THE MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND OUTREACH CENTER

The Minnesota Agricultural Research and Outreach Center is considerably more than its name implies. The Center’s mission is to organize and support not only University of Minnesota scientists who conduct research on the production, processing, marketing, distribution, and quality of food and other agricultural products, but also those who study ways to improve forests and forest products, human nutrition, family and community life, recreation and tourism, and overall environmental quality in Minnesota.

Although the Center’s research projects range from the very basic to the highly applied, all are mission oriented. Above all else, the emphasis is on high-quality research that meets the long- and short-term needs of Minnesota and its people.

The Minnesota Agricultural Research and Outreach Center was established by the state legislature in 1885, two years before Congress allocated funds to set up agricultural Research and Outreach Centers at land grant universities in each of the states. As an integral component of the three-part function of the land grant university system - teaching, research, extension - the Agricultural Research and Outreach Center has contributed greatly to the development of state, national, and world agriculture, forestry and related industries. It has improved rural life, and is serving the United States and other countries through programs in food, fiber, and other areas basic to individual and family life.

Where is Center research conducted?

The Center is part of the University of Minnesota’s College of Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Sciences. Headquartered on the University’s St. Paul campus, it conducts much of its research through faculty in the Colleges of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences, Human Ecology, Veterinary Medicine, and Biological Sciences.

Independent and cooperative research at other locations throughout Minnesota contribute greatly to the success of the Center’s coordinated research programs. The branch Research and Outreach Centers at Crookston, Grand Rapids, Lamberton, Morris and Waseca provide facilities for research under local climatic and soil conditions. Branch centers are staffed with scientists from a variety of specialized fields, and each center has its own superintendent and advisory committee. Umore Park is actually an extension of the St. Paul campus and scientists from the St. Paul campus supervise the research conducted there. Other, smaller facilities play important roles in the Center’s research programs as well. Center scientists conduct research near Chaska at the Horticultural Research Center and the Landscape Arboretum, units of the Department of Horticultural Science and Landscape Architecture. The Sand Plain Experimental Farm, located near Becker, is the site of research on crop irrigation systems, greenhouses, and fish culture facilities that utilize waste heat from power generating plants. The primary facility for forestry research other than the St. Paul campus is the Cloquet Forestry Center, administered by the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences.