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**2024 ANNUAL REPORT
MINNESOTA SUNFLOWER COUNCIL**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the "promotional order" is to generate funds equitably from sunflower producers for the establishment of market development, utilization, public relations, advertising, promotion, and research programs and/or projects to benefit the sunflower farmer in the production and sale of sunflower and sunflower products. This may include, but shall not be limited to, the following:

- A. Participation in and cooperation with state, regional, national, or international activities directly or indirectly, or as a result of contract or agreement with other persons or organizations that assist in developing new markets, expanding existing markets, and reducing costs of marketing of sunflower and sunflower products.
- B. Participation in and development of research projects and programs that will assist in the development of new varieties, improved production, and handling methods.
- C. Devise, adopt, and conduct a program of education and publicity and any other programs and projects that will assist in the development of the Minnesota sunflower industry.

PRODUCTION RESEARCH FUNDED:

The National Sunflower Association continues to make significant commitments to production research

A few of many research projects that were funded in 2024:

Title: Determining Fungicide Effectiveness to Manage Phomopsis Stem Canker: \$30,000

Title: Managing Rhizopus Head Rot with Fungicides: \$15,000

Title: Fungicide Resistance in Phomopsis: \$19,916

Title: Determination of Rust (*Puccinia helianthi*) Virulence in Northern Great Plains: \$24,974

Title: Characterizing Toxins Produced by Phomopsis in Sunflower: \$32,401

Title: Evaluating Red Sunflower Seed Weevil Susceptibility to Pyrethroid Insecticides: \$67,314

Title: Assessment of Early Planting and Early Maturing Hybrids as Tools in Management of the Red Sunflower Weevil in North and South Dakota: \$40,560

Title: Spring Weed Burndown Options for Sunflower: \$10,000

Title: Late Fall and Early Spring Applications of Group 15 (Long Chain Fatty Acid Inhibitors) and Group 14 (PPO Inhibitors) for Control of Herbicide Resistant Weeds: \$30,000

Title: Importance of Hazing Duration for Repelling Blackbirds from Sunflower Fields: \$35,570

Title: Extending the USDA Sunflower Breeding Program to Address Producer Outcomes: \$128,374

Foreign Market Development: (\$40,000)

The NSA continues to be a cooperator with the USDA Foreign Ag Service for matching dollars in overseas market development. The NSA operates in five countries with a USDA allocation of approximately \$1.5 million annually. The NSA must provide staffing for this work and provide a significant match in terms of in-house expenditures. Canada is an oil export markets targeted with USDA funds. Germany, Mexico, and Spain are market targets for confection sunflower.

Communication: (\$30,000)

The Sunflower magazine, the website and newsletters continue to be the mainstay of the communications system. *The Sunflower* magazine has a mailing list of nearly 16,000. The magazine has 6 issues per year. The website attracts an average of over 50,000 hits a month. The website is updated daily. A newsletter is written every week. Production updates were emailed to certified crop advisors and extension agents during the production season. The NSA conducted the annual Research Forum where public researchers present their year's findings. The NSA held the annual Summer Seminar which is for grower and industry members.