

Spurred by Sustainability

By: Jake Fischer

The Minnesota Project

MN Project Background

- Est. 1979
- St. Paul, MN
- We promote the sustainable production of energy and food in communities across Minnesota
- Focus on practical, real world
- Local Food
- Fruits of the City
- Clean Energy
 - Anaerobic Digesters
 - Farm Efficiency

My Background

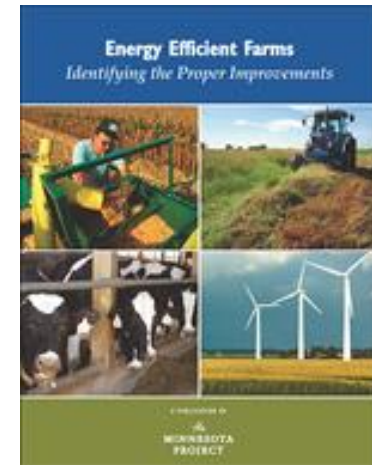
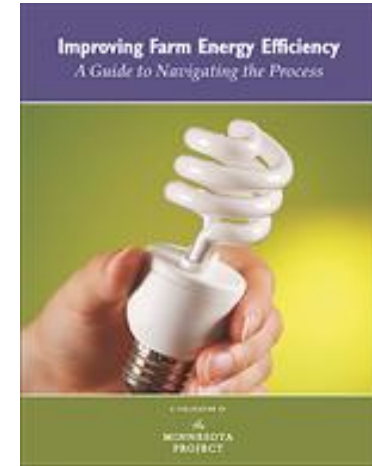
- Grew up on farm near Parkston, SD (population 1508)
 - Spurred by Sustainability
 - West River v. East River
 - Horses and Cowboy Hats
- U of M/Twin Cities
- Our 'energy efficient' farm
 - Save Money!
- MN Project Experience

Farm Energy Efficiency

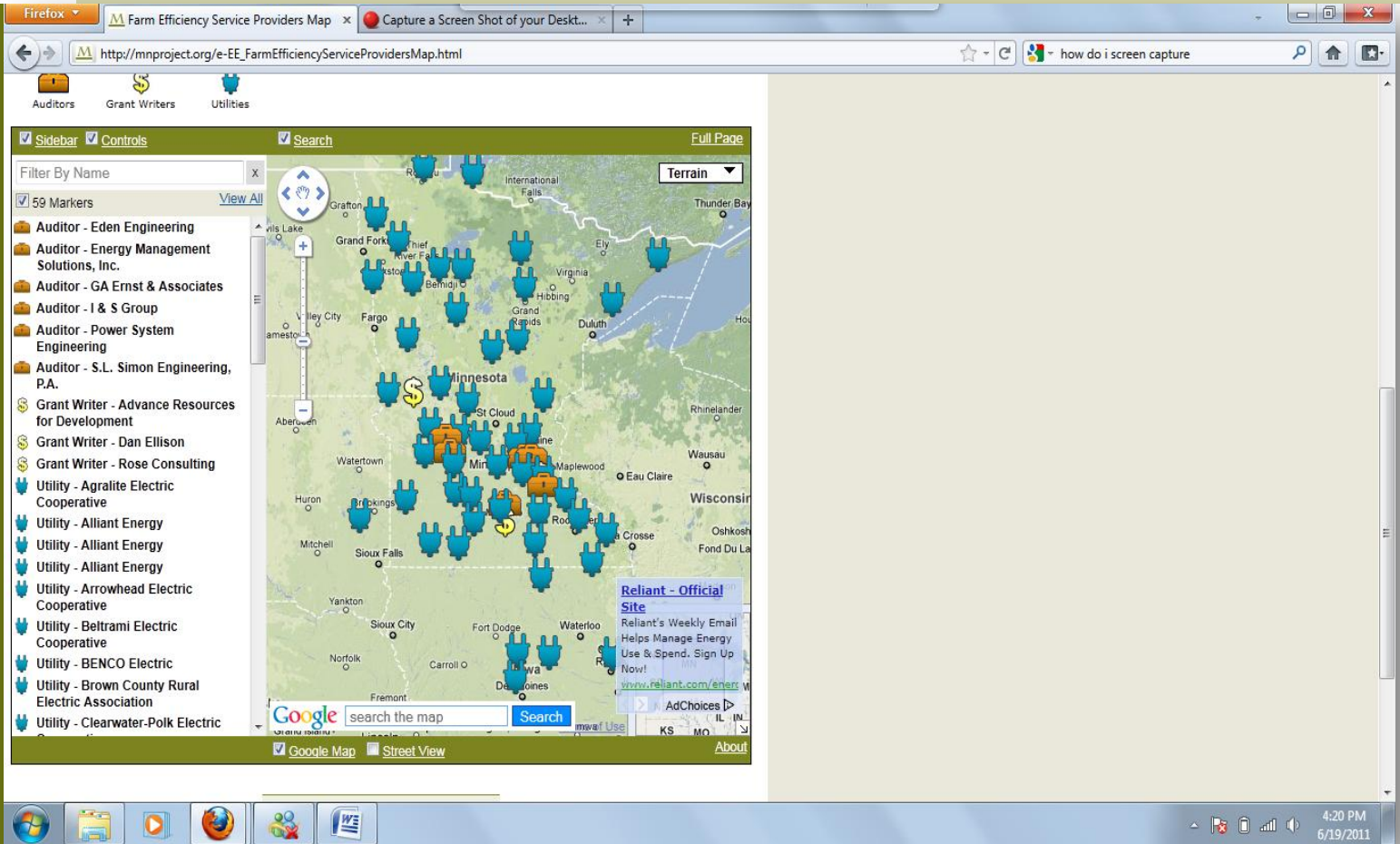
- Commissioned by OES/DER
 - Examine current state of farm efficiency
 - Identify state of and potential for implementation
 - Geographical – What regions?
 - Farm Sector – What works best?
 - Opportunities/Challenges with CIP
 - Legislative update
 - More Flexible Spending (education)?
- My take:
 - Learn to understand challenges
 - Attempt to provide assistance
 - Provide realistic take on issues

Farm Efficiency Work So Far

- “Navigating the Process”
- “Identifying Improvements”
- Digester Guide



Resource Directory



- Inherent Difficulties: Wind v. Efficiency
- Additions?

Additional Resources

- Resource Guide
 - Collection of Documents
 - Sortable/Expand by Sector or Technology
- Fact Sheets
 - Funding
 - Lighting
 - Motors and Pumps
 - Fans/HVAC
- All documents downloadable or available in hard copy.
- www.mnproject.org

Outreach, Education

- Farm Efficiency Meetings
 - Extension often helpful
 - Local Electric Cooperatives
 - Agralite
 - Redwood, South Central
- Dealer Presentations
 - Substantial opportunity to work with sales people
 - Schaefer, BFG...others?
 - Alliant Energy experience
- Webinars
 - Once Innovations
 - Additional Topics

Future Projects

- Continue Education
- Pilot Projects
 - Once Innovations
 - “Green” Hog Barn
- Auditor Training
 - USDA-REAP
 - Audit Funding
 - Efficiency/Renewable Project Funding
 - NRCS-EQIP, CSP
- Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Still Learning...

- Hear your ideas, challenges
- Learn about programs
 - Help promote if desired
 - Financing Programs?
- Interested in providing educational programming
 - Need to work with coops
 - Most trusted contacts
- 81,000 Farms in Minnesota
 - How much can be done?
 - We know challenges, what are advantages?

Questions/Comments

Thank You!

Jake Fischer

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