

Our Mission

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

UMN chooses AURI client's ice cream to mark 175th anniversary



AURI's support for Minnesota grown crops is taking center stage at the University of Minnesota's 175th anniversary celebration through a new Golden Gopher ice cream flavor featuring aronia berries from AURI client Wright Farms, located just south of Hutchinson, Minnesota.

For Paul Wright and his family, the opportunity represents another step toward creating new markets for aronia and introducing more consumers to the crop.

When developing the flavor, Wright wanted it to represent more than aronia. He paired the farm's berries with apples, oats and dairy, connecting the flavor to Minnesota agriculture and the University's history of agricultural research.

"We put it all together and gave it the name North Star Apple Crisp, and then we won out of 500 entries," Wright said.

"We're just still amazed that we have this honor of having our flavor selected."

North Star Apple Crisp will be featured throughout the University's 175th anniversary celebrations, including at the Minnesota State Fair. For Wright Farms, the attention surrounding the flavor could open the door to more interest in aronia and its potential as a Minnesota grown crop.

Wright Farms' relationship with AURI began years before the family planted its aronia orchard. Wright first worked with AURI while exploring other value-added agricultural ideas.

"AURI has just been a fantastic ally when you're sitting there trying to figure out, 'How do I do something?' and you can bounce ideas off of them," Wright said. "I truly believe that AURI is such an essential part of continuing to keep agriculture moving forward in the state of Minnesota."

[Learn more](#)

Ag Innovation News podcast explores ag's "Next 5 Years"



Five years is far enough ahead to shape the future, but close enough to make informed decisions today. In the latest Ag Innovation News podcast, Steve Olson, co-founder of the Next Five Years Executive Conference, explains how the

event helps agricultural leaders identify emerging issues, exchange perspectives, and consider what those shifts mean for their organizations. Hear how forward-looking conversations can strengthen agriculture across the region.

[Register for the Next 5 Years conference here.](#)

Listen to the podcast

New AURI toolkit helps food businesses navigate contract manufacturing



AURI's new Contract Manufacturing Toolkit is designed to help food and beverage businesses prepare to work with contract manufacturers as they grow. Moving from small-scale production to a larger manufacturer can open new opportunities for a business, but it also requires careful planning to make sure a product remains consistent, safe and true to the original brand.

The free online toolkit provides templates, checklists, questionnaires and step by step guidance to help businesses prepare for the process. These resources can help business owners clearly define how their product should be made and

communicate those expectations with a manufacturing partner before production begins.

[Get toolkit](#)

Visit AURI at upcoming food supplier expo



The Minnesota Institute of Food Technologists Suppliers' Expo will be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center on Monday, September 28. The expo brings together ingredient manufacturers, food companies, R&D staff, product developers, technical sales teams, processors, and innovation leaders from across Minnesota and the Midwest. It is recognized as a premier trade show that connects food industry professionals with suppliers, ingredients, and innovative solutions, featuring nearly 200 exhibitors.

Visit AURI in **Booth 231** at the MN IFT Suppliers' Expo to learn how we help food and ingredient businesses move ideas forward through technical expertise, business guidance, commercialization support, industry connections, and practical resources designed to help companies grow and bring products to market.

[Register now](#)

AURI in the News

[KMSP-TV\(FOX\)/Fox 9 News/Minneapolis](#) | [AgWeek TV](#) |
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Upcoming **AURI Events**

December 16, 2026

Minnesota Renewable Energy Roundtable

Minneapolis

[Biofuels for Maritime Shipping: Connecting Minnesota Ag to
Emerging Global Fuel Markets](#)

Industry/Partner Events

September 5-6, 2026

Big Iron Farm Show

Fargo

[Visit AURI in Booth #5](#)

Building C - Expo Center



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Ag Innovation News

The newspaper is designed to make research and technical information easy to read and enjoyable for the average user. From an initial subscription list of 4,000, it has grown to reach more than 12,000 print and online readers every quarter, covering AURI's work in the development of new food products, renewable energy, biobased products and new uses for agricultural coproducts.



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Ag Innovation News podcast features Jamie Dickerman of Red River Farm Network having in-depth conversations with some of the brightest minds and most recognizable personalities in Minnesota's value-added agriculture ecosystem.

[Check out our latest podcast:](#)

Steve Olson, co-founder of the Next Five Years Executive Conference

Hear why the smartest ag leaders are already planning for the next five years - and why that shift could determine who stays relevant and who falls behind.



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Agricultural Utilization Research Institute | 510 County Road 71 Suite 120 |
Crookston, MN 56716-0599 US

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