



# 2024 Legislative Priorities Grow With Us

**The Minnesota Soybean Growers Association (MSGA) is the nation's longest-running state soybean advocacy group. We've earned results at the Capitol for six decades because we are farmer-led and proactive in working with both parties throughout the Legislature to promote farm-friendly legislation.**

**This legislative session, we're working to build on – and protect – our policy wins from 2023 while continuing to improve the outlook for Minnesota's nearly 28,000 soybean farmers, who support an industry that contributes over \$9.5 billion in economic impact across our state.**

## Biodiesel

For more than two decades, Minnesota has stayed ahead of the biofuels curve. While demand continues growing, biodiesel in Minnesota adds nearly 5,400 jobs and contributes nearly \$1.7 billion toward the state's economy while also reducing our carbon footprint. MSGA's lobbying team works hard each session to build bipartisan support and ensure biofuels are protected and given a chance to thrive in the marketplace.

This session, MSGA will continue stressing to elected officials and the Walz administration that biodiesel is providing timely solutions, both economically and environmentally – right here, right now. MSGA will also continue underscoring the need for Low Carbon Fuel Standard policies that promote biodiesel, which has been proven to reduce carbon for 20 years. We'll also further promote biodiesel as part of the growing sustainable aviation market, which is dependent upon ag-based fuels to lower carbon emissions.

## Taxes

While we've seen tax relief in recent years, there's still more work to be done at the Legislature. MSGA will continue to advocate rolling back the tax burden shouldered by Minnesota farmers. By simplifying the tax code for Minnesota farmers, we can help assist the next generation of farmers in land transition and help rural economies throughout greater Minnesota.

With the state enjoying another sizable budget surplus in 2024, MSGA will take the next steps in advocating to alleviate the heavy tax burden that Minnesota farmers carry.

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## Deer Depredation

In 2023, MSGA sought a bill that would provide assistance for Minnesota farmers whose fields and feed storage areas have been decimated by deer. Farmers from across the state have reported substantial yield losses and damages totaling tens of thousands of dollars. Unfortunately, we didn't see this legislation passed. But this session, our lobbyists and farmer directors will continue working with lawmakers and Department of Natural Resources leaders to underscore the need to continue addressing the problem. We're also seeking aid for affected farmers and resources for preventing animal disease outbreaks, similar to programs the DNR created for producers whose fields have been damaged by wolves and elk.

## Protecting Crop Inputs

The cost of production continues rising for Minnesota farmers. Growers need all the tools at their disposal to safeguard against yield-robbing pests and diseases. MSGA will work with lawmakers to protect crop inputs and prevent any unnecessary restrictions on the use of agriculture chemicals.

In past sessions, MSGA ensured that farmers weren't saddled with unnecessary pesticide fee increases. We also joined the farm community and other ag groups in preventing the passage of legislation that would have allowed cities to enact their own pesticide regulations. In 2023, we helped prevent additional seed treatment regulations. Once again, we'll have an active presence at Capitol to voice opposition to any similar bills offered this session.

## Transportation and Rural Infrastructure

With the potential for a bonding bill in place, MSGA is encouraging elected officials to support expanding rural infrastructure – roads, bridges, broadband, etc. – throughout greater Minnesota. Grower leaders will also advocate that farming communities receive the most bang for their buck by creating a robust system to handle heavier trucks and move our diverse ag economy forward.

Producers depend on transportation and up-to-date infrastructure to move their products from the farm gate to the end user. MSGA continues promoting more grain exports via the Port of Duluth-Superior to markets in Europe and North Africa. MSGA will continue engaging with lawmakers on the importance of diversifying agriculture supply chains and incentivizing new routes to bring our goods to market.

## Keeping Farmers on the Land

Land pressures from legislation passed will continue to drive farmland values up, making it harder for young and emerging farmers to gain access – and for existing farmers to maintain operations. In this session, MSGA will strive to keep farmers farming on the land for generations to come and defend against unfavorable regulations that would harm our farm families.



### About Us

Established by soybean farmers in 1962, MSGA is nonpartisan and monitors government policies to improve the profitability of soybean growers throughout Minnesota.

### Fighting to Protect Your Farm, Family & Future

Promoting and defending farm-friendly policy requires heavy lifting. Less than 10% of Minnesota's nearly 28,000 soybean farmers are active in MSGA. But we just don't need farmer support: We also encourage elected officials and industry professionals to join MSGA. Our future depends on it.

### How to Join

Membership levels start at just \$20 per year, while a 3-year membership costs less than 25 cents per day and offers a bevy of benefits. To learn more about our membership options, benefits and to sign up, visit [mnsoybean.org/invest](https://mnsoybean.org/invest).

### Bean Informed

Want to stay up to date on the latest news affecting Minnesota soybean farmers? MSGA's official publication, *Soybean Business*, is the premier source for relevant information that matters to our producers. To subscribe for free to our bimonthly magazine, contact Managing Editor Drew Lyon at [drew@mnsoybean.com](mailto:drew@mnsoybean.com).

### Help Us Help You

Want to meet with our team to learn more about our 2024 policy priorities? Interested in an on-farm visit? We'd love to chat and host you! For more information, contact MSGA Executive Director Joe Smentek at [jsmentek@mnsoybean.com](mailto:jsmentek@mnsoybean.com) or President Bob Worth at 507-530-2541.