



# Grow Your Own!



## Minnesota's Internship Model to Retain Preservice Agricultural Education Students

### HOW IT WORKS

- Summer internship offered for Ag Ed majors or those who intend to pursue teacher licensure
- Conceptualized by current Ag Ed teachers and state leaders at an after-hours gathering during NAAE convention
- Designed to aid in retaining Ag Ed majors and allow them to experience SBAE in the summer
- Applications submitted in early November; offers made prior to the end of the calendar year
- Teachers apply to participate; placements/matches made intentionally
- Interns work 32 hours/week for 10 weeks; facilitated and funded through the Minnesota Agricultural Education Leadership Council (MAELC)



**Paul Aarsvold, Plainview-Elgin-Milville Comm. Schools**  
**Amy Smith, University of Minnesota**



### RESULTS & IMPLICATIONS

- Since 2015, 36 interns have been hired
- Nearly 83% have completed programs of study in Ag Ed and become licensed SBAE teachers
- 16 of the 19 teach in Minnesota, even if they attended college out of state
- Intern quote: *"This internship helped me understand building relationships with the students and teachers so I can have people to go to when I have questions."*

### ADVICE

- 1) begin with a small planning committee
- 2) seek funding from foundations or industry
- 3) be selective about host teachers/schools
- 4) allow flexibility in internship scheduling
- 5) enlist an internship coordinator
- 6) have structured reflection opportunities

### COST / RESOURCES

- \$4000 per intern (*stipend + student MAAE membership and conference expenses*)
- Could be funded by sponsorships, or a collaborative of schools, post-secondary institutions, Team Ag Ed partners

