

# UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

*Twin Cities Campus*

*Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture  
College of Food, Agricultural and  
Natural Resource Sciences  
University of Minnesota Extension*

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## UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL AND NATURAL RESOURCE SCIENCES

### THE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE ENDOWED CHAIR IN AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

#### REQUEST FOR 2024 APPLICATIONS

##### **Title: Endowed Chair in Agricultural Systems**

The University of Minnesota proudly announces the twelfth recruitment for the School of Agriculture Endowed Chair in Agricultural Systems. The innovative Chair, which is supported by a \$3.2 million endowment, embodies a dynamic, interactive, multi-disciplinary approach to agricultural issues. From its location in one of the most prestigious colleges in the country, the Chair represents a strategic opportunity to explore and influence the future of Minnesota agriculture at a time when it must increasingly respond to both global markets and local opportunities.

**Duties:** The Chair is designed to play the role of catalyst for innovation and progress on sustainable agricultural issues within the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS) and throughout the State of Minnesota. Duties may include engaging citizens of the State in a dialogue on agricultural issues; helping facilitate interaction among industry, government, academic institutions, non-profits, and farmers; and conducting seminars and guest lectures, research, writing, or other scholarly activities on those issues.

**Focus:** The focus of the Chair will be on the role of agriculture in developing sustainable communities, landscapes, and food systems. The position provides great latitude for candidates to define their particular activities within this context, but it is intended to address:

- ❖ The long-term societal value of rural or urban communities and healthy agricultural landscapes
- ❖ Identification of current and potential relationships between agriculture, rural and urban communities, landscapes, and food systems
- ❖ Models for sustainable agricultural systems at the local level in an international context

Topics may include, but are not limited to: changing demographics in rural areas; local foods and farmer's markets; urban agriculture; season extension; biomass energy and bio-based products; issues revolving around climate change; or environmental impacts of farming systems.

Qualifications: Candidates must have:

- ❖ A record of significant experience and demonstrated leadership in agriculture, community development, or related fields; excellent communication skills; and a broad systems perspective of agriculture and rural development.
- ❖ A demonstrated interest in the issues confronting agriculture and an expressed vision for the future of communities are also desired.

Consideration will also be given to appointment of project teams to fill the Chair. Candidates from the academic, agribusiness, farming, government, and non-profit sectors are encouraged to apply. There are no formal degree requirements for the position.

Terms: The position will be a non-tenure track senior fellow position with the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences with a flexible appointment of a few weeks or up to two years in duration. Appointed individuals will be housed in the appropriate academic department. Salary and courtesy faculty rank (if applicable) are commensurate with qualifications and experience. The position may be used to match sabbatical opportunities from home institutions and organizations.

Application: For the appointment, to begin in Summer, Fall or Winter 2024-2025, applications should be received by **Thursday, July 25, 2024**. The opportunity will be re-announced as funding availability and chair vacancies occur.

Applicants should send a brief proposal (2-4 pages) describing reasons for interest in the Chair, initial thoughts on what accomplishments the applicant would hope to achieve if selected for the position, and salary and support requests. A letter of application, a resume or curriculum vitae, and the names and addresses of three references should accompany the proposal.

Applicants and inquiries should be directed to:

Helene Murray, Chair, Search Committee  
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Sustainable agriculture strives for a balance between a healthy environment, profitability for farmers, and thriving rural communities for generations to come. A listing of previous chair holders and their work may be found at [www.misa.umn.edu](http://www.misa.umn.edu)

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