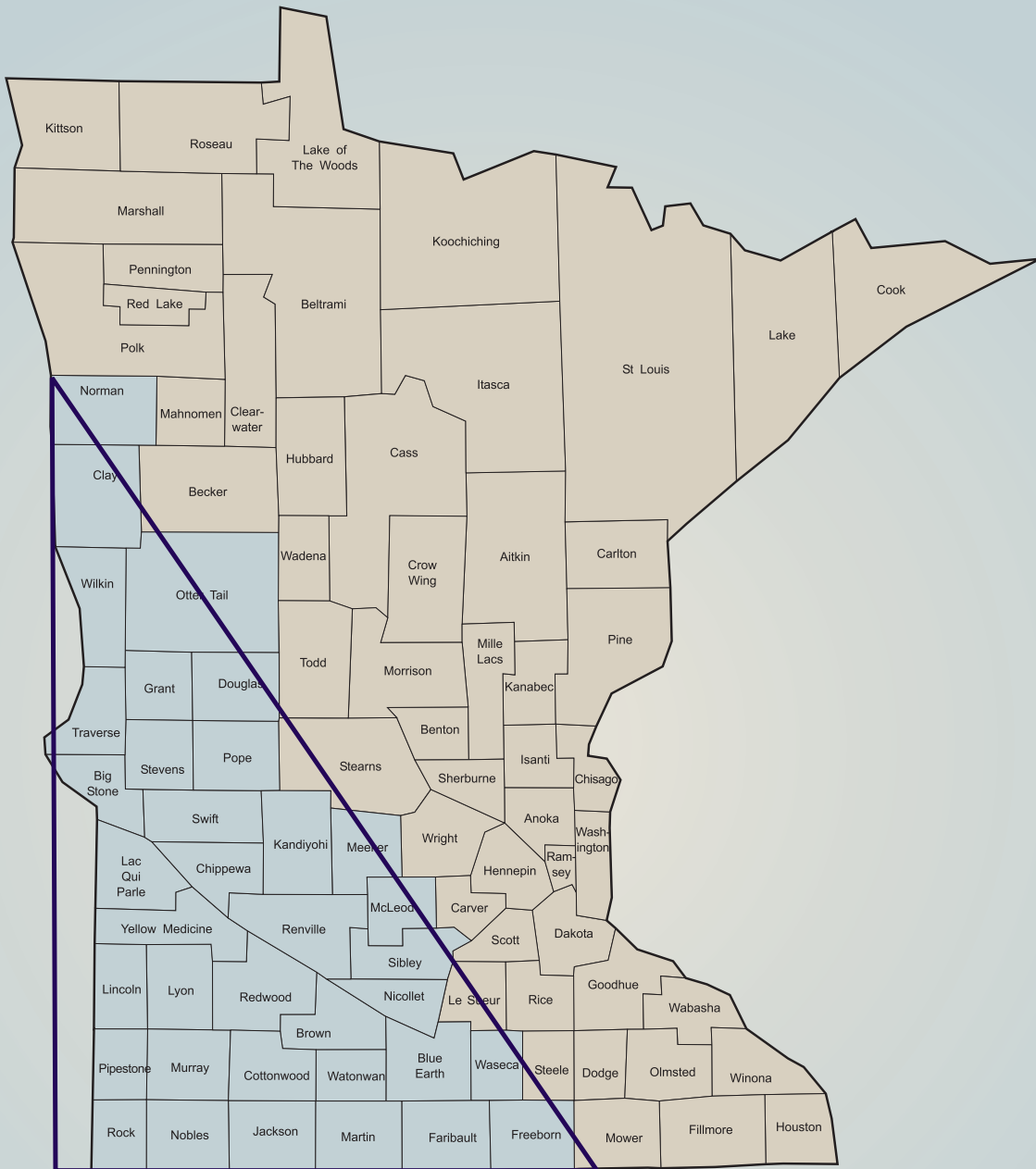


THE AG INNOVATION TRIANGLE

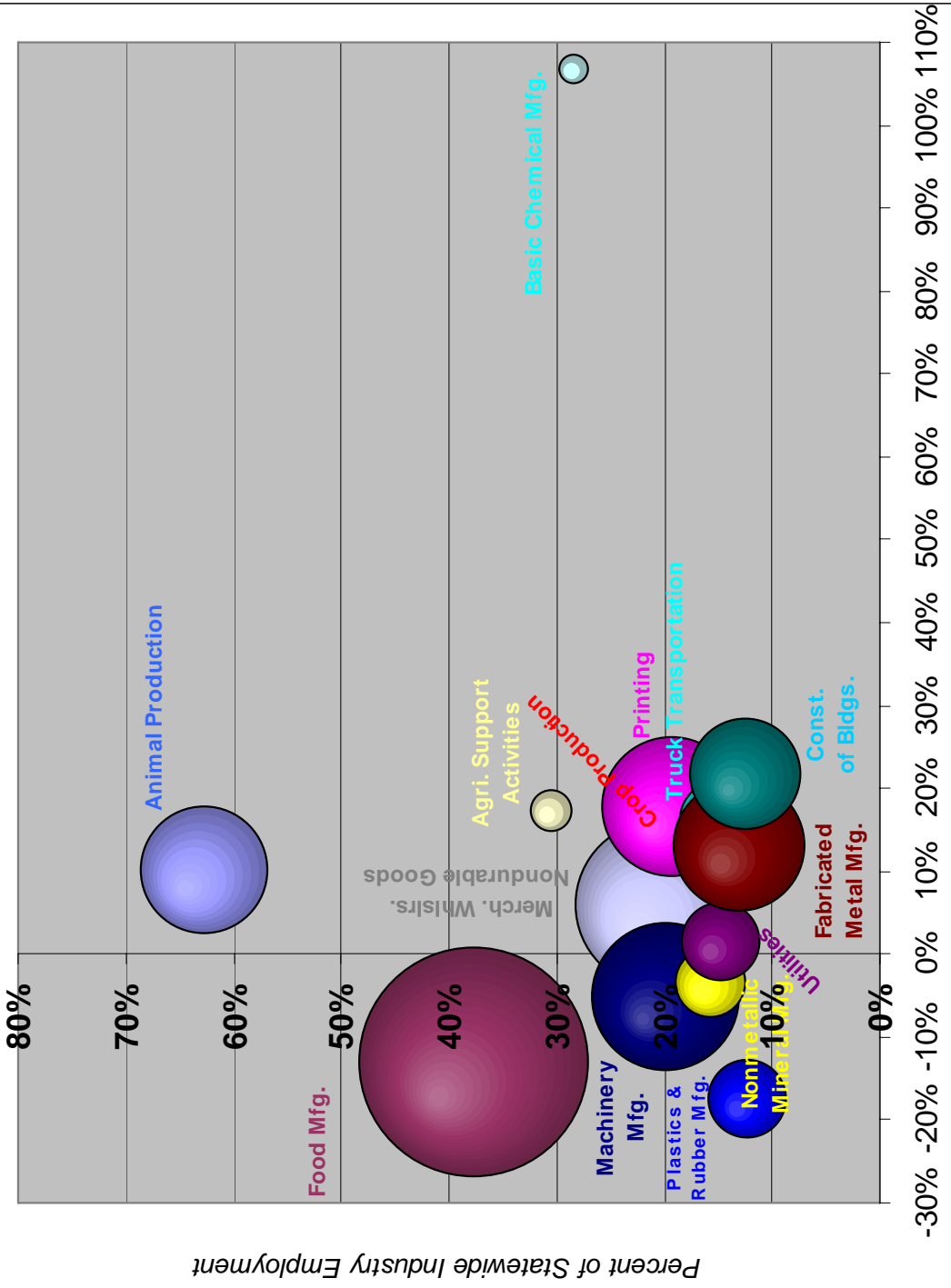
WIRED
April 2007



The Ag Innovation Triangle encompasses 36 Minnesota counties:

Big Stone	Grant	Murray	Rock
Blue Earth	Jackson	Nicollet	Sibley
Brown	Kandiyohi	Nobles	Stevens
Chippewa	Lac qui Parle	Norman	Swift
Clay	Lincoln	Otter Tail	Traverse
Cottonwood	Lyon	Pipestone	Waseca
Douglas	Martin	Pope	Watonwan
Faribault	McLeod	Redwood	Wilkin
Freeborn	Meeker	Renville	Yellow Medicine

Distinguishing Industries by Employment Size and Employment Change, 2000-2005



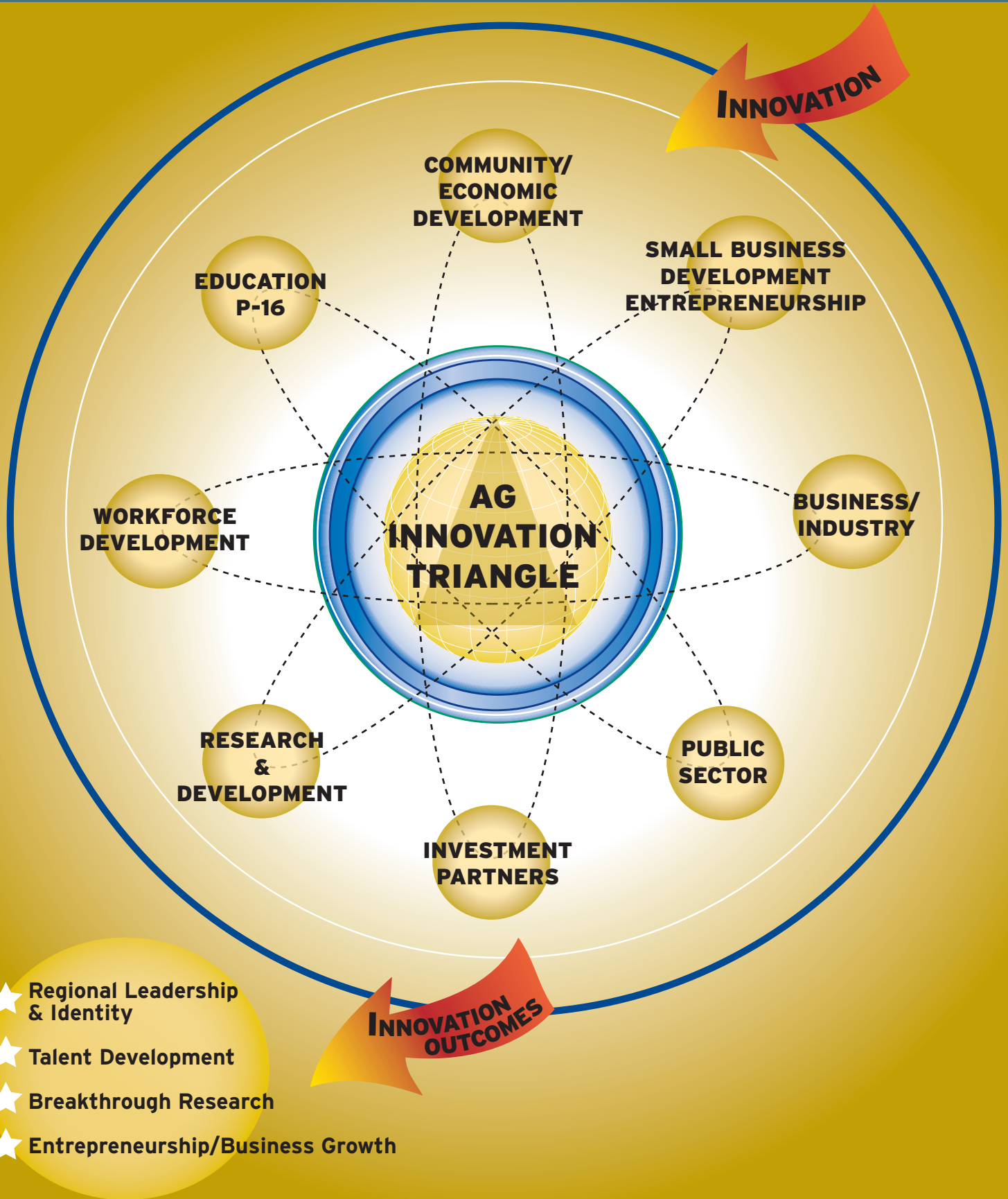
Industry Employment Change, 2000-2005

**Minnesota Ag Innovation Triangle
Key Partners (in addition to the Executive Board)**

Applied Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MinnWest Technology Campus - Willmar (private, non-profit, industry driven incubator/accelerator)
Educational Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 142 K-12 School Districts • Adult Basic Education • Alexandria Community and Technical College • Minnesota State Community and Technical College - Fergus Falls • Minnesota State University - Moorhead • Ridgewater Community and Technical College • Riverland Community College • South Central College • Southwest State University • University of Minnesota - Morris
Federal Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • U.S. Department of Agriculture • U.S. Department of Commerce • U.S. Department of Education • U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) • U.S. Department of Labor • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Financial Capital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AgStar • Edison Capital • John Deere Capital • Minnesota Department of Agriculture Digester Loan Program • MinnWest Bank • Prairieland Economic Development Corporation • Private Investor Capital • Private Investor Equity • Xcel Energy Renewable Development Fund
Foundations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blandin Foundation • Bush Foundation • Otto Bremer Foundation • Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation • West Central Initiative
Minnesota WorkForce Centers	
Public Policy and Legislative Organizations (local, state, federal)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Center for Rural Policy • Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTS) • Environmental Law and Policy Center • I-90 Legislative Group • Regional Development Commissions • Renewable Energy Policy Project (REPP) • Rural Energy Board • The Minnesota Project
Related Regional Industry Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ag-Chem Equipment Company, Inc. - Manufacturing • Allete Power • Archer - Daniel Midland • BEI Environmental Contracting, Inc. - Manufacturing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benco Electric • Dakota Electric • DanMar and Associates, Inc - Engineering, Design, Consultant, Project Development/Management • Fagen Industries - Engineering, Design, Consultant, Construction, Project Management/Development • Hussong Manufacturing, Inc. • Minnesota Power • Minnesota Rural Electric Association • Northern Natural Gas • NRG Natural Resource Group • Ottertail Power • SMI and Hydraulics, Inc. - Manufacturing • Suzlon Energy - Manufacturing • Xcel Energy
Small Business Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota Technology, Inc. • Technology Plus
Trade Associations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio-Fuels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ American Coalition for Ethanol (ACE) ○ Minnesota Corn Growers Association ○ Minnesota Soybean Growers Association (MSGA) ○ National Biodiesel Board ○ Renewable Fuels Association (FRA) • Biomass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Agency (EPA)-AgStar Program ○ U.S. Environmental Protection • Manufacturing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Minnesota Precision Manufacturing Association • Wind <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) ○ National Wind Coordinating Committee (NWCC) ○ National Wind Technology Center ○ Renewable Energy Finance Coalition (REFC) ○ Wind on the Wires ○ Windustry
Local Workforce Investment Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Minnesota Workforce Investment Board • Northwest Minnesota Workforce Investment Board • Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program (Rural MN CEP) Workforce Council • South Central Workforce Council • Southeast Minnesota Workforce Council (Workforce Development, Inc.)
Community and Faith Based Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catholic Charities • Family Assets for Independence in Minnesota • Jobs Now Coalition • Latino Economic Development Center • Lutheran Social Services • Minnesota Valley Action Council • Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership

ECONOMIC AND SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION



Partners for Innovation

Strategies for Transformation

Co-Leads

Southwest Minnesota Workforce Council
(SWWFC)

Minnesota Department of Employment and
Economic Development (DEED)

Executive Leadership Board

Southwest Minnesota Workforce Council (SWWFC); Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED); Southwest Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SWMIF); Fagen, Inc.; Prairie Holdings Group; Poet, LLC; Minnesota Precision Manufacturer's Association (MPMA); Agriculture Utilization Research Institute (AURI); Energy Consortium; Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU); University of Minnesota (U of M); Southwest/West Central Cooperative (SW/WCC); Southern Minnesota Economic Development Professionals (SMEDP); Southwest Regional Development Commission (SWDRC); Adult Basic Education (ABE) - Marshall

Regional Leadership and Identity Action Team	Talent Development Action Team	Breakthrough Research Action Team	Entrepreneurship & Business Growth Action Team
<p>Action #1 Foster innovation by looking globally Lead: DEED (Trade Office)</p> <p>Action #2 Encourage industry and Academic partnerships Lead: MnSCU, SWMIF</p> <p>Action #3 Facilitate public forums Lead: SWMIF</p> <p>Action #4 Develop public policy around environmental quality Lead: AURI, DEED</p> <p>Action #5 Conduct job skill gap analysis Lead: SWWFC (WIB)</p> <p>Action #6 Build and maintain web portal to communicate regional workforce and skill shortages Lead: MnSCU</p> <p>Action #7 Educate K-12 teachers Lead: MnSCU</p> <p>Action #8 Provide internship opportunities Lead: SWMIF</p> <p>Action #9 Promote best practices Lead: SWWFC (WIB)</p>	<p>Action #1 Provide occupational skill training in new technologies Lead: MnSCU</p> <p>Action #2 Conduct youth energy camp and internships Lead: MnSCU</p> <p>Action #3 Expand STEM and create global school Lead: SW/WCC</p> <p>Action #4 Award WIA scholarships for education in bio-sciences Lead: SWWFC (WIB)</p> <p>Action #5 Build pilot training for manufacturing using skill standards Lead: MnSCU, MPMA</p> <p>Action #6 Conduct WorkKeys assessment Lead: SWWFC (WIB)</p> <p>Action #7 Assess non-English residents and provide ESL Lead: ABE - Marshall</p>	<p>Action #1 Conduct applied research in renewable energy Lead: U of M</p> <p>Action #2 Conduct applied research in partnership with Ag-Business Lead: MnSCU</p> <p>Action #3 Provide opportunities for small business incubation Lead: MnSCU, AURI, U of M</p>	<p>Action #1 Promote JOBZ to attract business Lead: DEED</p> <p>Action #2 Engage angel fund and other investors in agriculture value-added product development Lead: SMEDP, SWMIF</p> <p>Action #3 Replicate bio-science industry park Lead: SMEDP, DEED</p> <p>Action #4 Implement entrepreneurial curricula in K-12 Lead: SW/WCC, DEED (SBDC)</p> <p>Action #5 Provide entrepreneurship training Lead: DEED (SBDC)</p>