



MIDWESTERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Building a Rural Development Ecosystem

AURI MISSION & VISION



VISION

- We are relentless in our focus to generate impact for the Minnesota agricultural economy. We collaborate globally, act regionally, and are known as an economic catalyst. This will enable us to deliver \$500 million in economic activity for Minnesota by 2026.

MISSION

- Accelerate the expansion of the agricultural economy by empowering expanded uses and markets of agriculturally derived products.

PROGRAMS & PRIORITY AREAS



Commercialization Services

Private / 1:1 Assistance; Business development, TEA, feasibility, product formulation, technology assessments, early prototype development

Public Initiatives

Addresses knowledge gaps, explores opportunities and challenges facing value-added agricultural innovation and eases the commercialization of new technologies and products.

AURI Connects

Industry Convenings: Webinar Wednesdays, Fields of Innovation, Untapped, MN Renewable Energy Roundtable; Public dissemination of research projects and reports

Food Ingredients

Scaling Up Food Companies

Biomaterials & Biochemicals

Coproduct Valorization

Biogas & Anaerobic Digestion

STAFF & FACILITIES



Our Team

Multidisciplinary staff: scientists, engineers, and business development directors delivering technical and commercialization expertise across food, biofuels, biobased products, and coproducts.



Laboratories

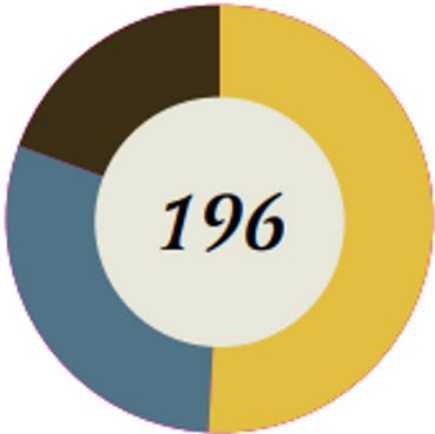
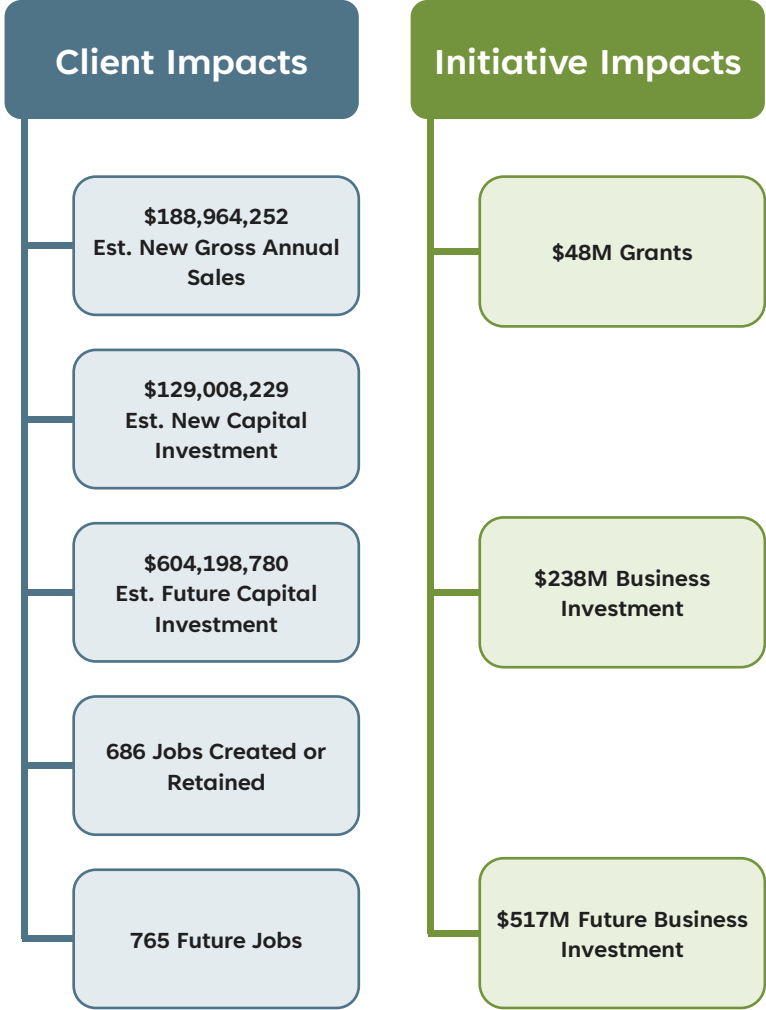
Marshall lab (coproducts, fats and oils, biomass) and Waseca lab (biomass processing, grain processing, product formulation, pilot-scale fermentation and anaerobic digestion).



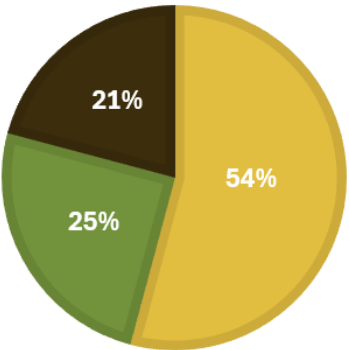
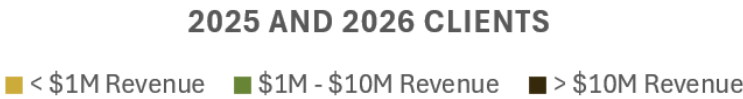
Locations

Offices in Crookston and Saint Paul plus the Marshall and Waseca labs give AURI statewide reach and direct access to Minnesota's ag and food industry.

IMPACTS



4%
Out-of-State Clients



“.....

AURI has covered many bases in helping us develop as a company, from lab testing services to business development and introductions. AURI's technical team is top-notch, providing us with lab services for tests we do not have in-house and making technical recommendations based on our lab results.”

EUGENE ALVEY
CEO, Swinergy

INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS: FOOD



Right-Sized Comanufacturing

AURI has investigated Minnesota's comanufacturing gap — the shortage of small-batch, flexible production capacity that stalls emerging food companies between pilot batches and full commercial runs.

- Created a toolkit for food companies as they scale and begin interfacing with comanufacturers.
- Defined "right-sized" equipment and facility models for smaller minimum order quantities.
- Currently conducting outreach to the economic development community and food entrepreneurs to close the scale-up gap. Findings and facility concepts shared through 2026–2027.

Food Safety Initiatives

AURI pairs hands-on food safety guidance with a statewide effort to find and close compliance gaps that keep small and mid-sized processors out of larger markets.

- Conducted an ecosystem-wide needs assessment to understand food safety gaps.
- Delivered technical guidance on plans, labeling, testing and preventive controls
- Ran a successful pilot for food safety audits to pressure-test facility readiness.
- Offer cost-share grants so producers can act on audit findings

INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS: BIOINDUSTRIAL



Biogas Roadmap

AURI is building Minnesota's first Biogas Roadmap — turning agricultural and food-processing feedstocks into energy, nutrients and rural economic growth.

- Move Minnesota from feasibility to execution at scale
- Identify best-fit pathways by feedstock, geography and readiness
- Sequence near-term, medium and long-term deployment horizons
- Align AURI capacity for project development and partner matchmaking

Public rollout late 2026.

Nutrient Recovery

AURI is partnering with UMN researchers, the MN Department of Agriculture and USDA-NRCS to investigate the efficient recovery and recycling of nutrients, which will help improve water quality, enhance agricultural sustainability and develop the fertilizer industry.

- Reduce excess nutrients in feed ingredients
- Recover nutrients from agricultural processing waste streams
- Develop recommendations for a local green fertilizers

Timeline: Final deliverables in August 2027



THANK YOU

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