Our Mission

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

AURI explores global innovation in Denmark and Israel



AURI leadership recently traveled internationally to explore innovations in biogas, food technology, and agricultural sustainability. Dr. Luca Zullo, AURI's senior director of science and technology, joined a North American delegation to Denmark Oct. 11-16 to examine the country's advanced biogas industry. A highlight was visiting Horsens Bioenergi, one of the world's largest biogas facilities, producing approximately 1.8 million MMBtu annually. Zullo also met with SEGES Innovation to explore opportunities in manure management and improving the fertilizer value of digestate, areas aligned with AURI's ongoing research.

Meanwhile, AURI Executive Director Shannon Schlecht visited Israel as part of a program organized by Israel's Foreign Ministry for representatives from all 50 states.

Schlecht engaged with Israel's Innovation Authority to learn about the country's food-tech initiatives. The program included tours and meetings examining how government support helps advance innovation in food and protein applications.

Learn about Biogas

AURI and MN Soybean preview 4 upcoming reports



AURI and the Minnesota Soybean Research & Promotion Council recently completed four projects aimed at expanding markets and creating new uses for Minnesota soybeans.

The collaborative work explored soy-based road preservation, asphalt roof rejuvenation, granular soybean meal fertilizers, and liquid soybean meal fertilizers. Research and demonstrations examined opportunities to extend the life of roads and roofing materials while also evaluating soybean meal as a renewable fertilizer ingredient for lawn, garden, horticulture, and controlled-environment agriculture. Together, the projects highlight the long-standing partnership between AURI and Minnesota's soybean checkoff to advance practical, biobased applications that can create additional demand and value for the state's soybean growers.

Learn how soy-based road preservation helps cities cut costs and extend pavement life on AURI's Ag Innovation News podcast.

Listen now

Hybrid hemp research completes first year of field trials



AURI and its partners recently completed the first year of field trials for a two-year research project on hybrid hemp. Trials were conducted at two University of Minnesota Research and Outreach Centers in different parts of the state and should provide insights on how hybrid hemp performs under varied growing conditions.

This fall, AURI staff harvested hemp stalks from the plots for fiber testing, which will take place at AURI's Bioindustrial Innovation Center in Waseca, Minnesota. Prior to the fiber harvest, project partners at the University of Minnesota harvested grain samples to measure yield data. AURI will process and analyze those samples to evaluate the composition and quality of the grain, meal, and oil.

Stay tuned for results of the hybrid hemp research project in 2027 - including AURI presentations at Research and

Outreach Center field days and a podcast discussing the project and sharing initial findings. In the meantime, check out this recent report on hemp as an ingredient in animal feed.

The field trials and research at AURI are part of a two-year project funded by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) through an Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Crop Research Grant.

Learn more

Register Now! Roundtable explores the future of maritime biofuels



The Minnesota Renewable Energy Roundtable will bring together agriculture, energy and transportation leaders Dec. 16 in Minneapolis to explore emerging markets for lower-carbon maritime fuels. The event will take place at the Machine Shop in Minneapolis from 9am to 3pm.

Juan Sacoto, S&P Global, will discuss ***Fueling Agriculture: Biofuels as the Catalyst.***

Learn more about Juan Sacoto



Roberta Cenni, Ph.D., Mærsk Mc-Kinney Møller Center for Zero Carbon Shipping, will discuss ***Biofuels in Maritime Decarbonization: Regulatory Drivers, Demand Outlook and Opportunities for Feedstock Producers.***



Learn more about Roberta Cenni

Register today

Apply by Nov. 6 for MBOLD Bold Growth program



Applications close Nov. 6 for MBOLD's 2027 Bold Growth program, a nine-month mentorship opportunity for high-growth protein innovation companies looking to enter or expand in the U.S. market. Selected companies receive confidential, tailored coaching from experienced food and agriculture industry leaders at no cost and with no equity taken. Companies worldwide are eligible to apply.

Learn more

AURI in the News

The Daily Agenda | AgWeek

Upcoming
AURI Events

December 16, 2026
Minnesota Renewable Energy Roundtable:

Biofuels for Maritime Shipping: Connecting Minnesota Ag to Emerging Global Fuel Markets

Machine Shop, Minneapolis
Register here

Industry/Partner Events

November 7, 2026
FEAST!
Mayo Civic Center, Rochester, MN

Learn more

November 16, 2026
PPIC Webinar Series: *Utilizing Machine Learning and Modeling in Predicting Functional Properties of Plant Proteins*

Learn more

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Did you miss an event?

We have you covered.

Visit and Subscribe to AURI's YouTube channel to view more on-demand videos from AURI's Fields of Innovation events, UnTapped, Minnesota Renewable Energy Roundtable, and more!

Check out our latest webinar:

Why MN's Ag Industry Has a Stake in Maritime Decarbonization Through Renewable Fuels



Watch Past Webinars

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, 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

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:
Soy Innovations

Discover how Hutchinson, Minnesota, is using soy-based road preservation to extend pavement life, reduce costs, and maximize taxpayer dollars.



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Quick Takes

WEEKLY INSIGHTS ON INDUSTRY TRENDS

Check out AURI's new weekly blog, Quick Takes, which features important AURI projects, client successes and AURI solutions.

Check out our latest Quick Take blog:
What is Renewable Natural Gas (RNG)?

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