



Healthy Food Access For All Minnesotans



Good Food Access Program Grant Recipient Profile

DARREL'S FULL-SERVICE FOODS

Hoffman, Minnesota

Meeting the demand of seniors and farmers for healthier foods.

The homepage of Darrel's Full-Service Foods exclaims, "Come see our new look and new line of foods!! There is still more yet to come!" Listed beneath that statement are some of the new offerings—a variety of new meats, fresh bakery goods and freshly made salads. Those healthy and nutritious foods have been made possible thanks to a grant from the Minnesota Good Food Access Fund, which allowed the Hoffman, Minn. grocery store to purchase new refrigerated display units.

"We're using the grant to put healthier foods out including fresh fruit, wraps and salads. More of a grab and go thing in the open display case," says Darrel Nehk, the owner of Darrel's. "Some of our elderly residents really wanted this, as well as farmers so they could take healthier food to work."



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As the only grocery store in the farming community, Nehk makes every effort to accommodate his customers' requests. To his surprise, in the six years he's been running the store, more and more requests for healthier foods have come in.



A view of the new open display case that prominently sells fresh fruits and vegetables to local residents of Hoffman.

"Well, we never had sugar-free or low-salt items until now, and now we're selling them. And the fruits and the juices, things like that, will go in the new case," he says.

Nehk also works with an area farmer to carry local produce during the growing season as well as dairy and meats from the area year-round. "Customers enjoy knowing where their food comes from, and the quality and freshness can't be beat," he says.

For both Nehk and Darrel's, the Good Food Access Fund made all the difference in making this change. "It's a very good program to have, especially for a small-town grocery store. We just don't have the cash flow like the big stores do, and we don't have \$15,000 lying around to be able to purchase equipment like that," he says. "I wouldn't have been able to do it without the grant."

Nehk's commitment to his business, and his community, is clear. "It isn't a get rich thing. You make a living, but it's a struggle. But, you know, I enjoy it," he says. "The biggest thing is the customers, especially the one-on-one contact you have with them. It's a great community to live in."



ABOUT THE GOOD FOOD ACCESS PROGRAM

Recognizing the need for food access solutions in Minnesota, the American Heart Association, together with local and state coalition partners, advocated for the creation of the Good Food Access Program within the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in 2016. The program provides grants, loans and technical assistance to local enterprises for innovative food access solutions.

Learn more at www.mnhealthykids.org