

ST. PAUL SUCCESSES

2025 LEGISLATIVE HIGHLIGHTS



MSGA HELPED MOVE AG POLICY IN 2025

Crafting, negotiating and passing a bipartisan budget in a divided Legislature is never easy.

But the Minnesota Legislature was up to the task. Lawmakers completed their work, holding a special session in June to sign off on a state budget, a few weeks after the session formally adjourned to avoid a state shutdown. In the end lawmakers reached a compromise, passing a \$66 billion budget, an 8% decrease from the last biennial budget and one that cuts a projected \$6 billion deficit for future years.

The Minnesota Soybean Growers Association (MSGA) celebrated numerous legislative successes, including protecting crop inputs, but unfinished business remains on several issues, from biofuels to taxes, heading into the 2026 session.

FUNDING MDA PROGRAMS

Ensuring the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) remains fully funded in the biennial budget is vital toward sustaining Minnesota's farm economy. MDA's budget funds soil health initiatives, protects against noxious weeds, supports the Agriculture Research, Education, Extension, And Technology Transfer (AGREETT) program to advance research; provides critical farm safety support, helps boost international marketing efforts and provides funding for grants for ag organizations.

This session, MSGA directors and our lobbying team led the way and worked across the aisle with lawmakers and MDA to bring soybean farmers' interests to the forefront.

CROP INPUT PROTECTION

Following a strong advocacy push by MSGA, the 2025 Minnesota legislative special session did not include any new restrictions or bans on pesticides, fertilizers or seeds. While some lawmakers pushed for stronger regulations on pesticide-treated seeds and groundwater contamination, the final bill maintained existing agricultural policies without imposing additional limitations.

**FLIP PAGE FOR MORE POLICY WINS AND
INFORMATION ON ENGAGING WITH MSGA!**

KEEPING FARMERS ON THE LAND

Land pressures from legislation continue to inflate farmland values, making it harder for emerging farmers to gain access – and for existing farmers to maintain operations. Other policies have placed workplace restrictions that increase labor costs. Through proactive measures, including our annual Hill Visits, MSGA defended against unfavorable policies that harm our farm families and limit profitability.

BIOFUELS

Improving and stabilizing biofuels market was a top MSGA priority in 2025, topped by proposing improvements to the sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) tax incentive program. Executive Director Joe Smentek testified in multiple hearings about not just the need to extend and expand the program, but even more importantly, explained how stronger incentives for SAF production will increase demand. While the expanded language didn't make its way into the budget, saving the carry forward language in the program allows MSGA to continue promoting policies that advance the SAF market in the years ahead.

ABOUT MSGA

Established by soybean farmers in 1962, MSGA is nonpartisan and monitors government policies to improve the profitability of our members and the nearly 26,000 soybean growers throughout Minnesota.

HOW TO JOIN

Membership levels start at just \$20 per year for students, 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.



STAY INFORMED

Want to stay up to date on the latest news affecting Minnesotavv soybean farmers throughout the year? MSGA's official publication, Soybean Business, is the premier source for relevant information that matters to producers and industry leaders. To subscribe for free to our award-winning bimonthly magazine, contact Managing Editor Drew Lyon at drew@mnsoybean.com.



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