

Dear Chair Westrom, Chair Sundin, and members of the committee,

This is our first year applying, but I've heard great things about LEAFF and we are really excited to be a part of it. I believe that this program is wonderful and helps hard-working, small-business, local farmers like my mom and aunt. My aunt was a part of this program last year and recommended my mom to apply -- this is our first year applying. My aunt expressed how helpful the program was in assisting her during the pandemic. My mom's sales dropped drastically during the pandemic and if we've known about this program sooner we would've definitely applied then. My mom's only form of income is from farming and selling at the farmer's market during the selling season; this is common with many of the farmers, especially the older refugee/immigrant farmer's who know no other trade but to farm. In addition, I believe that eating locally grown and organic produce is a wonderful practice to take part in and it's wonderful that this produce is coming from hard-working community members. These are the reasons why I believe the LEAFF program should continue. The Good Acre is a wonderful resource and them providing the LEAFF program is great. They look out for the small-business farmer's and assist us to thrive, especially during the pandemic. Thank you for your consideration and looking out for The Good Acre.

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