fee on fertilizer sales in Minnesota. Farmers in the state invest around five cents per cropland acre per year. This raises over \$1 million each year.

This program was conceived, designed, funded, and managed with the support of the agricultural community. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture serves as an important partner to AFREC by collecting and managing the tonnage fee, providing legal and technical guidance, and overseeing all associated contracts. While the economic payback on the \$13 million investment is impressive, the environmental benefits to Minnesota's water resources are undeniable. The agricultural community is unified in the continuation of the AFREC program.



Agricultural Fertilizer Research & Education Council



## AFREC at a Glance

**~\$1,000,000**

raised per year for soil fertility and water quality research, technology and education.

**40¢**

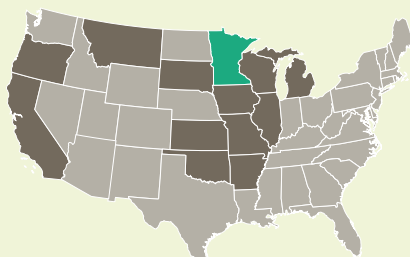
per ton fee on fertilizer sales in Minnesota funds AFREC.

**5¢**

per acre per year net cost to farmers for AFREC program.

**\$13  
MILLION**

invested in soil fertility research and education in Minnesota since 2008.



Minnesota is one of 14 states with a fee on fertilizer sales to help fund soil fertility research.

**246  
PROJECTS  
FUNDED  
SINCE 2008**

## Purpose of This Document

The fertilizer tonnage fee that supports AFREC is scheduled to sunset June 30, 2024. In order to continue this important program, Minnesota legislators need to take urgent action.

The Minnesota agriculture community is unified in support of AFREC and highly recommends that the fee and overall structure stay the same and the program be extended for another 10 years.

This factsheet and the companion detailed report are provided so legislators and other key decision makers have a clear understanding of the value of the AFREC program and can make an informed decision.

Learn more at:  
[MNsoilFertility.com/legislative](http://MNsoilFertility.com/legislative)

"AFREC funding supports science-based research in Minnesota and is very valuable to the ag community. Program outcomes help farmers adopt the best soil fertility practices and keeps Minnesota agriculture strong and competitive."



Thom Petersen,  
Commissioner,  
Minnesota Department  
of Agriculture



## Agricultural 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.

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.*

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