



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

Making a Difference in Dakota County
Connecting Community Needs with University Resources



November 6, 2025



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Creating healthier families: 92,323 people served



Minnesota 4-H reaches new youth



Promoting responsible lawn and garden practices



Strengthening Minnesota's food and agriculture



Supporting community leadership, economic development and tourism



Protecting natural resources, including soil, water and woodlands



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Memorandum of Agreement History

Year	MOA Amount	FTE	Program(s)
Proposed 2026	\$477,625	4.75	4-H Youth Development and Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program
2025	\$483,750	4.75 4 Interns	4-H Youth Development and Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program
2024	\$431,677	4.75 4 Interns	4-H Youth Development and Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program
2023	\$421,637	4.75 4 Interns	4-H Youth Development and Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program
2022	\$412,796	4.75 4 Interns	4-H Youth Development and Extension Master Gardener Volunteer Program



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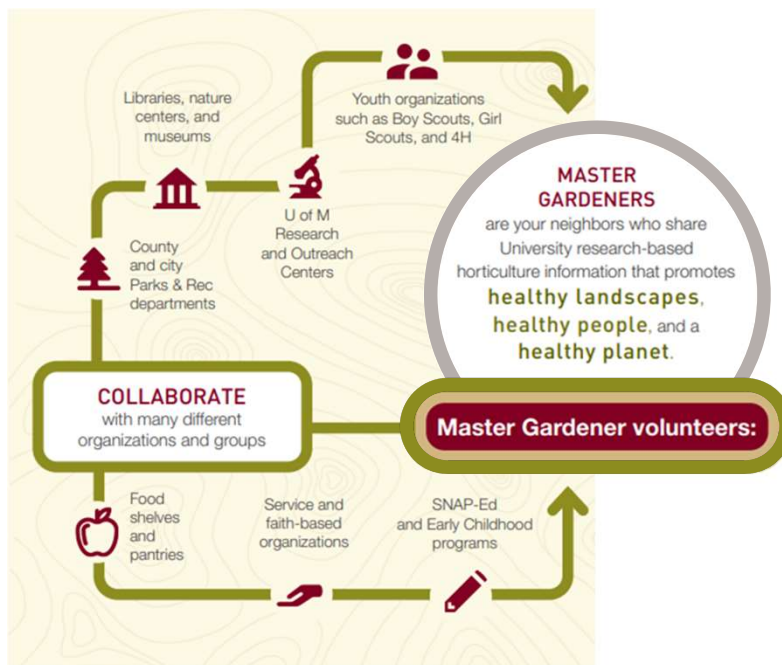


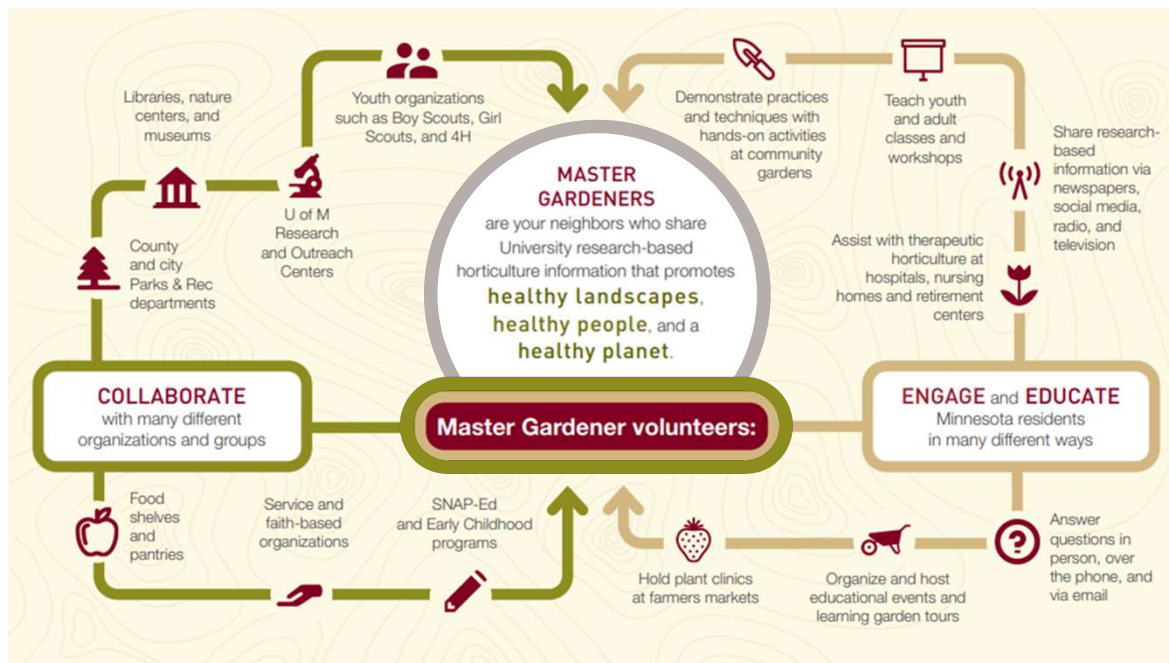
Dakota County Master Gardener Volunteer Program Update

Jennifer Grilliot, Dakota County Extension
Master Gardener Volunteer Program Coordinator

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Recent Program Growth

Dakota County
Master Gardeners

**New Members
2025**

37

Dakota County
Master Gardeners

**Total Number of
Members 2025**

210

Dakota County
Master Gardeners

**2024 Volunteer
Hours valued at
\$556,792.56**

14,591



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Recent Outcomes and Impacts



Partnerships



Educational Outreach



Fundraising



Garden Projects



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Partnerships

Dakota County Master Gardeners collaborated with over **20** community partners in the past year including Gideon Pond Elementary in Burnsville.



Classroom learning



Hands on learning



Harvest time



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Educational Outreach

Dakota County Master Gardeners answered **1000+** questions from residents during “Ask A Master Gardener” tabling events in 2024.



Ask A Master Gardener



GardenBuzz Monthly
Online Publication



Speaker Requests



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Fundraising

Dakota County Master Gardeners raised **\$14,887** (2025) to directly support community projects.



Spring Plant Sale



Let's Get Growing Event



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Garden Projects

Dakota County Master Gardener volunteers supported **9** garden projects and donated **2500** pounds of produce in 2024.



St. Paul Trial Garden



Community of Saints School Garden



Dodge Nature Center Teaching Garden



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Dakota County 4-H Youth Development Program Update

Jessica Beissel, Dakota County Extension Educator
Kirsten Pederson, Dakota County Extension Educator
Rachel Rezac, Dakota County Extension Educator
Kris Vatter, Dakota County Extension Educator



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Dakota County 4-H: Leading with Excellence



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Program Overview

2,444 4-H members

15 clubs meeting regularly

238 screened adult volunteers

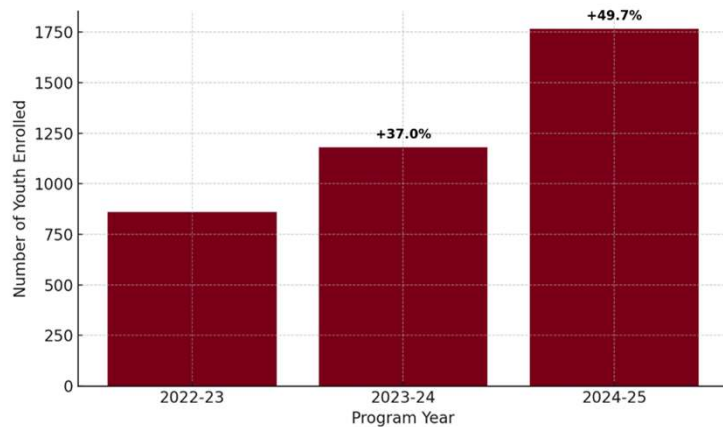


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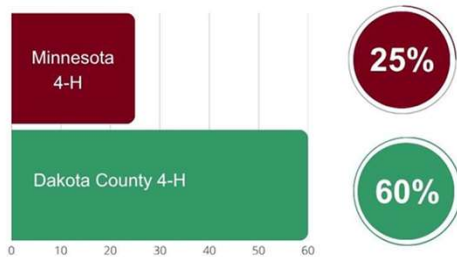
Site-Based Club Enrollment



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First Generation Enrollment



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Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders Today



2025 Summer Interns

Cheney, University of Minnesota
Kimberly, University of Minnesota
Breanne, North Central University



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Key Award



"4-H taught me what responsibility looks like—not just doing the work, but showing up for others, being accountable, and taking pride in every step. That lesson followed me far beyond the barn.

It gave me the confidence to take on challenges in the world of science and technology, eventually working alongside researchers from Harvard and MIT on quantum computing projects—research that has since moved forward with the Department of Defense. What I learned in 4-H made me believe I belonged in those rooms—that curiosity, commitment, and character matter, no matter where you come from."

- Dylan T., 2025 Key Award Recipient

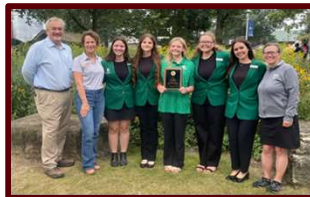


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Dakota County 4-H Empowers Youth to be Changemakers and Community Leaders

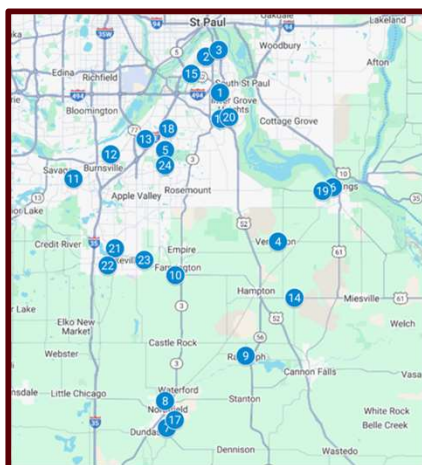


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Where are 4-H programs?



- Traditional Clubs
- Site-based Clubs
- Partnerships
- Youth Teaching Youth
- Library Collaborations



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Looking Ahead

- Offering Creative Writing Series to Homeschool Audience
- Project Workshops
- New Community Collaborations
- Growing New Partnerships
- Curriculum Development with County and Regional Partners



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