Region 9, MN
BDO Zone Rating: **'A'**

- ✓ **Rating Parameters:** 1,400,000 tons/year of corn stover at $95-$108/ bone-dry-ton.
- ✓ **Main assets:** One of the highest yielding corn producing areas in the country, and no competition.
- ✓ **Low Supplier Risk:** Large number of farms create high redundancy and low risk of production disruptions.
- ✓ **Proximity to markets:** Sound road infrastructure in proximity to Minneapolis–Saint Paul metro area.

View and download Region Nine BDO Zone Rating **here**.

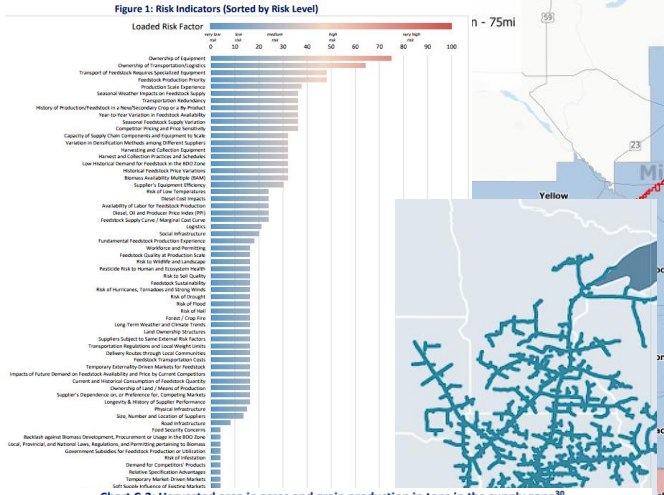
Bioeconomy Development Opportunity Zone Risk Rating

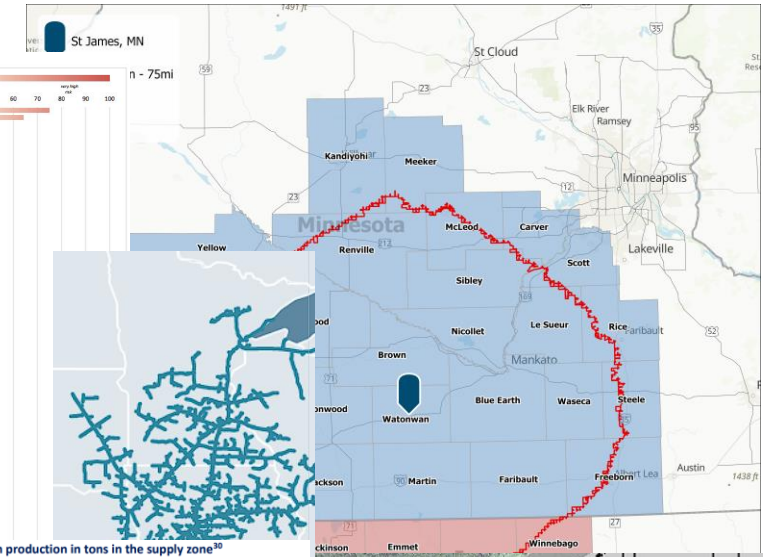
'A'

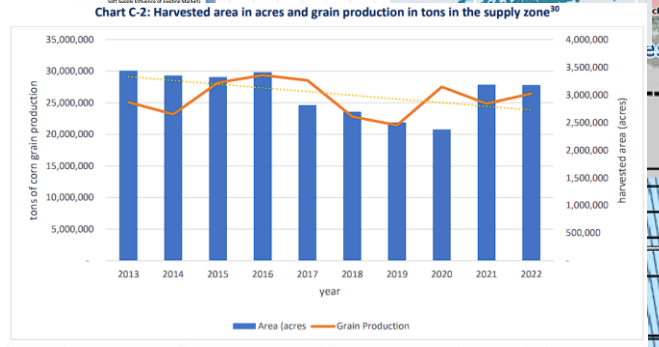
The Region Nine/St James, MN, BDO Zone is rated 'A', due to significant amounts of underutilized corn stover available for a new bio-based project, with virtually no competition for this feedstock.

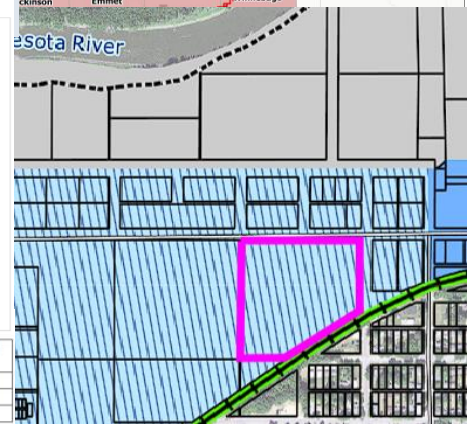
Rating Parameters:

Category	Rated Quantity	Delivered Price	BDO Zone Size
Corn Stover	1,400,000 BDT/yr	$95-$108 (BDT)	75-mi drive distance from St. James, MN









	2022 harvest season	10-year Average (2012-2022)	10-year low (2012-2022)	10-year high (2012-2022)
Planted Area	3,260,565	3,144,973	2,525,833	3,534,866
Harvested Area	3,178,360	3,026,189	2,376,740	3,435,936
Avg Grain Yield (bu/acre)	203	187	159	203

BD | BIOECONOMY DEVELOPMENT
OZ | OPPORTUNITY ZONE INITIATIVE

REGION NINE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

BDO Zone 'A' Rating for Corn Stover

Maximizing Bioeconomic Potential in South Central Minnesota



ECOSTRAT
GOT FEEDSTOCK RISK? GET ECOSTRAT.

BD|BIOECONOMY DEVELOPMENT
OZ|OPPORTUNITY ZONE INITIATIVE

Nicole Griensewic
Executive Director
Region Nine Development Commission
May 7th, 2024

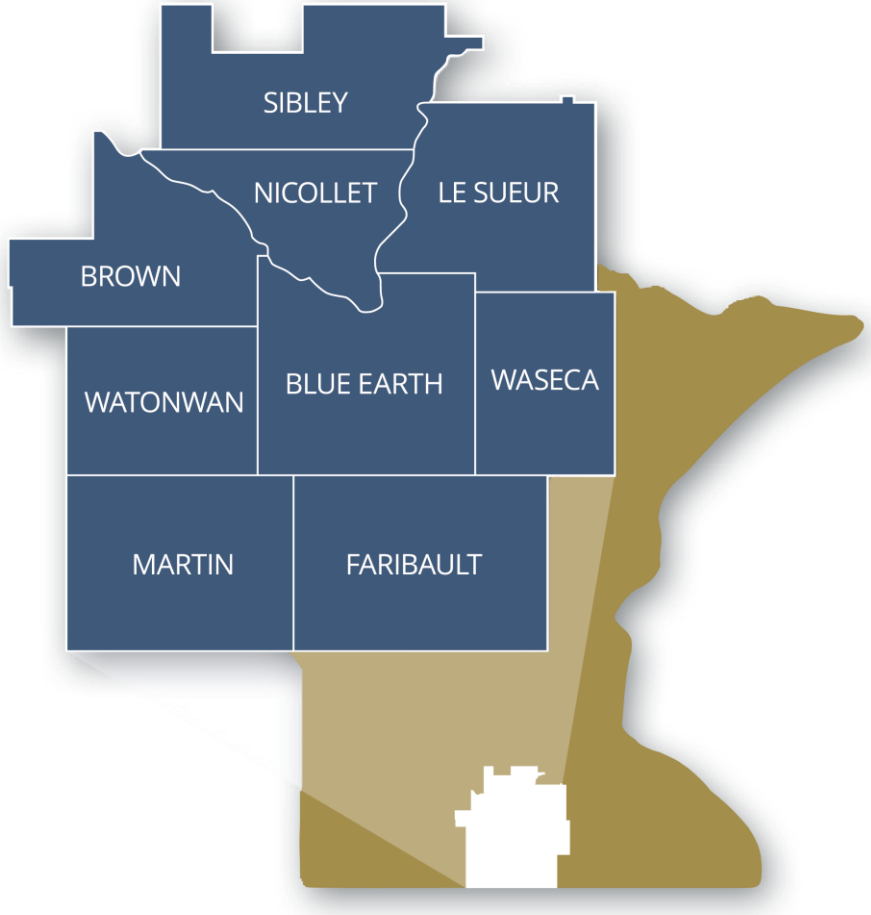


Overview/background on RNDC

Background: Region Nine Development Commission is a regional governmental entity representing nine counties, 72 cities, 147 townships, and 33 school districts.

Vision: To maintain a future-oriented perspective that helps to facilitate decisions resulting in healthier and more prosperous communities.

Mission: To promote the development of the region through intergovernmental cooperation, community and human development, long-range planning, and technical assistance.

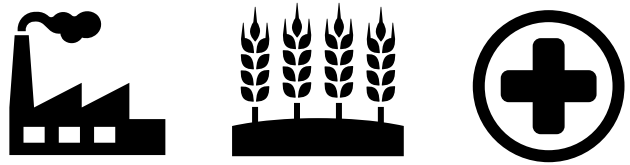


Overview/background on the region

R9

Major Industries:

- Manufacturing
- Agriculture/Agribusiness
- Healthcare



SAF Potential:

- MN SAF Hub one of the first large-scale SAF Hubs in the United States
- Collaborative network with strong partnerships

MinnesotaCorn GROWERS ASSOCIATION

MINNESOTA SUSTAINABLE AVIATION FUEL HUB
Powered by the GREATER MSP Partnership

TAYLOR

MAYO CLINIC

St. James, Minnesota



Site 1: County Road 55

- 230 acres
- Three phase electric service available
- Water and sewer stubbed into lot
- Broadband available
- 0.5-1.5 miles from rail and Hwy 60

Site 2: 700th Ave

- 60.5 acres
- Three phase electric service available
- Water and sewer stubbed into lot
- Broadband available
- 0.5-1.5 miles from rail and Hwy 60

Direct Contact:

- Brianna Sanders, City of St. James Economic Development Director



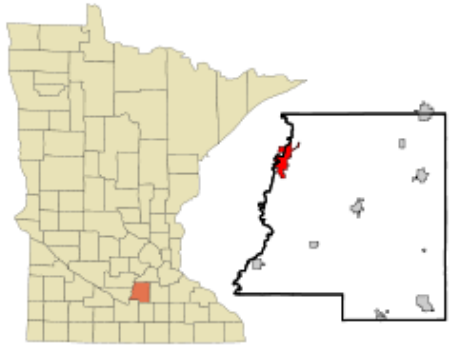
Le Sueur, Minnesota -

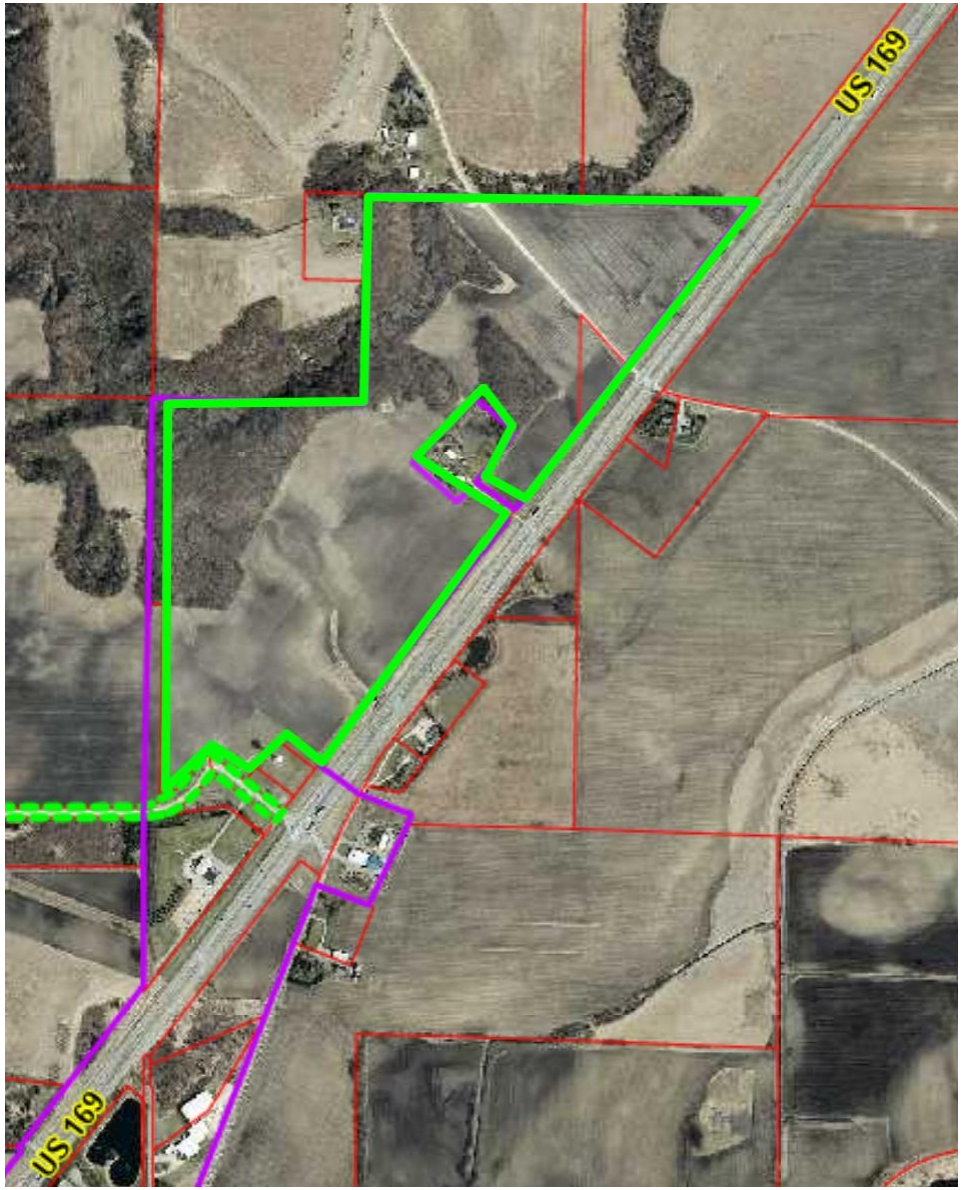
Site 1: North 169

- ~150-acre site adjacent to Hwy 169
- Water/Sewer/Electric access
- Within City Limits
- Owned by Le Sueur Economic Development Authority

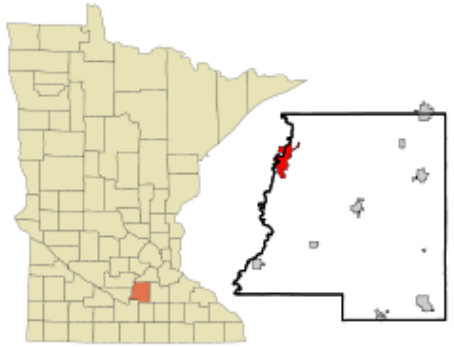
Direct Contact:

- Joe Roby, Le Sueur City Administrator





Le Sueur, Minnesota -

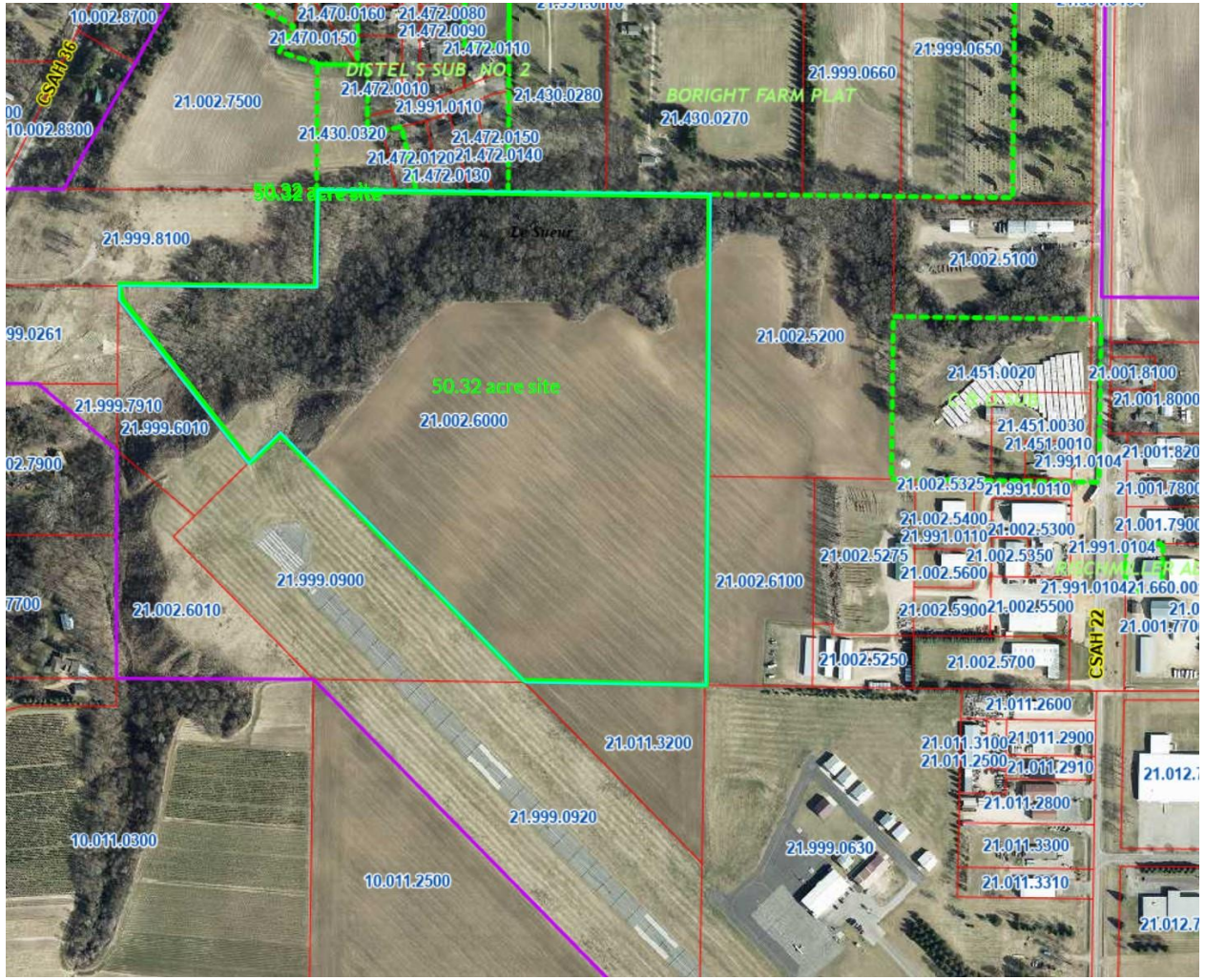


Site 2: South Airport

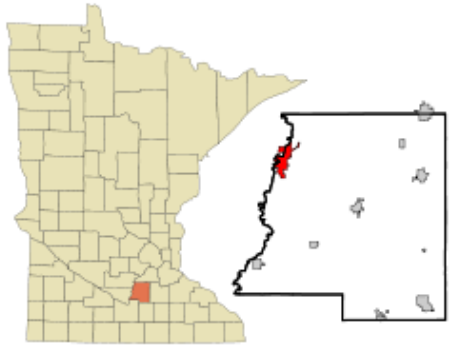
- ~26 buildable acres adjacent to county highway
- Water/Sewer/Electric access
- Within city limits
- Some height restrictions d/t proximity to airport
- Privately-owned, motivated seller

Direct Contact:

- Joe Roby, Le Sueur City Administrator



Le Sueur, Minnesota -



Site 3: Future Growth South

- 40+ acre site adjacent to county highway
- Outside of City limits but included in future land-use map, adjacent to municipal boundary
- Water/Sewer/Electric access
- High speed internet
- Privately-owned, motivated seller

Direct Contact:

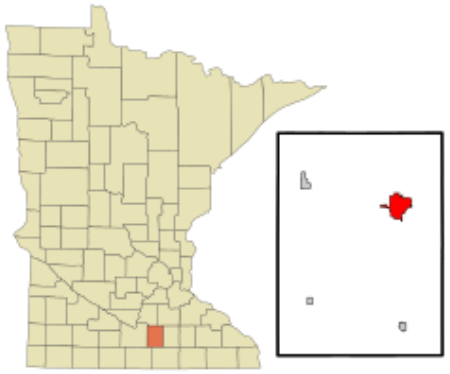
- Joe Roby, Le Sueur City Administrator



Waseca, Minnesota -

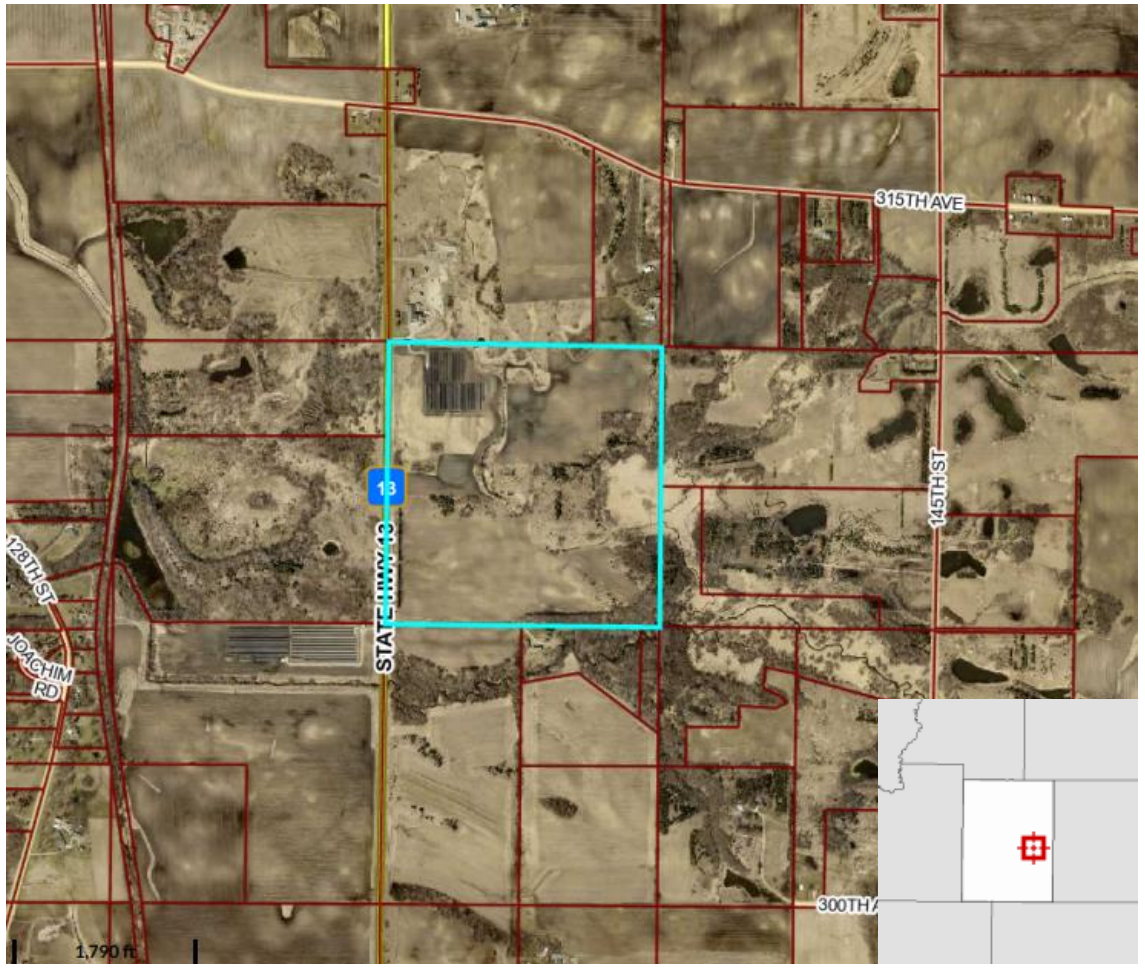
Site 1: Landfill Farmland

- 160-acre site with **140 acres** available for development
- Remaining 20 acres currently leased to a solar farm and unavailable
- Located south of Waseca on State Hwy 13



Direct Contact:

- Tina Wilson, Economic Development for Waseca



Social infrastructure and workforce assets

Regional Workforce:

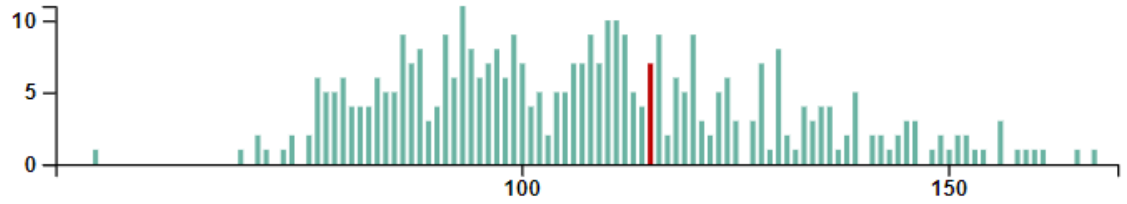
- 237,076 regional population (2022)
- Low unemployment rate
  - Below national average since 2017

- Region Nine ranks in the top tier of all Economic Development Districts nationally, with only two sub-scores in the top 30 (out of 391 EDDs)

Human Capital and Knowledge Creation Index 115.1 (rank: 131)

Key Takeaways

- The relative availability of human capital resources is moderate in this area.
- The top measures for this index are:
  1. Associate's Degree Attainment (rank 26)
  2. High School Attainment (rank 27)



Social infrastructure and workforce assets

Human Capital and Knowledge Creation	115.1
Educational Attainment	141.3
High School Attainment	181.6
Some College Attainment	109.3
Associate's Degree Attainment	191.7
Bachelor's Degree Attainment	142.4
Graduate Degree Attainment	81.4
Knowledge Creation and Technology Diffusion	114.8
University-Based Knowledge Spillovers	114.8
STEM Education and Occupations	80.1
Technology-Based Knowledge Occupation Clusters	120.5
Average High-Tech Industry Employment Share	69.8
Average Prime Working-Age Population Growth	124.0

Human Capital Sub-Scores: 8 above national average
(national average = 100)

Local Incentives – Minnesota Dept of Agriculture (MDA)

AGRI BIOINCENTIVE PROGRAM

- Established in 2015 to encourage commercial-scale production of:
  - Advanced biofuels,
  - Renewable chemicals, and
  - Biomass energy

- **Eligibility:**
  - Must begin production (within MN) before June 30, 2025
  - Use biomass from agricultural or forestry sources, or the organic portion of solid waste
  - Source 80% renewable biomass from Minnesota

Local Incentives – Minnesota Dept of Agriculture (MDA)

ADVANCED BIOFUEL PROGRAM

- Fuels made from non-food, non-feed, sustainably grown feedstocks and agricultural waste
- Must meet the definition of the national Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program

Example

Fuel	Feedstock	Btu/gallon	Payment/gallon
Butanol	Corn starch	99,837	$0.11
Ethanol	Sugar beets	76,330	$0.08
Ethanol	Corn kernel fiber	76,330	$0.16

Payment Amount and Limits:

- Producers of advanced biofuels will be reimbursed at a rate of:
  - $2.1053 per the equivalent of MMBtu of production from cellulosic biomass, and
  - $1.053 per the equivalent of MMBtu of production from sugar or starch.

Regional Ethanol Facilities:

GREENFIELD GLOBAL
POET
Green Plains RENEWABLE ENERGY, INC.
GUARDIAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT
VALERO
HCP

Local Incentives – Minnesota Dept of Agriculture (MDA)

RENEWABLE CHEMICALS PROGRAM

Renewable chemicals include:

- Polymers, plastics, and other formulated products produced from agricultural biomass, forestry materials, or the organic portion of solid waste

- Production using **agricultural cellulosic feedstock** of perennial or cover crop biomass is eligible for a 20% bonus payment on each round of chemicals produced

Payment Amount and Limits:

- Producers of renewable chemicals will be reimbursed at a rate of:
  - $0.06 per pound of production from cellulosic biomass, and
  - $0.03 per pound of production from sugar, cellulosic sugar, starch, oil, or animal fat.

Agricultural Utilization Research Institute™

auri

Local Incentives – Minnesota Dept of Agriculture (MDA)

BIOMASS THERMAL ENERGY PROGRAM

- Production incentive program for production facilities that create heat and electricity through:
  - **Biomass combustion**
  - **Gasification**
  - **Anaerobic digestion**
- Producers of biomass thermal energy will be reimbursed at a rate of $5.00 per MMBtu of production
- Production using agricultural cellulosic feedstock of perennial or cover crop biomass is eligible for a 20 percent bonus payment for each MMBtu of biomass thermal energy produced



Stay Connected!

www.RNDC.org

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/region-nine-development-commission

BD|BIOECONOMY DEVELOPMENT
OZ|OPPORTUNITY ZONE INITIATIVE