



# MAIN STREET PROJECT

## DAKOTA COUNTY, MN

[Main Street Project](#) is a nonprofit organization based in Northfield, MN that uses a poultry-based permaculture model to develop farming opportunities for Latino immigrants working in the food system. Their core mission is to create impact for these workers by providing accessible means for them to participate in sustainable food systems.



Photos: chickens in the permaculture system; a trainee learning to raise poultry through Main Street Project's model

In 2010, Main Street Project began field testing their small-scale model for producing poultry. They developed a Spanish language training program prioritizing hands-on poultry production and business planning. Perennial crops like hazelnuts and elderberries were incorporated to maximize the system's efficiency and regenerative capacity. Main Street Project approached Iroquois Valley Farms to scale their model on a 100 acre central farm where they will be able to document economic, ecological, and social impacts at a family farm level. Ultimately, Main Street Farm will increase the organization's capacity to offer innovative agri-preneur training to a new generation of free-range poultry farmers.



Training programs at Main Street Project are designed to provide individuals with knowledge, skills, and confidence to farm using their regenerative, free range poultry model. These programs are designed to meet diverse training needs of both new immigrant farmers and established farmers by providing night classes and bilingual teaching materials.

Main Street Farm will demonstrate the potential of their model. It will also support a new training programs: for established farmers looking to diversify their operations, provide a living laboratory for applied research, and establish the basic economic and ecological modeling and data needed to sustain and improve Main Street's system.

*Main Street Project's free range poultry production model integrates perennial and annual crops, repairs ecological damage, produces affordable and nutritious foods, reduces risks to public health, sequesters carbon to start reversing climate change, and in the process provides economic opportunity for new and established farmers.*

Their symbiotic, integrated system of chickens, perennials, and annual crops generates triple bottom line results that can clear a path to economic stability, wealth creation, and empowerment for aspiring immigrant farmers. At the same time, the entire community benefits from the increased access to local, healthy food, and the economic boost of thriving local markets.

*This profile draws on information found in Main Street Project's white paper - [read more here](#)*